



Zawadi Fund International



2021 Annual Report

cyec.net

2021

This year was a year of rebuilding as schools reopened and we sought a new normal. The challenges continued as the Kenyan economy has yet to recover. Our staff continued to reach and serve children and youth on the margins while our friends, both in Nyeri and globally, stepped up to sustain this critical work and to provide investment to grow.

Background and Mission

The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC), Nyeri, is a dynamic and innovative residential and educational program for street-dwelling children and other highly vulnerable young people in Kenya. Created in 2006 as a public-private initiative to address specific gaps in the care and support of

disadvantaged children and youth, the CYEC is partnering with local civic organizations, the private sector and Kenyan and U.S. universities to find *effective, sustainable solutions* for this population.

Zawadi Fund International (ZFI) was established in 2009 as a US-based non-profit organization to support the CYEC and affiliated programs in Kenya. ‘Zawadi’ is the Swahili word for ‘gift’ and was selected to represent our desire to develop the gifts of each child for the betterment of their community.

The Children and Youth Empowerment Centre (CYEC) is focused on the comprehensive development of its target population, including life skills and entrepreneurship training, to enable these young people to lead fulfilling lives and contribute to the well-being of their communities. Zawadi Fund International partners with the CYEC to create innovative models for program sustainability, including mobilizing local resources and developing entrepreneurial initiatives for the Centre.

2021 Accomplishments and Activities

As in the rest of the world, 2021 was a time to restart initiatives at the CYEC. The year started with a return to schooling and mostly normal operations at the Centre. We continued to see families struggle in our local communities as the Kenyan economy was badly affected by shutdowns. Despite the challenges, with your support, we cared for, educated and empowered 181 young people in 2021!

Education and Centre Life

Remote learning is not an option for most Kenyan primary and secondary schools as access to the internet and laptops is very limited for most students. That meant that children were simply out of school for nearly a year, from March 2020 through January of 2021. To make up for this lost time, Kenyan schools shortened break times in 2021 (and 2022) and accelerated the terms, offering four terms a year rather than the typical three.

In 2021, we had 46 children in primary school (14 girls and 32 boys) and 51 in high school (16 girls and 35 boys). Eight of our young adults were in college and another five were at the polytechnic in Rathithi, along with 49 local youth. We took in 17 children from the streets (or who were at high risk of being pushed to the streets) and five of our children rejoined their extended families while continuing to receive financial support and guidance from the Centre. An additional 17 youth were also supported by the Centre as they started small businesses and/or prepared for employment or further education.

Despite the loss of the 2020 academic year, two of our 13 students who completed eighth grade earned competitive scholarships to high school! Another 10 students completed high school and are deciding their next steps. We are so proud of their accomplishments during this difficult year!

Medical Clinic

Our medical clinic has continued to serve the community, with extra precautions in place. The county health department provided face masks, general medications, and personnel assistance (a clinical psychologist on standby to handle substance addiction cases). We were pleased that all of the staff and older youth were able to be vaccinated by the end of the year.

Student Highlights

Two girls who came to us very young have recently received scholarships for high school. Those of you who have been to the Centre will likely remember Diana and Jacinta.

Diana was orphaned by the age of four and came to the CYEC with her older brother. She thrived at the Centre, despite the difficulty of her early childhood. When she was little Diana loved to color and paint, and as a teen, she likes music and making new friends. She said, “I would like to ... thank the Children and Youth Empowerment for the kind and caring support they have given me for the last ten years. I thank God for CYEC and may God shower blessings upon the CYEC family.”

Jacinta was only three when she came to the Centre with three older siblings. She likes watching movies and dancing and wants to be an accountant when she grows up. She said, “I thank the CYEC family for the care and support. To me the leadership and staff of CYEC are my parents.” She also promised to “work hard when I join high school and make CYEC proud.”



Both Diana and Jacinta have come far since they joined the Centre, and they appreciate the support they've received from our staff and our donors. Together, we're changing lives!

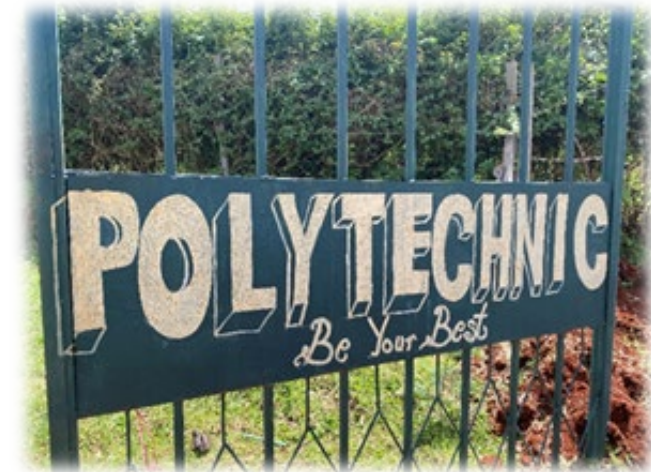
Rathithi Polytechnic

We are so excited about the progress our polytechnic has made, despite the challenge of covid. After being closed for most of 2020, the polytechnic re-opened in early 2021 with 54 students, five from the CYEC and the remainder from the local area. Our school plays a critical role for young people and the community as it gives students both the technical and leadership skills to be able to provide for themselves and contribute to their communities.

The exceptionally high rates of unemployment (and underemployment) for young people in Kenya, which is even higher for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, means there is need for special effort to ensure our young people are prepared for



their futures. A well-thought-out skills development program, which the polytechnic is putting in place, is a key component of such an effort. Programs include catering, tailoring, computer operations, masonry and plumbing, electrical technician, hairdressing and beauty therapy, all with life-skills and leadership. Our agriculture program provides vegetables and milk for the poly and the Centre as well as income from higher value production.



