



# 2021

## IMPACT REPORT







## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

I'm sure I'm not the only one who couldn't have imagined 18 months ago that we'd still be struggling through the pandemic going into 2022. This, coupled with the incessant onslaught of news reporting that underscores extremes in climate change, human behaviour, and politics, has the potential of creating an end of days state of mind and produces a sense of hopelessness and irreversibility.

At One Girl Can, we see this quite differently. We see a rallying of human resiliency and inventiveness that creates new paths in the face of obstruction. Although many businesses have not been able to surmount this obstruction, many more have found a more relevant and effective way of connecting with their customers and have embraced different approaches.

This past year has been all about exploring different approaches for One Girl Can and finding new ways to be successful. There have been a couple of standouts for us.

The biggest win was our annual fundraiser in June named **BE in KENYA** where we managed to transport our audience to a shantytown in Nairobi. Through the technology of 360° virtual reality filming, our guests were able to walk through the muddy corridors with the girls we're sponsoring, come into their homes to see where they live, and experience firsthand the dangers and restrictions that stand in the way of simply trying to get an education. Through augmented reality, we were also able to build a virtual 3-story dormitory for 72 of our students so that they could have a safe and dynamic environment to complete high school. This was a very different way to present a fundraising event, and we believe the immersive experience was what led to the incredible result we had - **\$500,000 was raised during the event and in the week following – a full \$100,000 above our target!**

Secondly, we would normally host a conference in Nairobi each September for 200 university students called **Becoming the Best Version of Me** to introduce them to successful businesswomen who can help further their careers. We were not able to offer this important two-day leadership conference last year because we weren't prepared to fully rely on technology at that point. This year we were prepared, and the entire conference was done virtually. Prominent organizations like **Traction on Demand, UBC Sauder School of Business, Deloitte, and KPMG** presented high value workshops in their area of expertise, along with several other presenters who spoke on topics like building a workable budget, wellness and safety on campus, and getting prepared for the job market. It was huge success, with 98% of our students tuning in and staying connected for the full three days.

Despite all the hardships and unknowns of the past year, we could not be more grateful for the continual support we've received through donations, in-kind support, and volunteer collaboration. You've partnered with us to build One Girl Can into a stronger and more sustainable organization. Because of your help, we've been able to find new ways of doing things, while also keeping our hope alive for the days when we'll be able to safely plan events and conferences in-person. Thank you for being our support system and encouraging us to keep up our fight against gender-inequality. We are also continually blown away by the resilience of our students. Their stories of triumph and transformation are what keep us going, and we are excited to continue sharing their wins with you.

Sincerely,

Lotte Davis



# OUR VISION AND MISSION

## VISION

Every One Girl Can graduate earns a meaningful living.

## MISSION

We create opportunity for young women through a holistic model of education, mentorship and training.

## YOUR IMPACT



**\$1,481,961**  
raised



**628**  
high school scholarships



**373**  
university scholarships



**over 1,000**  
scholarships provided  
since 2008



**10,000**  
girls mentored



**150**  
students graduated  
high school



**55**  
students graduated  
university



**615**  
students will benefit from  
the new Ushirika School



**10%**  
increase in future  
earnings after every year  
of secondary school



**1,186**  
incredible donors



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Day of the Girl

We recognized International Day of the Girl on October 11 by celebrating your Girl Heroes using #HereForHerFuture. Your girl heroes were your moms, sisters, and daughters. We loved reading every submission we received! It was so inspiring to see everyone come together to uplift the voices of girls everywhere.

## Giving Tuesday

To celebrate Giving Tuesday, we partnered with six amazing companies who donated partial proceeds towards our initiatives. We also created a holiday gift guide with gifts that are representative of resources to support our programs. Through this campaign, we were able to complete the washroom facilities at the new Ushirika School.

## Rebuilding Ushirika School

After 12,600 hours of construction over 14 months, Ushirika School was completed and welcomed 615 students in January. We cannot thank our incredible community enough for providing our students with a conducive space for studying and a safe environment to learn and grow.

## International Women's Day

We celebrated International Women's Day by partnering with 23 companies including local brands like Kit and Ace, I Love My Muff, and Leah Alexandra Jewelry. Through this initiative, we raised over \$19,000! We are so thankful to connect and work together with strong female leaders in the business world and make a tangible impact.

## Gender Equality School Program

Last year, we created classroom resources and interactive lesson packages for educators in BC to teach students about local and global gender equality issues. This January, it was approved by the BC Ministry of Education and delivered and used by over 400 educators!

