

Our History is not the Past, it is Our Future



WE ONE ACTION

NETWORK



SPRING 2021

Newsletter Edition

www.weoneactionnetwork.org



Our world continues to battle and manage the adverse impacts of the corona virus. We One Action Network (WOAN) have followed in the quest to assist Kenyans living within the informal settlement of Kibera. Industrialized countries such as USA, China and many European countries have faced dire economic challenges and citizens accepting wearing a mask, practicing social distance and proper hand-washing. Kenya as well as other African nations have faced similar conditions but unfortunately at an alarming rate. This ranges from massive food shortages, loss of menial jobs that earn \$1-2 per day, enforced curfew hours and travel restrictions that did not permit movement in or out of select counties. The greatest impact has been with school closings resulting in no internet structure nor access to other support items such as sanitary pads, daily meals or emotional care.



Thanks to WOAN donors, we have positioned ourselves as part of the solution by working directly with local leaders within proven organizations to ensure every dollar spent goes directly to the most vulnerable. This newsletter will illustrate a small glimpse of a bigger picture but also showcase amazing people who are running towards helping and not running away! Please know that your contributions are very much appreciated and are never, ever taken for granted. I want to extend the most sincere "Thank You" and the highest gratitude of appreciation for your contributions.

We are One with the Action to help those that cannot help nor speak for themselves.

Travis L. Rudd

Founder & Managing Director

We One Action Network



LOOK BACK 2020 Shine Kibera Educational Center

Job Bitange is not only a video editor for China Global Television Network, he is also the founder and director of Shine Kibera Education Center (SKEC). At SKEC, he has been transforming his students from journalist into young leaders. Since the coronavirus outbreak, Job and his student's families have struggled to maintain the consistency of their reports. Early 2020, WOAN joined Job's quest to help his students as well as other families within Kibera.

We have distributed food items and contributed 200 masks through SKEC to families as not wearing masks in public is prohibited by Kenyan law.



Through it all, SKEC continues to create and produce segments through their Shine Kibera TV YouTube channel. These stories are important because they offer a glimpse into the reality that many Kiberans are challenged with as the pandemic continues. [Click here](#) to view one of their latest videos released in July. It offers a true reality to how Kibera kids cope with being out of school, finding something to do and using plastic bottle caps to their advantage!

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Making a Difference

LOOK BACK 2020 TEAMEnvironment Kenya

Early 2020, WOAN and TEAMEnvironment Kenya (TEK) entered into a sponsorship agreement through the end of September 2020. Through TEK programs and collaborative efforts with schools, local agencies and other leaders, TEK filled a void with our most vulnerable girls not having sanitary pads. Reaching the goal to distribute ten- thousand sanitary pads at various locations ranging from informal settlement such as Kibera, street families and village areas of Kenya was an remarkable achievement.

During pad distribution events, TEK leaders offered mentorship to young girls, discuss female health & hygiene and invited local leaders to send positive messages. Men all over the world understand very little about menstruation and Kenyan men are no different. TEK also encouraged boys and men to join the conversation that range from gender equality, inappropriate behavior (i.e. shaming) and sexual abuse so they understand more what it means to be a woman.

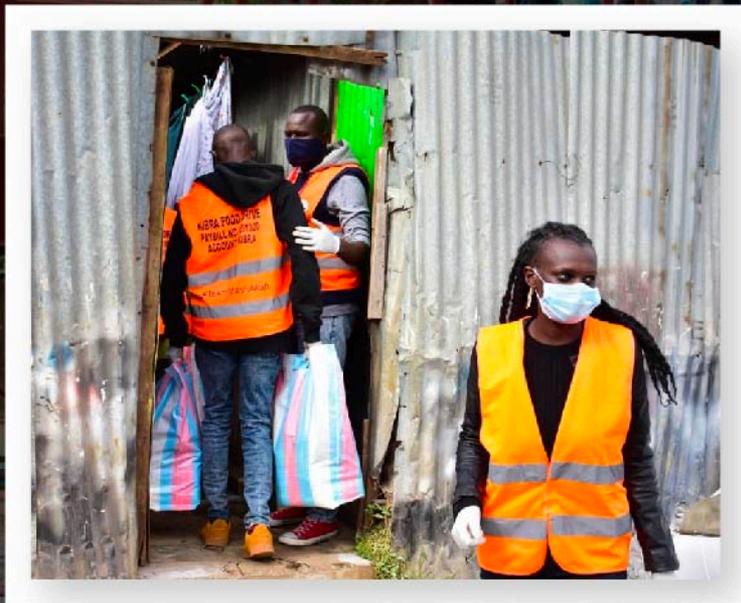


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LOOK BACK 2020 Kibera Food Drive