Students in technical schools in Kenya take national exams for certification. So far, 14 of our graduates have taken these tests and all have passed. This speaks to the quality of our programs and instructors as the national pass rate is just over 60 percent!

Many of our graduates will be going into business for themselves. Four graduates of our tailoring program are putting together a business and marketing plan and started by making school uniforms for children at the Centre.



We're continuing to develop the physical infrastructure at the polytechnic and the formal registration process is underway. In 2021, we received funding from the Safaricom Foundation to build a cow shed and install two solar panels. We also built additional housing for our youth, renovated the library and bought more equipment for the catering program. We're looking forward to additional development in 2022!



Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme

Through the Zawadi Youth Enterprise Programme (Z-YEP) youth start businesses (individually or in teams), develop leadership skills, and learn how to manage and grow their businesses.

While 2021 continued to be a difficult year for small businesses in Kenya, several additional youth joined Z-YEP and participated in leadership development activities. We hope 2022 will be a better year for business start-ups.



Othaya Eco-Village

Development of the first eco-village site in Othaya started in 2014. The eco-village provides a place for the youth to live, work and save as they transition to independent living. Othaya has a beautiful natural environment, and one of our main income-generating activities will be eco-tourism, with hiking, river rafting and biking, as well as agri-tourism. We have built traditional huts for guest housing, a kitchen facility, a dining hall and latrines. The fertile agricultural land at Othaya produces a variety of vegetables for the Centre and is a key component of our efforts to produce much of the food needed for our program.

Partnerships

The Centre continues to benefit from the network of partnerships it has created to bring together creative, dedicated people and institutions to develop and implement innovative programs. Key among these are US and Kenyan universities including Penn State University, Kansas State University, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology and Kagumo Teachers' Training College.

While none of the international partners could visit the Centre in 2021, both Penn State and Kansas State stayed engaged through virtual classroom visits, shared curriculum and planning for future initiatives.

The Zawadi Society is a Kenyan organization through which local civic groups, businesses, religious bodies and individuals support the Centre's programs through volunteering, mentoring, financial or in-kind support. In 2021, local supporters provided valuable in-kind support, especially in the provision of food. The CYEC is a valued local institution!



2022 Priorities and Initiatives

Like much of the world, the Children and Youth Empowerment Centre is working toward a new normal. The past two years have been difficult as support from the national government has dried up and the Kenyan economy is still recovering. This has reinforced the importance of our role, supporting and equipping the most vulnerable, including children at the Centre and young adults at the polytechnic.

In 2022, our children are back in school and thriving, and the Rathithi Polytechnic has welcomed new students. Our priorities for this year are further development at the polytechnic, including basic infrastructure and the agricultural program, and creating opportunities for our youth as they transition to independence.

Your support has enabled us to build a strong foundation, to help us survive these challenging times. Please join in this commitment to our shared future by supporting the vital work of the CYEC as you are able.



Zawadi Fund International 2021 Financial Statement

Donations	2021
Direct donations	\$103,913.37
Indirect donations (Global Giving & Network for Good)	13,032.89
Total Income	\$116,946.26
Expenses	
Dispersal to CYEC	\$108,303.59
Residential care	49,754.82
Education and Training	19,382.26
Enterprise Development and Infrastructure (including poly)	39,166.51
Business expenses (Quickbooks, PA registration, website, etc.)	\$586.50
Bank, transfer and on-line collection fees	1,341.09
Total Expenses	\$110,231.18
Net Change in Assets	\$6,715.08
Assets at the beginning of the year	\$10,811.43
Assets at the end of the year	\$17,526.51

ZFI has no paid staff, keeping our overhead expenses to a minimum. That means your donations go straight to support the children and programming at the CYEC!



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Lindsey Hamner

Stephen Suffian

Tori Burkhart

William Langford

Blair Weikel

Dan Connell

Simone Pope

Caroline Gimmillaro

Vanessa Rickenbrode

2021 Zawadi Fund International Donors

Because we are a lean, grass-roots organization, every donation goes far and makes a real difference in the lives of our young people and in our programs. Every **Friend** matters to us and is changing lives. Those who give \$1,000 or more a year are **Sustainers**, ensuring that our children and youth have a safe home, nutritious meals and care. Those giving \$2,500 a year or more are **Builders** enabling us to invest in our young people, providing education and development. **Investors**, donating \$7,500 or more a year, allow us to invest in opportunities to grow our programs in a meaningful way.

Investors

Keith Jerome, estate

Mary Lynn and Warren Staley

Builders

Fran and Richard Alloway

Susan and Vic Burriss

Sjoerd Duiker and Mary Alvarez

Leland Glenna and Esther Prins

Noel and Mary Habashy

Johnson & Johnson Foundation, match

Lynn and Jackie Johnson

Janelle Larson

James Murphy, III

Owen and Yasmina Reitenauer

Mary Kay Siefers and Nancy Bolsen

Sustainers

Sanjay Chauhan

Amy Freeman

Glaxo Smith Kline, match

Max and Maurine Hale

Joel Hunter

Alina Launchbaugh

Ted and Susan Long

Steve Suffian

Friends

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AbbVie, match

Amazon Smile

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Tori Burkhart

Barry Carson

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Judy and John Endinger	Olga Jarrín Montaner and Luis Montaner
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Carrie Masterson	Jameson Sedlacek

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