## Entrepreneurial Training Program

We know that our work isn't successful until our graduates can earn a meaningful living. In partnership with UBC Sauder School of Business, we launched the Entrepreneurial Training Program. The program aims to give graduates the knowledge and resources needed to start their own businesses and become financially independent.

## BE in Kenya

We hosted our signature fundraiser virtually this year and we had over 423 attendees tune in from around the world. Knowing that it's been a while since we've all left our homes, we wanted to bring the wonders of Kenya straight to our guests. By including 360° immersive storytelling, we were able to transport our guests to Kenya so they could experience what it's like to live a day in the life of a One Girl Can student.







## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

# USHIRIKA SCHOOL AND DORMITORY

This past January, we completed our biggest project yet – rebuilding Ushirika school! We decided to re-build this school after seeing the government close schools in Nairobi that didn't comply with safe building standards. Ushirika could have been one of these, and this prompted us to make a commitment and build a solid and safe school that would stand the test of time.

What started as a rented room for 20 students is now a 3-story building for 615 students. The new school includes 13 classrooms, 2 equipped science labs, 2 libraries, an art room, washrooms with plumbing, and renovated staff rooms and kitchen. This project is life-changing for our students and for the entire Kibera community.

But we didn't stop there. Having a safe, secure, and stable place to live is just as critical to the students' success when pursuing their education. So, we set out on another ambitious project, building the first-ever Kibera dormitory on the grounds of the school.

Ushirika is located in Kibera - one of the oldest and biggest informal settlements in Africa. Living here means facing housing, food, and healthcare challenges that no one should have to endure. Building a dormitory at Ushirika will give our students a chance to pursue their education without having to worry about their safety, household obligations, or other distractions.

**Thanks to your incredible generosity at our annual fundraising event and the week following, we raised enough funds to start construction on the dormitory.** The dorm will provide beds for 72 high school girls, offer three meals a day, and be a quiet place to focus on schoolwork. Above all, it will provide the security and safety a young woman needs living in a volatile environment.

We are so immensely grateful for our amazing community. This would not have been possible without your support. Check out some images of the completed school below, and be sure to follow us on social media to keep up with dorm construction updates!



1. Ushirika students studying in their new classroom

2. Whitney celebrating the completion of her new school

3. Charity enjoying the view from the school's rooftop balcony

4. Rendering of the completed dormitory

5. Dormitory ground breaking ceremony

6. Dormitory ground breaking ceremony





## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

# BE IN KENYA 2021

Every year, we look forward to our annual fundraising event, a night where our amazing community comes together in the name of eradicating poverty and gender inequality through education. This June, we held the event virtually for the second year in a row. Despite the year of extended screen time for everyone, our community came out strong.

This year's event was unlike any other! It included 360° immersive storytelling that transported our guests to Kenya, an exclusive live auction featuring beautiful art pieces and specially curated trips, and an exclusive interview with One Girl Can Ambassador Mackenzie Davis and Canadian actor Dan Levy.

Our goal was to provide scholarships for 60 new university students and fundraise for the Ushirika dormitory. **Including donations received in the week following the event, we surpassed our goal and raised a total of \$500,000!**

This will have life-changing impacts on our students, and we cannot thank you enough for your continued support. Whether you participated in the auction, donated, or tuned in for the show, we're beyond grateful for your passion for gender equality.

### Special Thanks To

#### Gala Committee Members

Cathy Holler, Mina Kim, Sunny Kim, Catherine Lanyon, Chella Levesque, Alisha Mills, Salma Mitha, Lorena Ponis, Deborah Scott, Jennifer Venier

#### Sponsors

TD, KPMG, Mirabel Vineyards, AG, Great Little Box Company, Odlum Brown, Univar Solutions, Pacific Reach Properties, North Beach Agency, Clio, Contemporary Office Interiors, Canaccord Genuity Management, iA Financial Group, Archibald Real Estate Group, HUB International, Hemlock, Momenti Travel, Global TV BC, Daily Hive



1. Behind the scenes with host Nira Aurora and founder, Lotte Davis
2. Exclusive interview with ambassador, Mackenzie Davis and actor, Dan Levy
3. 360° immersive walk through Kibera
4. Lotte with Nathalie Boltt, actor, and cocktail reception host
5. Exclusive live auction hosted by John Davis





# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



## Faith

Faith was one of the first Ushirika School students to earn a One Girl Can scholarship. After completing her education, Faith dreams of becoming an engineer so she can build and restore the infrastructures in her community. ***“In Kenya, there’s a barrier for women in engineering but I want to break that barrier. While there are some women in the field, there’s only a few and I want to be one of them.”***

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## Charity

Charity is a third-year student at Ushirika Secondary School focused on working towards her career goal so she can give back to her family and community. ***“In Kenya, we have so many sick children, who don’t go to school, they don’t have food, and are exposed to things they shouldn’t be. I want to be able to help.”***

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## Millie

Despite school closures, online learning, and a global pandemic, Millie graduated from university with honours and has already started her internship. ***“My mom was on top of the moon and my dad even cried! They could not believe it! I remember her saying I have lived her dream and she couldn’t be happier.”***

[READ MORE](#)





## OUR COMMUNITY

One Girl Can is immensely grateful for our community of passionate changemakers. Thanks to you, we can continue our mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through mentorship and training. Read about your tremendous work below.





## Taslim

With deep roots in East Africa, where her ancestors called home before immigrating to Canada, Taslim and her family have always wondered how they could forge their own relationship with this part of the world. That was when she found One Girl Can and became a champion of girls' rights to education and opportunities in Kenya.

[READ MORE](#)



## Nova

Meet our newest ambassador: Nova Stevens. She is one of the prominent leaders in the Black Lives Matter movement in Vancouver. She believes human rights belong to everyone. As an advocate for racial injustice and gender equality, she uses her platform with Miss Universe to make her voice heard.

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## Mai

Meet Mai. For her birthday this year, Mai decided to run 13.1 miles to fundraise for Felister's university scholarship. Not only has she already met her goal, but she also surpassed it! We love how creative Mai got with her fundraiser and we are so inspired by her drive to make the world a better place.

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## Traction on Demand

Traction On Demand defines themselves as "Difference Makers." They embody this in every part of their company from the inside out. Last year, they successfully fundraised \$35,000 to support ten university students. This year, they've already exceeded their goal to continue supporting those students.

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## Lorena

Lorena is the owner and designer of LOLO Jewellery. Through her business, she created the Unity pendant just for One Girl Can. Lorena is also an active volunteer with One Girl Can, and recently her daughter started to get involved too! She believes it's important to share and give back where she can.

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## Cathy

In addition to being an accomplished businesswoman as the President of Momenti Travel, Cathy is a passionate advocate for gender equality. She has been supporting Antoinette's education since her first year of university and volunteers to support fundraising for our annual event. We are so lucky to have Cathy in our community.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Today's generation of girls are preparing to enter a world of work that is being transformed by innovation and automation. Educated and skilled workers are in great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people – most of them female – are currently neither employed nor in education or training.

This is what fuels our work and our desire to see every One Girl Can student graduate and earn a meaningful living. We are continually innovating programs to help our students develop their skills, gain experience, achieve their full potential and contribute equally to their society.

This coming year, we are thrilled to continue this important work by partnering with UBC Sauder School of Business Entrepreneurship Program (SSE-Kenya). The program offers our students entrepreneurship training workshops and critical business tools and knowledge to teach them how to use their skills and interests to create small-scale businesses while they build their knowledge of business and develop a career.