In April 2020, BBC News ran a story of a widowed Kenyan woman who boiled stones to make her young children believe there was food until they eventually fell asleep. Yes, similar stories can be told throughout the world but in Kenya and many other nations, hunger and malnutrition is the great-divider between inconveniences and starvation. This same time in April, the NY Times ran a story about the global food crisis that highlighted Asha Jaffar, the founder of Kibra Food Drive (KFD). After this story, WOAN made contact with Asha and has closely followed her work in the Kibera community ever since.



As background - Asha was born and raised in Kibera, she also attended primary and secondary schools in Kibera before completing her degree in journalism. As a Kenyan woman, Asha has such a tremendous story of perseverance and determination; WOAN is extremely excited to support Asha's vision moving forward.

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WOAN Bringing Change



WOAN & Sisters Speak Global-Heels 4 Pads
2020 International Day of the Girl
BARINGO COUNTY
Dignity Kit Distribution and Girls Mentorship



WOAN & Daughters of Kenya
2020 International Day of the Girl
KIBERA
What We Learn, Becomes Who We Are
Leaders Never Stop Learning
Sanitary Pads Distribution & Mentorship



WOAN & Her Flow My Concern
To Restore Period Pride and Dignity
KIBERA



WOAN & Kibra Food Drive
2020 World Mental Health Day
KIBERA
Mental Health For All.
Greater Investment. Greater Access

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LOOK BACK 2020 WOAN Supported Events

WOAN & TEAM Environment Kenya

1. WESTLANDS CONSTITUENCY Sanitary Pads Distribution in Kangemi.

Reached out to:- 742 Girls and 73 Women.

2. Street Family Outreach -Our Love on the Street Mission. 134 People Men, women and children.

3. MATHARE NORTH Constituency Sanitary Pads Distribution & Mentorship.

Reached Out to:-514 Girls and 68 Women

4. LANG'ATA CONSTITUENCY Sanitary Pads Distribution & Mentorship.

Reached Our To:-579 Girls and 94 Women.

5. EMBAKASI NORTH Constituency Sanitary Pads Distribution & Mentorship.

Reached out to;-437 Girls and 59 Women.

6. MURANGA COUNTY Sanitary Pads Distribution & Mentorship.

Reached to 683 Girls, (69 Women in Murang'a Women Prisons), 43 Boys and 19 Children.(Juvenile)

7. KIBERA

643 girls on the day of distribution. On the Launch we reached out to 367 Girls and 34 Women.



TEAM Environment KENYA



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| BACK TO SCHOOL

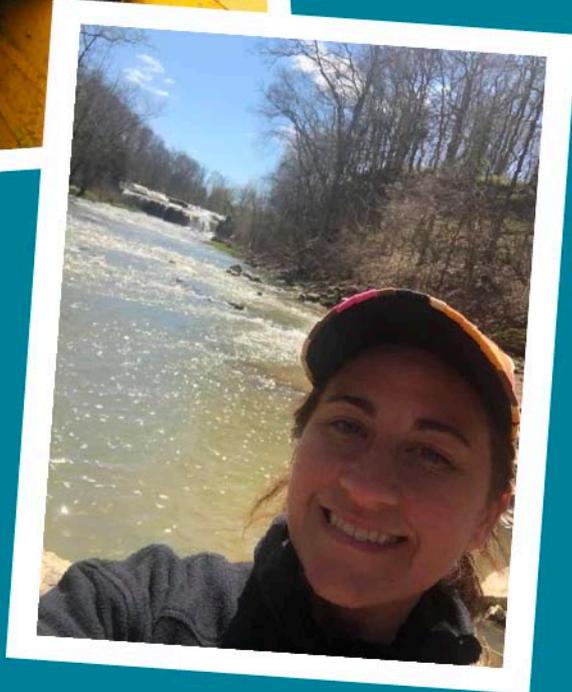
Kenyan schoolchildren in grades four, eight and twelve returned to class in October 2020, ending months-long closure of all educational institutions in the country designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Many nations including Western and European countries have grappled with how to reopen schools safely amid the pandemic. In Kenya, where public and private schools were shut after the first COVID-19 case was confirmed in March 2020, the closures have been among the longest in Africa. The three levels that went back to school prepped for national standardized exams that were postponed. The Kenyan government later decided all students would return to school on January 4th, 2021. Unfortunately, many school structures lack basic necessities forcing students and educators outside under trees as a solution.

