



# WE ONE ACTION NETWORK SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

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## Let's Begin Here

**We One Action Network (WOAN)** is a registered 501 C3 non-profit 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 a part of the solution by listening and engaging with local leaders that understand what those gaps are and why.





We One Action Network (WOAN) has completed nearly seven years of helping vulnerable youths, students, and teachers in underserved communities and villages in Kenya. WOAN-supported initiatives and projects are designed to encourage the highest standard of creativity and long-term self-reliance. Since our inception in 2018, we have positioned ourselves as part of the solution by engaging with grassroots organizations that understand those gaps.

Our focus is helping vulnerable youth progress their lives from point A to point B. Our approach is to listen “first” and then ask appropriate questions to understand better. This approach has helped WOAN be transparent in all aspects of our work. The result is always to find common ground to support initiatives that promote livelihoods outside the classroom. We strive to exceed the highest standards of transparency while building and maintaining strong relationships. Our belief is simple: We are One with the Action to help those who cannot help themselves.

Our scope remains education based!

- Scholarships at the certificate, diploma, and associate degree university level.
- Grants that allow vulnerable girls from underserved communities to continue their high school education.
- Support elementary and preschools that offer early childhood and development programs.
- Sponsoring youth training, entrepreneurship, leadership, and mentorship programs that create self-reliance.
- Support initiatives that target girls and young women to keep them in school while reducing barriers like menstrual health, violence against girls/women, and early pregnancy.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter that offers a glimpse into our work in 2024. We thank our WOAN Board of Directors and Advisors for their enthusiasm for helping others. Of course, none of our work would be possible without our WOAN donors and contributors. Thank you all for your prayers and unending support in helping us achieve our goals.

Sincerely,  
*Travis L. Rudd*  
Founder & President

# What We're All About



## Goal

We strive to exceed the highest standards of transparency while building and maintaining strong relationships. Our belief is simple: We are One with the Action to help those that cannot help themselves.



## Mission

Building a better future for vulnerable and disadvantaged children to have access to mentorship programs, various means of education, food items and other basic human needs.



## Vision

To provide registered non-profit and grassroots community based organizations with financial support to progress the lives of vulnerable children living within informal settlements and rural areas of Kenya.

# Welcome To The Team



**Jared Medford**  
Board Member  
Huntersville | North Carolina



**Crystal Chandler**  
Board Member  
Cary | North Carolina

It is a pleasure to welcome Jared Medford to the We One Action Network Advisory Board. Jared has been a loyal friend and dedicated supporter of WOAN since 2018. Jared will help us evaluate concepts & ideas for viable solutions to help vulnerable youths learn various practical skills!

Jared has been amazed at how far WOAN has grown and wants to be more involved in the front end of our work. He enjoys hiking and traveling to new destinations. Above all, he enjoys spending time with his family and close friends.

We are truly honored to have Crystal Chandler to the We One Action Network Advisory Board. She is no stranger to our scope of work, having been a supporter since 2018. She is committed to helping steer us toward our goals of having a lasting impact on underserved communities in Kenya.

In addition to her work as an engineer and author, Crystal is a talented musician with a lifelong passion for creating music that harmoniously blends emotional depth, inspiration, and her own experiences. Outside of her technical career, Crystal is also a self-published author. Driven by a passion for storytelling, she has authored a STEM children's book that offers unique insights into simplified scientific principles.



## Let's Focus Our Attention!

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

Whether sexual, gender-based, financial, emotional, or physical, violence against women most often goes unreported. 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.

Since 2018, We One Action Network initiatives have included educating girls on inappropriate behavior and actions while being inclusive of boys. To learn more about how to help mitigate violence against girls/women or to get involved, please inquire through your local county, magistrate, or social service office.