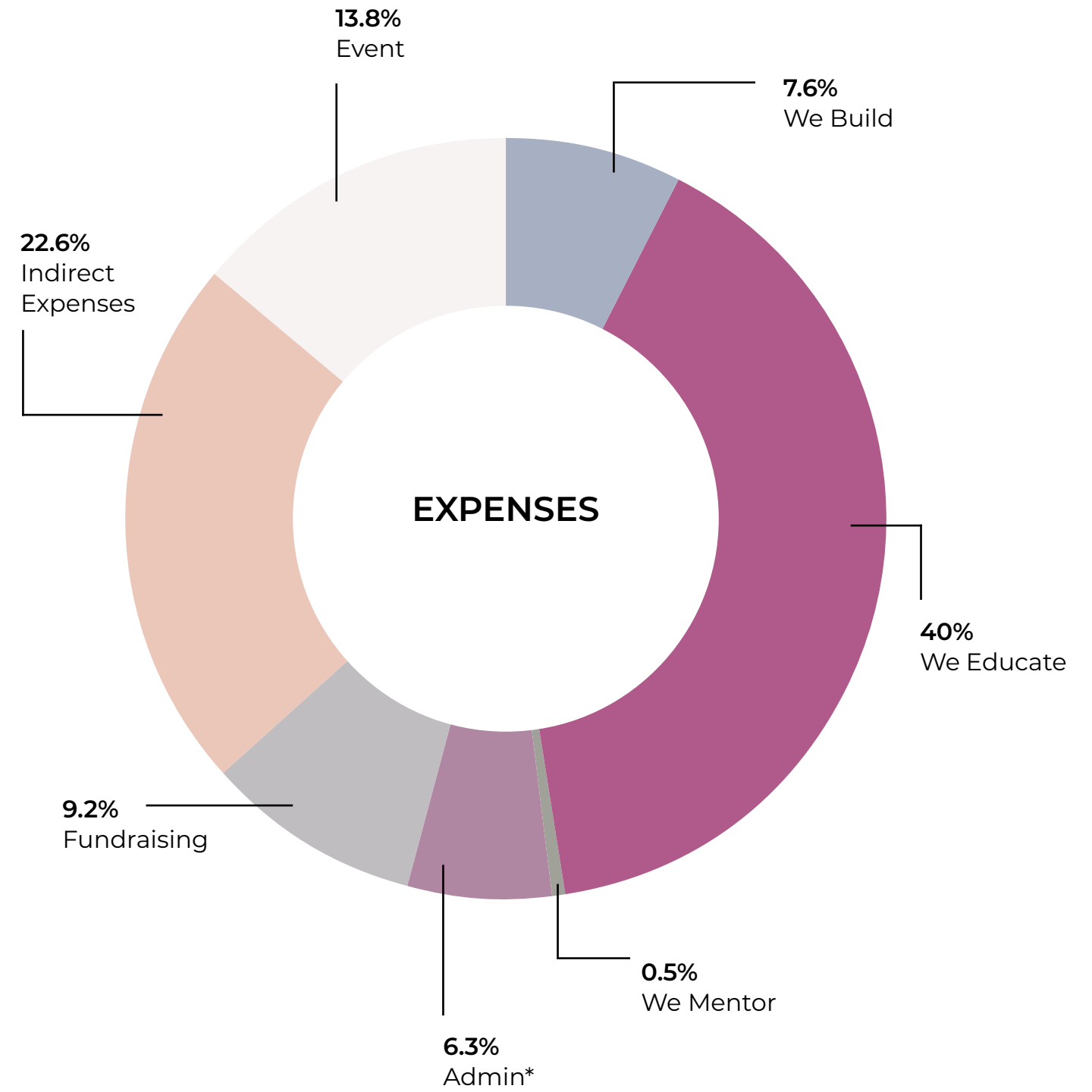
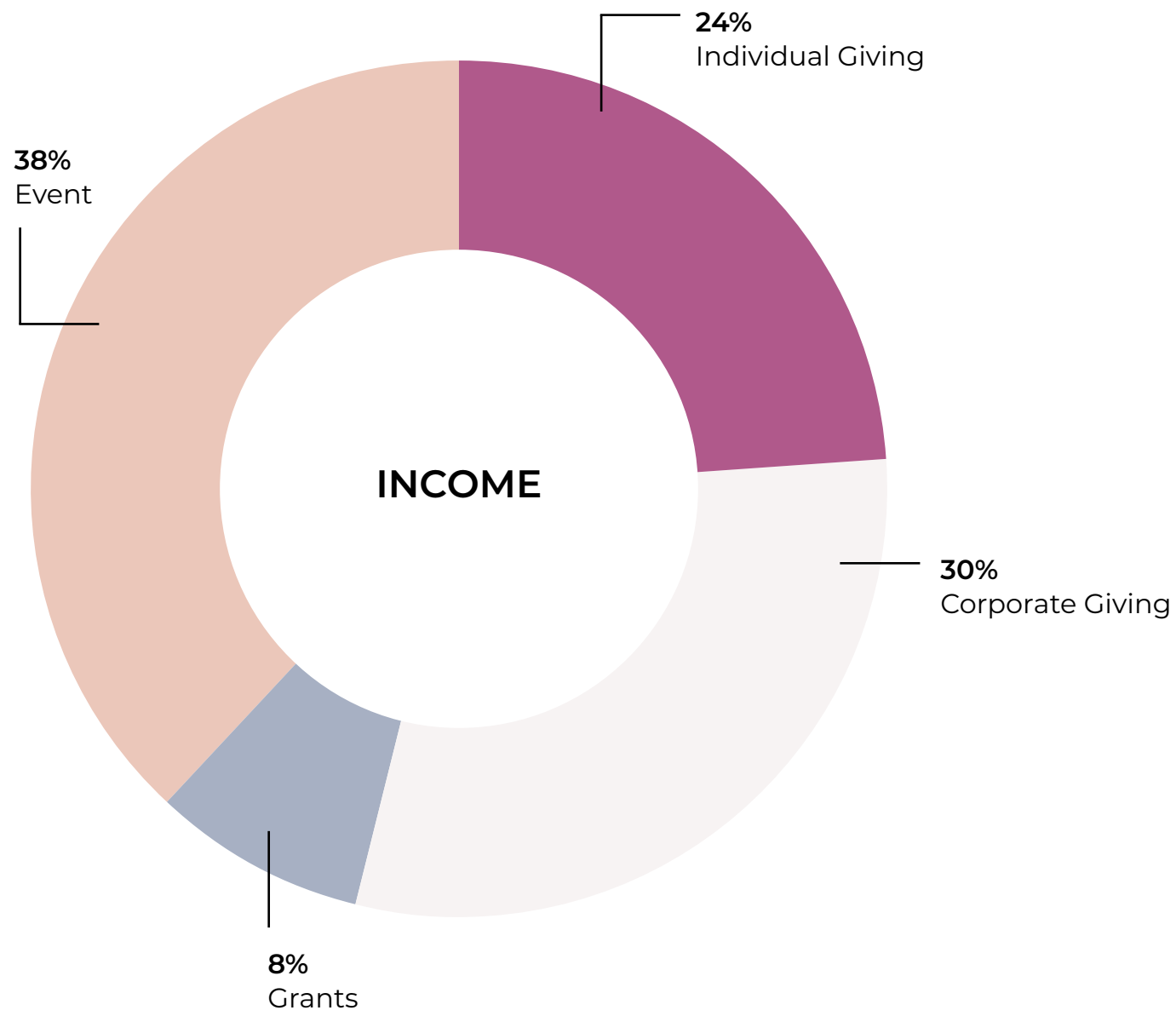
We will carry forth the momentum and inspiration we had from the Becoming the Best Version of Me conference by helping students map out their careers and developing the skills needed to successfully leverage the ever-changing job market. One Girl Can's investment does not end once a student finishes their degree. We are not successful until they earn a meaningful living and become financially independent.