The Minister of Education, under the guidance of the Minister of Health, who oversee more that 17 million Kenyan students. The report that most students have missed six months of school and pleaded for organizations to donate supplies such as masks instead of cash due to the vast mismanagement of government procurement and resources. This is a very harsh reality for many parents, students and educators as the numbers of child agencies has seen a sharp increase in violence against children, child marriage, child pregnancy and child labor. Some 1.6 million children rely on school meals that stopped in March 2020 as many families do not have devices, wifi or internet access that enable children to take part in remote learning.



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| NEW TO THE TEAM



Due to the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, We One Action Network (WOAN) was forced to pivot our scope to join with many other organizations to fill as many gaps as possible. In 2021, WOAN will gradually refocus our attention back to supporting educational programs, students, and educators within the informal settlement of Kibera. Regardless of which country – WOAN firmly believes that our youth are offered a better chance at life through education, mentorship and creating environments for self-expression. To help WOAN further aligned in these areas, it is with great pleasure to announce the following team changes.

I am pleased to announce Julie Poynter as our Program Consultant. She first began her involvement with WOAN in 2018 as a donor. After listening to my vision of WOAN's goals, successes, challenges and aspirations; she would often offer her advice. I am excited that Julie accepted this opportunity that will increase her involvement in WOAN but also engage with our family of donors and other leaders in Kenya. Julie attended Indiana State University and attained her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education. After twelve years in public education, she transitioned into Project Planning & Scheduling for a major energy company before her current role as Project Manager. She resides in Greenwood, Indiana with her husband, daughter and three stepchildren.

Denis Juma has served as our WOAN-Ambassador-Kenya since 2019. Denis's involvement has been critical to ensure WOAN goals and objectives are followed through. Denis is quickly becoming a youth leader in his Kibera community. He will transition to Lead Volunteer and will working directly with our future Project Coordinator to be announced in early 2022.

When you have the opportunity, please welcome Julie and Denis into their new roles.

Thank You,
Travis L. Rudd
Founder & Managing Director

We One Action Network

CAROLINA for KIBERA

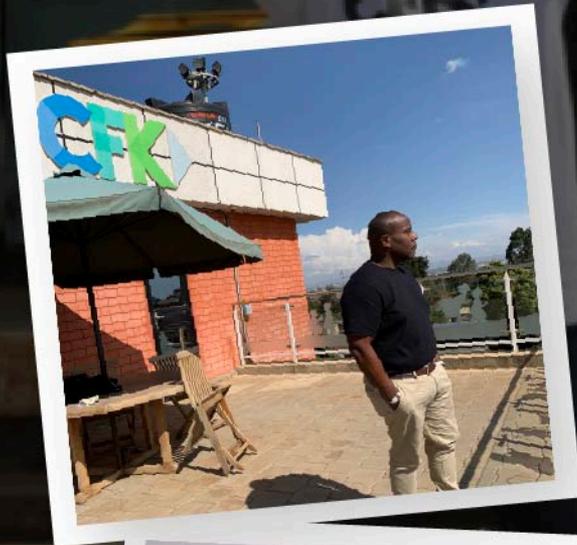
Coming in 2021, Partnership between WOAN and Carolina For Kibera

I am pleased to announce that We One Action Network (WOAN) will offer six deserving students a full scholarship to continue their education at the High School-Secondary School level through Carolina For Kibera (CFK) educational programs. CFK has remained on the front lines of women's health & empowerment, educational programs and primary healthcare within the information settlement of Kibera for the last twenty years. CFK was started by Rye Barcott, Salim Mohamed and the late Tabitha Festo as a pathway to promote and nurture initiatives to advance lives of the most vulnerable.

