

GIFTED COMMUNITY CENTER, GCC

“Leadership hub for and by youth with disabilities”

The Gifted Community Center, GCC, is an award-winning grassroots organization led by youth with disabilities, creating pathways to dignified and independent living for young people with disabilities in informal settlements and colleges in Kenya through its three key pillars: leadership and governance, sustainable livelihoods/education, and health programming (with research and advocacy as cross-cutting).

Our vision is a dignified and inclusive society, while our mission is to enhance the socio-economic independence of youth with disabilities and their families in informal settlements and colleges in Kenya.

GCC was operationalized by youths with lived experience of disability with a vision of a dignified, inclusive society to empower individuals with disabilities, driven by their **own experiences** of overcoming challenges, stigma, and discrimination. Their journey, from navigating public primary education to attending a special secondary school to finding a job, highlighted the marginalization of youth with disabilities in Kenya. Recognizing the lack of focus on their needs, they established **GCC as a safe space and talent leadership hub** for youth with disabilities and their caregivers. Here, youth with disabilities develop skills, showcase their talents, and become leaders, irrespective of societal differences. They become independent, meaning they no longer rely on people/caregivers who abuse them, hence the reduction and end of gender-based violence. Today, GCC is a leading grassroots leadership hub for youth with disabilities.

Through GCC's sustainable initiatives, **within six years, we have completed** five research studies that inform our interventions; successfully implemented over **20 projects**, facilitated the establishment of over **100 micro enterprises** led by youth with disabilities and their caregivers, **empowered over 500** caregivers, influenced policies to include disability, **directly impacted over 5000** youth with disabilities and indirectly **10,000 persons with disabilities**.

Our current reach is Kibera, Kawangware, Rongai, Kajiado, Machakos, Kiambu, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru counties through our ambassadors and college chapters.

GCC serves in numerous advisory boards and Technical Working Groups including the Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN) (2025 co-chair), Kenya Inclusive Political Parties Programme (KIPP) Working group (2023-2024 co-chair) directly implemented by The Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Nairobi County Disability TWG (2021-To date), Health and Disability TWG led by NSDCC, Kenya Business Disability Network (KBDN) among others, providing a sustainable way for our work. (info@giftedcommunitypwd.org).