



We One **Action** Network

Newsletter | Summer 2023 Edition





Travis L. Rudd

We are pleased to announce we have crossed a milestone in the history of our organization. As of August 25, 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) will have completed five years of helping vulnerable youths, students, and teachers in underserved communities and villages in Kenya.

What began as a mission trip to visit the largest informal settlement in Africa (Kibera), quickly moved to fundraise to support schools. WOAN has now grown to sponsor an elementary school in Kibera while supporting various initiatives that promotes livelihoods outside of the classroom. WOAN continues to collaborate with various leaders in the USA and Kenya to stay connected as the landscape of charitable work is ever-changing.

The last five years have been amazing!

- Offered scholarships to allow deserving students to continue their education.
- Awarded grants to underserved youths to attend entrepreneurship, leadership, and mentorship programs.
- Supported food drives that provide meals to needy families during the height of the covid pandemic.
- Sponsored multiple events that specifically target initiatives to keep girls and young women in school.

This newsletter offers a glimpse into our work and honors those that support our efforts through monetary donations, prayers, volunteer time, and words of encouragement. It is their enthusiasm and unending support that has brought us to this height. We shall remain indebted to their contributions.

Sincerely,

TRAVIS L. RUDD
Founder & President



"A Look Back at 2022"



TribelessYouth

Tribeless Youth
WOAN sponsored
Youth Development
and Career Center.



GARDEN OF HOPE
FOUNDATION

**Garden of
Hope Foundation**
WOAN sponsored
Youth Entrepreneurship
and Leadership
Programs.



Kibera Girls Soccer Academy
WOAN sponsored Sewing
Apprenticeship Program.

"A Look Back at 2022"



Shine Academy
WOAN's sponsored
primary school for
orphan students in
Kibera (Kenya).



- [New Restrooms](#)
- [New Uniforms](#)
- [End of School Celebration](#)



Who We Are

We One Action Network (WOAN) is a registered 501 c3 nonprofit organization based in Stanley, North Carolina (USA). We are committed to creating opportunities for bright minds and creative souls in Kenya, where a vast majority of youth lack the basic opportunity to strengthen their ability.

WOAN-supported initiatives and projects are designed to encourage the highest standards of creativity and long-term self-reliance. Since our inception in 2018, we have positioned ourselves as part of the solution by listening and engaging with local leaders that understand what those gaps are and why.

Our Focus

We One Action Network (WOAN) is committed to partnering with registered NGOs and Community Based Organizations. Our primary focus is educational learning (i.e., life skills, classroom) and other essentials including mentorship programs, youth development, food & nutrition, school supplies & uniforms, and sanitary pads to keep young girls in school.

Our focus places a specific emphasis on vulnerable youth to help progress their lives from point-A to point-B. We also take the approach of listening “first” and then asking appropriate questions for better understanding. This approach has helped WOAN effectively collaborate with many civic organizations and community leaders in both the United States and in Kenya. The result of our work is always to find various forms of sustainable solutions to help generate and maintain self-reliance.





Meet The Team!

We One Action Network (WOAN) has a very talented team built to succeed in any environment. Our team has the character and mindset for the betterment of others. It is truly an honor to have such a remarkable team of leaders that understand how to build and maintain relationships.

They divide their time to volunteer between their busy schedules which ensures WOAN remains committed to our work. We encourage you to visit their [Profiles](#) to learn more about their education and experience which will offer you a glimpse into their personality. For their efforts — **We Say Thank You!**

Advisory Board



Immaculate Kamau
Board Member
Nairobi | Kenya



Pamela Fann
Board Member
Atlanta | Georgia



Mike Roberts
Board Member
Charlotte | North Carolina



Hannah Lineberger
Board Member
Raleigh | North Carolina

Board of Directors



Prasad Challagundia
Treasurer
Waxhaw | North Carolina



Julie Poynter
Secretary
Greenwood | Indiana



Future Consideration
Executive Director
Somewhere | USA



Travis L. Rudd
Founder & President
Stanley | North Carolina



Cultivate International

Cultivate International (CI) belief is that solutions to poverty, injustice, and inequality must be led by community insiders - those who intimately know their community and share the same ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural background. Their programs are designed to address the gap in access and inclusion of community insiders as changemakers in the global philanthropic sector.

CI's motto is simple; "We can only achieve our goals of making this world better for those on the margins when the strength of local communities is our priority, and when the people who intimately know their community are the ones leading change".

In April of 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) partnered with CI to offer partial scholarships for Leadership Training held in Kenya with various community leaders. The training was for anyone who leads an NGO, CBO, or other community organization, their staff, volunteers, or those who wish to start their community program. The workshops introduced relevant topics of project management, how to design and build a program, fundraising, and program evaluation.