### Other Resources:

- [www.unwomen.org/en](http://www.unwomen.org/en)
- [www.justice.gov/ovw](http://www.justice.gov/ovw)
- [www.peacewomen.org/](http://www.peacewomen.org/)



# 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 due to witnessing violence within their homes or communities. In 2024, We One Action Network sponsored four teacher workshops that focused on effectively managing their classrooms through various negotiation techniques.



# Umala Vocational Training Centre

Umala Vocational Training Center (UVTC) is a registered public institution in Siaya County, Kenya, established in 2020.

UVTC has 61 youth students, primarily teen mothers, who participate in various training programs providing employable skills for self-reliance.

In 2024, through a partnership with Siaya Muungano Network, We One Action Network provided a feeding program to sustain the youth, especially teen mothers and their children. It is understood that no one can learn if they are hungry, and mothers cannot focus on learning if their children are hungry.



## AVAILABLE COURSES

- Computer Technology
- Electrical Installation
- Building & Construction
- Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy
- Dressmaking & Fashion
- Welding & Masonry



## Special Recognition

In November 2024, We One Action Network presented Shirleen Adhiambo, Executive Director of Siaya Muungano Network (SIMUN), with an award for their exceptional work in Siaya County. SIMUN believes in working with marginalized groups in society, those who are disturbed by the character of mainstream processes that elude the comprehension of most people.

Since 2013, SIMUN has been driven by the need to implement vibrant programs that would impact the most significant change in lives. Their primary goal is to support community efforts to build a sustaining society and raise the competency of community institutions.

Shirleen's heart promotes equality and empowerment of persons with disabilities and champions inclusion. Her greatest desire is to initiate effectively and progressively engage communities in transformative sustainable initiatives. She is a leader and champion of working with vulnerable and marginalized communities in Kenya.