In November 2020, I visited their Kibera facility to learn first hand how CFK is making a difference in Kibera through health and wellness, education, outreach and scholarship programs. Their Kibera location is lead by Executive Director Hillary Omala and their Partnerships Manager Ann Kungu. These scholarships would not be possible without the support from our family of WOAN donors & contributors and the incredible staff at CFK.

Thank You,
Travis L. Rudd
Founder & Managing Director

COMING 2021



| DID YOU KNOW?

Wangari Maathai was born on April 1, 1940 in Nyeri, Kenya and passed on September 25, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. She was a Kenyan politician and environmental activist who was awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize for Peace, becoming the first African woman to win a Nobel Prize. Her work was often considered unwelcoming to some in Kenya where her outspokenness constituted stepping far outside traditional gender roles.

Dr. Maathai was partially educated in the United States at Benedictine College (B.S. in Biology) and at the University of Pittsburgh (M.S. in Biology). She was one of 300 students who were benefactors of the late US President John F. Kennedy's initiative to create educational opportunities for East African students. She later received her Ph. D in Biology from the University of Nairobi. She became the first African woman in either East or Central Africa to earn a doctorate. She began teaching in the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Nairobi after graduation and in 1977 she became chair of the department.

While working with the National Council of Women of Kenya, Dr. Maathai developed the idea that village women could improve the environment by planting trees to provide a fuel source and slow the processes of deforestation and desertification. The Green Belt Movement, an organization she founded in 1977, has planted some 30 million trees by the early 21st century. Leaders of the Green Belt Movement established the Pan African Green Belt Network in 1986 in order to educate world leaders about conservation and environmental improvement. As a result of the movement's activism, similar initiatives were begun in other African countries, including Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Zimbabwe.



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Shawnon Burks

| DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donor Spotlight | Shawnon Burks | Thank You

Shawnon is a native of Cleveland, OH but resides in Charlotte, NC. A veteran of the US Army, she enjoys being active competing in marathons, volunteering, traveling and spending time with family, friends; especially her daughter.

Shawnon is employed with a top energy company as a Senior Business & Technology Consultant. She holds an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Miami University-Oxford and a Bachelors in Accounting from Belmont Abbey College. She is a proud member of We One Action Network since 2018 and is honored to support Travis's vision and genuine concern for the welfare of the less-fortunate in Kenya (Kibera).

Thank You

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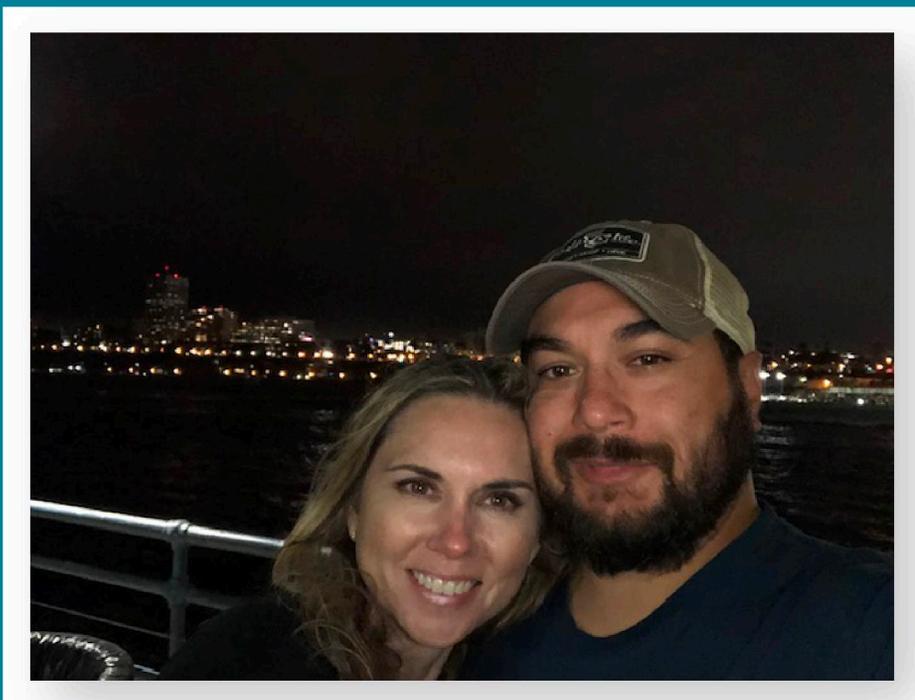
Desai Ogada

| DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donor Spotlight | Desai Ogada | Thank You