CI is based in Minnesota (USA). Brazilian native **Elaine Tymchak** is the Founder & Chief Empowerment Officer. She has almost 20 years of philanthropic and community development experience. She has a Master's in International Development and Bachelor's in Sociocultural Studies.



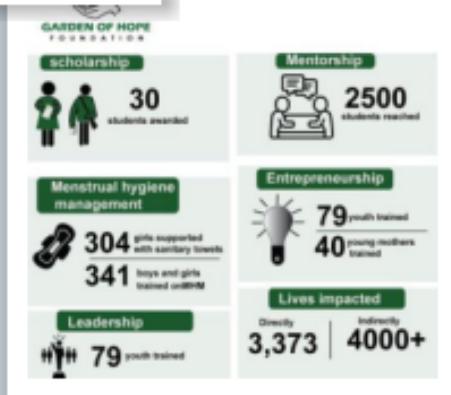


Garden of Hope Foundation

Adolescent girls and boys from poor or disadvantaged communities are vulnerable to and are more likely to experience early sexual debut or forced into early marriages, hence thrusting them into young parenthood. In most cases, pregnant teenagers and young mothers are often unable to complete primary or secondary education, a statistic that diminishes their potential to find gainful employment.

There is an imbalance between what the job market demands and the level of skills and training among the youth. Most youths in Kibera, cannot afford to proceed beyond secondary school due to lack of funds. Those who venture into businesses cannot sustain the businesses due to a lack of sufficient knowledge and a lack of funds.

During 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) partnered with [Garden of Hope Foundation](#) (GoHF) to train 18 youths on entrepreneurial strategies and entrepreneurship management tools that included innovation, life skills, and developing personal entrepreneurial skills. Youth are GoHF's Kibera and Homabay branches. Learn more about these youths by [Clicking Here](#).





Nipe Tabasamu Na Upendo

[Nipe Tabasamu Na Upendo](#) (NTNU) initiative was founded in 2018. They are a Community-Based Organization that aims at giving Hope and Transformation to the community by equipping them with Knowledge, Resources, and Motivation. Their area of focus is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formed by the United Nations (UN).

SDGs are the footprint for NTNU's work and focus on a sustainable future for vulnerable youth. They address global challenges faced with poverty, inequality, climate, and environmental degradation. NTNU's mission through SDGs also includes quality education, good health, gender equality, and zero hunger.

In 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) partnered with NTNU to sponsor three remarkable events.

- [Heri Junior Academy](#)
- [Noontoto Primary School](#)
- [Kimbilio Rescue Center](#)

Heri Junior Academy



Noontoto Primary



Kimbilio Rescue Center



Re-imagining New Communities

Children are the most impacted by violent conflict. However, they are rarely engaged in the implementation of solutions to prevent and transform violent conflict. Nairobi's urban areas and most of the rural areas of Kenya are riddled with violent conflict. They lack safe spaces for children to recreate, play and learn away from school. Lack of attention and mental support causes an enormous impact on their emotional development, social functioning, and academic performance. Some have developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) due to witnessing violence within their homes or communities.

In 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) will partner with [Re-Imagining New Communities](#) (RNC) to sponsor three training cohorts that specifically target training teachers on how to manage negotiations and conflict that leads to fair resolutions. Impacted communities are [Vihiga & Kakamega](#) counties completed in April 2023. Trans-Nzoia, Kakamega, and Nairobi counties are coming later in 2023.

Children Led Community Peace Labs (CLCP) was first launched in 2021. CLCP aims to provide a safe space where students aged 7 to 12 living in conflict-affected communities can learn and practice peacebuilding skills. CLCP supports, mentors, and equips children to be more resilient and aware of unpredictable chronic and political outbreaks of violence that may erupt within their way of life.





Shine Academy Educational Center

[Shine Academy Educational Center](#) (SAEC) is a private pre-primary and lower primary school. It is the only sponsored school for We One Action Network (WOAN) that manages a continuous education program through financial grants.

SAEC is located within the informal settlement of Kibera and operates on a small property of two buildings. SAEC's fourth classroom was constructed in April 2023, as we anticipated increasing our student population of 79 in 2023, SAEC will grow to 100 students in 2024.

SAEC's academic programs are led by four registered teachers, one parent-volunteer, and one school Accountant. This staff is under the direction of the Founder, Head Teacher, and Director **Winnie Shikutwa**. Winnie is a professionally trained primary school teacher. He earned a Certificate in Counseling and a Diploma in Human Resources from Kenya Institute of Management. She also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Project Management from Daystar University.