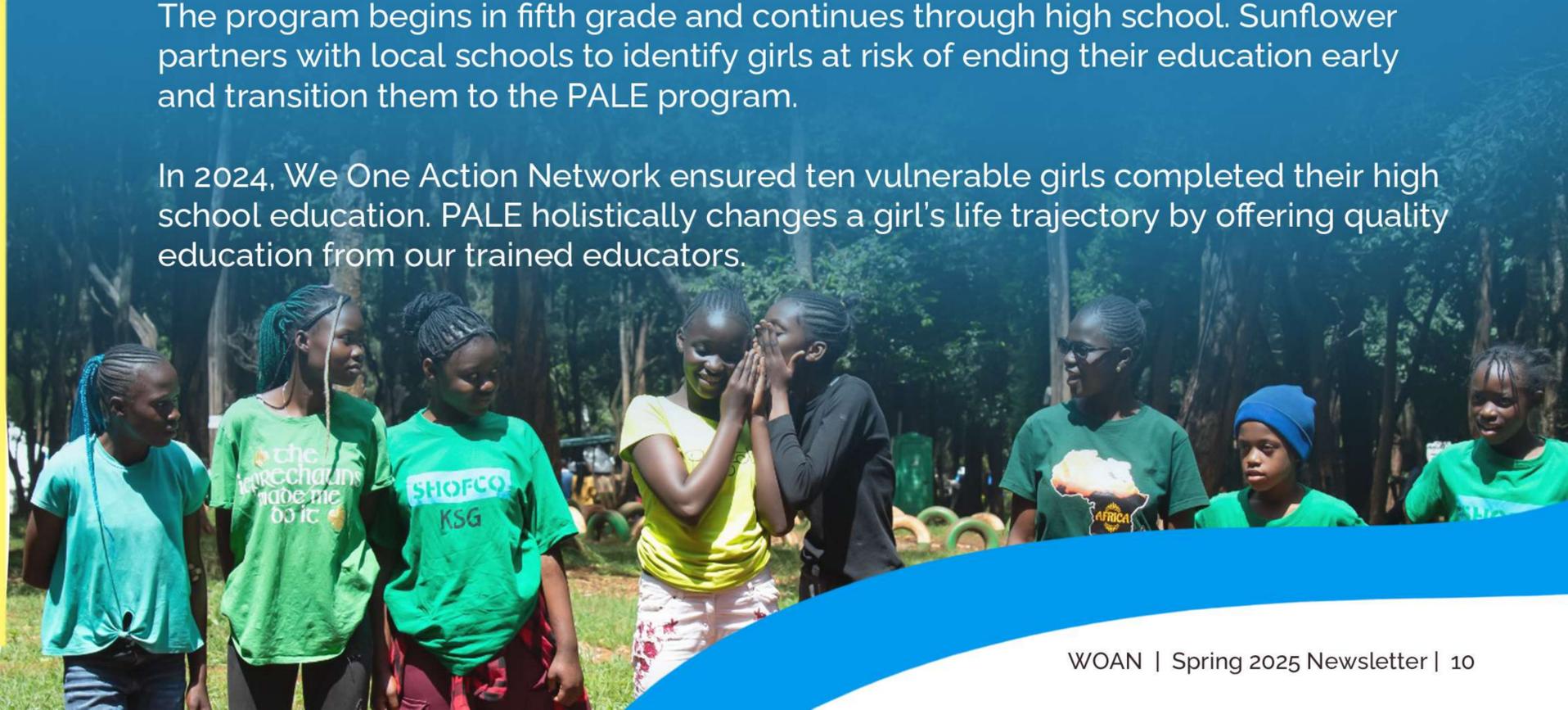
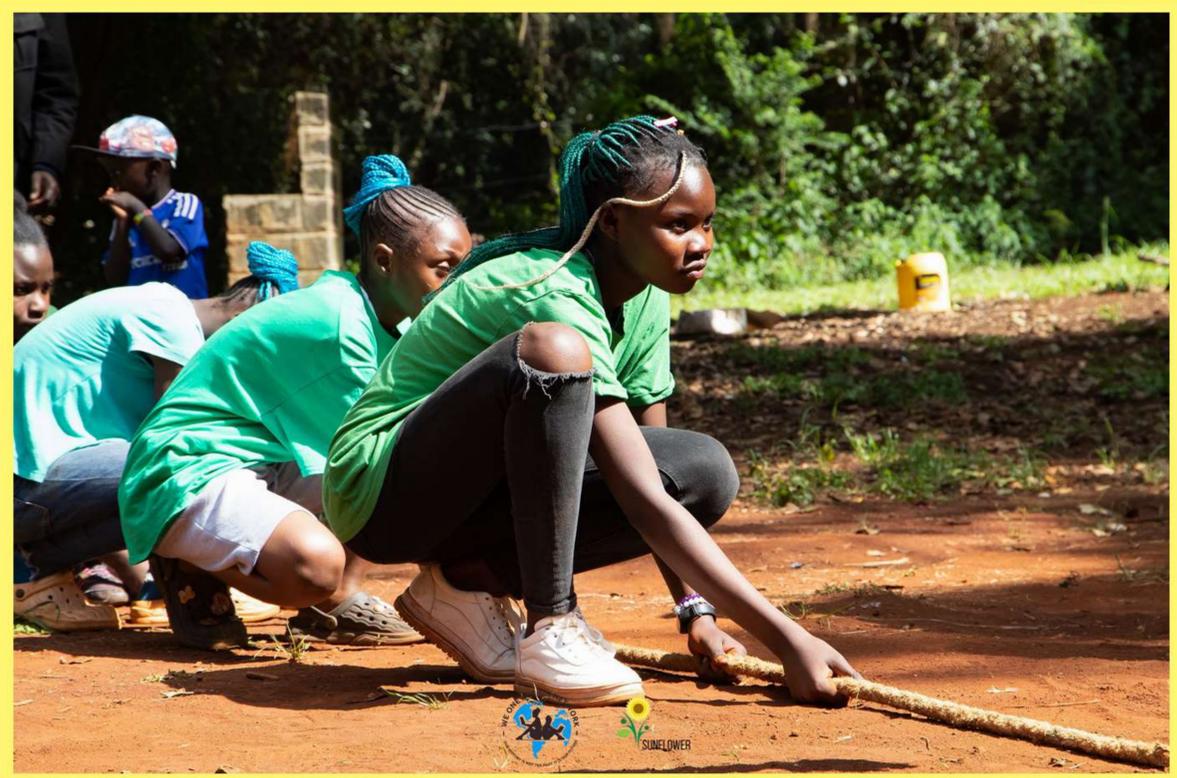
# SUNFLOWER PALE Program