In addition, one of our major focuses this year will be seeing the Ushirika dormitory to completion. Our community came together to make this building project possible, and we look forward to welcoming students to their new home once it is finished.





# OUR FINANCIALS



\*100% of the admin costs are covered by a generous donation of AG



## OUR TEAM

**Lotte Davis**  
Founder

**Ine Van Aken**  
Executive Director, Canada

**Irene Muinde**  
Executive Director, Kenya

**Shradha Shahi**  
Senior Accountant

**Natalie Suen**  
Donor Relations Manager

**Karen Sum**  
Digital Marketing Manager

**Mariah Klein**  
Marketing & Program  
Coordinator

**Guila Abad**  
Communications Intern

**Purity Wanjira Munyi**  
Program Assistant, Kenya

**Roseline Wawira**  
Monitoring &  
Evaluations  
Assistant, Kenya

**Millicent Mutheu**  
Marketing Assistant,  
Kenya

## OUR BOARD

### THE CANADIAN BOARD

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Vice-Chair

**Carey Dillen**  
Treasurer

**Ali Gardiner**  
Secretary

**Nene Akintan**  
Member at Large

**Darcie Crowe**  
Member at Large

**Lotte Davis**  
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**Angie Hirata**  
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**Farzana Karim-Haji**  
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**Zahra Salisbury**  
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### THE KENYAN BOARD

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Chair

**David Kitavi**  
Member at Large

**Lotte Davis**  
Member at Large

**Michele Matthews**  
Member at Large

**Eunice Ndiranu**  
Member at Large

**Eunice Nyala**  
Member at Large







**We couldn't do this without you.  
Let's continue to advance gender equality, together!**

**SPONSOR** a student and give a girl the life-changing gift of quality education.

**PARTNER** with us. Join our team of corporate partners to make an impact through workplace fundraisers.

**DONATE** to our annual fund to support programs with the greatest need.

**SIGN UP** for our newsletter and we'll deliver stories that inspire straight to your inbox.



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