Desai is from the Nyanza Province of Ahero in Kisumu, Kenya. He now resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He is the co-founder of the Lagnet Theater Company in Kenya and is an active intergrativst, a creator and theater artist. Desai is married with one daughter. He enjoys writing, poetry, theatre and poly-culturalism. Desai is continuing his education while pursuing a career in Automotive Engineering. Since 2018, he's been employed with the Mercedes-Benz US International Facility in Vance, Alabama as an Automotive Technician. Desai believes in networking and innovations inspired by divine madness as the best approach to solve problems such as initiatives perpetuated by WOAN. The friendship with Travis and the opportunity with WOAN has offered me the ability to give back to my homeland while pursuing greater opportunities here in the US.

Thank You We One
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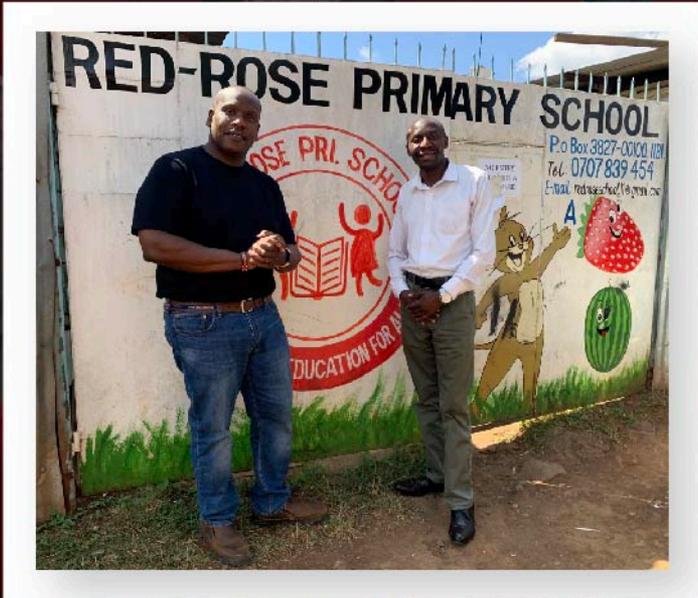
Michael & Rosemary Tavitas

| DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Donor Spotlight | Michael & Rosemary Tavitas | Thank You

Michael and Rosemary gladly began their support of We One Action Network in 2019. Married in 2001, they are proud parents of Christin and Ethan and grandparents to Richard. Originally from Texas and California respectively, work has allowed the two to travel stateside and enjoy the small things that make local communities great. One of their more passionate causes is supporting single mothers and their children through numerous charities. The couple is thankful for and finds hope in the scripture John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Thank You We One
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| ONE BIG FAMILY

WOAN would like to give a special Thank You to John Paul and his incredible staff of educators at Red Rose Primary School-Kibera. During our visit, John offered us the true reality of how Covid-19 almost crippled their school. They are very slowly recovering through hopes & prayers for a better 2021 school year. John's teachers are enduring the storm that includes going without periods of pay to ensure their students have the support they need to flourish. The world has discovered that our teachers are our actual heroes as they stand on the front-line as counselors, care-givers, mentors and the protectors of our children. Listed below are other organizations and initiatives we would also like to recognize for making a difference in Kenya with donors and contributors from around the world. The goal with providing this list is to ensure that one hand is washing the other. We are in this together!

- www.amanikibera.co.ke
- www.food4education.org
- www.humanneedsproject.org
- www.joankeringfoundation.org
- www.kkenyasdream.org
- www.shiningstarcentre.org
- www.shofco.org
- www.storitellah.com
- www.teenseed.org
- www.theactionfoundationkenya.org
- www.tribelessyouth.org

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