## (Pathway to Alternative Learning and Education)

The Pathways to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) is an alternative primary school program for vulnerable girls at risk of ending their education early due to various challenges.

The program begins in fifth grade and continues through high school. Sunflower partners with local schools to identify girls at risk of ending their education early and transition them to the PALE program.

In 2024, We One Action Network ensured ten vulnerable girls completed their high school education. PALE holistically changes a girl's life trajectory by offering quality education from our trained educators.





## SUNFLOWER SEED Program (Sunflower Early Education and Development)

The Sunflower Early Education and Development (SEED) is a literacy—and play-based preschool program designed to unlock the potential of vulnerable youth. Through a child-centered approach to education, curriculum, and methodology, SEED molds young minds to prepare them for a successful academic journey!

Their teachers are trained in child-centered methodology, specifically emphasizing play and literacy. Their curriculum emphasizes literacy, social-emotional learning, and play, aligning with the Kenya Institute of Early Childhood Development Service Standard Guidelines and Early Childhood Development and Education.

In 2024, We One Action Network made minor repairs to their classroom, purchased an LCD screen to make learning fun, and sponsored their preschool graduation!





# Carolina For Kibera Africa

## Best Schools Initiative (BSI) – Improved Teacher Training in Informal Schools

In Kibera, the nine government schools can only serve about 40% of the community's more than 87,000 school-aged population. Estimates suggest that only 25-50% of age-appropriate students pass the National Exam, meaning that thousands of students do not finish primary school or qualify to begin secondary school.

In the last 15 years, the number of children in Kibera who have attended school has risen, primarily due to the emergence of low-cost for-profit non-public schools. These are usually community startups to make schools more accessible for those who cannot afford or get into the more expensive and competitive state-run schools. Yet most of these schools lack proper equipment and qualified teachers.

In 2024, We One Action Network was one of CKFA-BSI's primary sponsors for several of their basic education and training schools, which are most often the only alternative to basic education run by entrepreneurs, religious groups, and nonprofit organizations.





# Flooding in Nairobi

Flooding in Nairobi During April and May 2024, persistent rains across Kenya killed at least 235 people and displaced over 260,000. The floods in Nairobi engulfed sections of the city's streets and homes into rivers, submerged bridges, and paralyzed road and rail transport networks. They are usually caused by intense storms that produce more runoff than an area can infiltrate and store or a stream can carry within its usual channel.

We One Action Network Board of Directors approved a financial contribution to Carolina For Kibera Africa (CFKA) to help residents affected by the floods. Our grant helped with water tanks and treatment for 12 schools, student supplies for 19 CFKA scholars, emergency baskets for 169 families, and medicines to address diarrhea and other bacterial diseases.





## School Field Trip to Nairobi National Park

Shine Academy Educational Center (SAEC) is a private elementary school in Kibera, one of the largest slums in Kenya. We One Action Network has been connected to SAEC since 2021.

It was amazing to provide a fun day for the staff and students on an adventurous school trip to the Nairobi National Park! SAEC is staffed with six teachers and one school cook that supports 125 students.





# Fire Prevention & Safety

Remembering the deadly fire at Hillside Enderasha Primary School (Kenya) in September 2024. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the Nyeri County Community.

This tragic event led We One Action Network to contact the Kibera Community Emergency Rescue Team (KCERT) to ensure the safety of Kibera Girls Soccer Academy (KGSA). The school's teachers, staff, and students were trained in first aid and fire prevention.