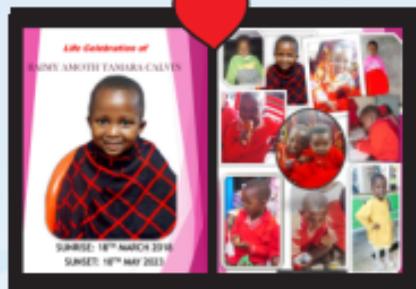
Courses Offered:

- English • Mathematics • Environmental
- Religious Education • Creative Arts • Hygiene & Nutrition
- Music & Fitness • Kiswahili • Mentorship Fridays

Note: It is unfortunate and with great sorrow to announce we lost a student in May 2022. Little Tamara was loved by everyone and she left fond memories with her teacher and her classmates. Following the guidance of the school, WOAN was able to help ensure she received a proper burial.



Tamara



Together For Africa Organization's

'Together For Africa Organizations (TOFA) purpose is to provide solutions that can help young people become empowered, both socially and economically, therefore, presenting themselves as part of the solution to deal with and reduce the high rates of poverty. Leadership and entrepreneurship training is our core mandate as an organization as we seek to provide solutions that help young people become empowered as future leaders.

In East Africa, it is estimated that over 60% of young people, aged 18 and 35 years suffer from identity crises and are ill-equipped for the marketplace. At the onset of TOFAs various programs, they conduct conferences that act as a platform to help inspiring youths better understand the pain points of leadership but also share encouraging stories.

In April 2023, We One Action Network (WOAN) partnered with TOFA to sponsor their Youth Leadership Conference and brought in a variety of community leaders and a diverse audience of leaders, students, and guest speakers.

John Maina is the Founder & Chairman of TOFA. John is a bachelor's student at St. Paul's University with an emphasis in Community Development and Leadership Training.





Introducing our new website:

www.weoneactionnetwork.org

Designed by Smart Web Kenya



WE ONE ACTION NETWORK



- Home
- About Us
- Our Support
- Scope of Work
- Our Impact
- Contact Us





Let's Focus Our Attention!

Violence against girls and women is unfortunately not a new phenomenon and it is embedded in every country and in every society throughout the world. Whether sexual, gender based, emotional or physical; violence against women most often goes unreported. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one-third (27%) of women regardless of race, creed or culture between the age of 15-49 years have been in a relationship that they have been subjected to some form violence by their intimate partner.

There are several factors for the reasons why. These range from lack of education, gender equality acceptance, alcoholism, harmful masculine behaviors and history of exposure as a child. The most publicized examples of violence against women in 2021 are the brutal and senseless murders of Olympic-Medalist Agnes Jebet Tirop (Kenya) and Travel-Influencer Gabby Petito (USA).

We One Action Network (WOAN) events, projects or initiatives are inclusive to listening and educating young boys and girls on inappropriate actions and behavior. To learn more how to help mitigate violence against women or to get involved, please inquire through your local county, magistrate or social service office. We would also like to highlight the following organizations that are standing shoulder-to-shoulder to **Stop Violence Against Women**.

- <http://www.unwomen.org/en>
- <http://www.justice.gov/ovw>
- <http://www.peacewomen.org/>



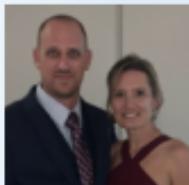


Our Donors and Contributors

We endlessly want to say thank you for your continued support and belief in our work. Our efforts in Kenya have succeeded because of you. We truly appreciate each of you for being the defining force and a significant part of our success.

Your understanding how we are altering the trajectory of vulnerable youth is the key to our success. We are excited for what the next five years will bring as we continue along the path of leveraging education as the springboard out of poverty.

Thank You All.



Mr. & Mrs. Groves
Inverness, Florida



Ms. DeJarnette
Charlotte, North Carolina



Mr. Drammah
Charlotte, North Carolina



Mr. Fields
Ojai, California



Mr. McCendis
Graham, North Carolina



Ms. Moore
Charlotte, North Carolina



Ms. Burks
Charlotte, North Carolina



Mr. Richmond
Burlington, North Carolina



Mr. & Mrs. Inman
Noblesville, Indiana



Mr. Lewis
Wake Forest, North Carolina



Mr. Snipes
Richmond, Virginia



Mr. Cruz
Orlando, Florida



Mr. Ruffin
Charlotte, North Carolina



Mr. & Mrs. Tavitas
Orlando, Florida



Ms. Mack
Charlotte, North Carolina



Mr. Jones
York, South Carolina



Stay Connected With Us

PO Box 687 | Stanley, NC 28164

info@weoneactionnetwork.org

[Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#)

Special thanks to the following individuals and their teams for breathing life into our 2023 Summer Newsletter.
You are all amazing!!

Sahlim Charles | Content Designer | Re-Imagining New Communities

Brian Obebo | Web Designer | Smart Web Kenya

Ismael Otieno | Photojournalist | Ismael Photography

Amy Waitkira | Photojournalist | Photos By Amy

Carmen Rudd | Content Editor | UNC-Charlotte