We sincerely appreciate the Nairobi Fire & Rescue Department's assistance with KCERT. We are grateful to the KGSA Director Ms. Claris, her students, and remarkable staff for their relentless dedication to learning in and outside the classroom while putting "safety first."





## Menstrual Health Day

In the wake of the horrific floods in Kenya (2024), communities and students continue to recover. What doesn't stop is a vulnerable girl's period or her right to period dignity. We One Action Network, were honored to sponsor Menstrual Health Day 2024 in Motherland Slums, Nairobi.

In 2024, We One Action Network sponsored Nipe Tabasamu Na Upendo, who co-partnered with Green Dada Organization to lead an event that impacted 130-140 vulnerable girls from four local primary schools. Each girl was offered food, snacks, underwear, and a 3-month supply of sanitary pads with age-appropriate group or individual discussions with trained mentors. Other event objectives included:

- Career Mentorship
- Menstrual Health & Hygiene
- Drug & Substance Prevention
- Gender-Based Violence
- Mental Health Awareness





## 2024 Visit to Kenya

Seeing our work up close is essential. However, meeting and listening to school and youth leaders who understand how vulnerable youth, especially teen mothers, progress from point A to point B is also critical.

Travis, our Founder & President, had the opportunity to tour the Umala Vocational Training Centre in November 2024. Meeting the direct recipient of our efforts was an eye-opening and emotional experience.

We want to thank Mr. George, Ms. Teresa, and Ms. Shirleen for welcoming Travis and their exceptional efforts in bridging the gap with employable training that will alter the trajectory of at-risk youths in rural communities of Siaya County (Kenya).

# Our Scholars and Mentors

Our 2024 theme for these incredible students is simple;

Education is a Journey | Let's Begin Here



# Amna

## Kenya Medical Training College

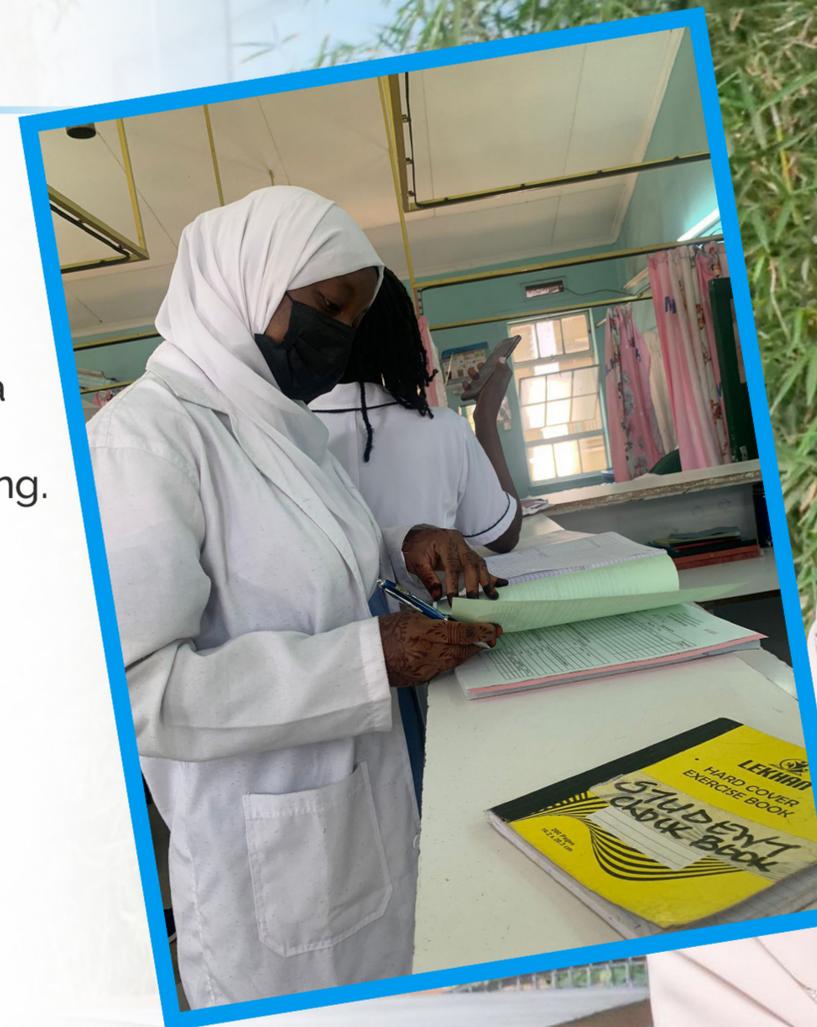
Hello, my name is Amna Zandy, the oldest of three siblings and we live in Kibera (Kenya). I am fond of delicious foods and desserts as my mom is a great cook! I also enjoy reading, meeting new friends, serving in my community, and swimming.

I attended Nairobi Primary School from grade 1 through grade 8 before earning my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam with high marks. This offered me the opportunity to attend Moi Girls Secondary School where I was a champion for equality for Muslim students and a member of the Go Green Environmental Club that championed nurturing Mother Earth.

Between it all, I have been an active member of my community. I volunteer as a mentor to young girls at Sunflower Global (Kenya) through their Pathways to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) program. There I was also able to participate in several online software courses as well as build my interpersonal skills.

This journey has not been easy by any means. The COVID pandemic forced me to miss nearly two years of my education and caused grave financial struggles as my parents lost their jobs as casual workers. I finally got the opportunity to sit for my Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exam in 2021. This qualified me to attend Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) in March 2023 pursuing a diploma in Health Records and Information Technology.

I am truly grateful to We One Action Network (USA) for offering me a one-year full academic scholarship to continue my journey at KMTTC! Thank you for believing in me and I won't let you down!



# Abigael

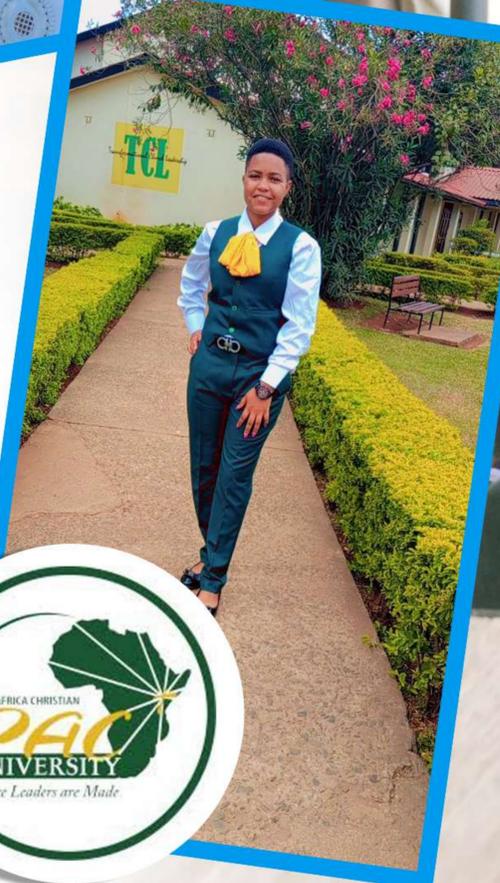
## Pan Africa Christian University

Hello, my name is Abigael Isack and I am originally from Singida, Tanzania. I am currently living in Nairobi, Kenya to attend Pan Africa Christian University (PACU). I am the fourth born of seven children. I enjoy playing football (soccer), and volleyball, and in my spare time, I enjoy cooking and baking! I am an active member of the PACU Christian Union serving as leader of our praise and worship team! I am also a member of the PACU Mission Team and Life Champion Care Group where I am privileged to evangelize to my fellow students.

I graduated high school from Msungua Secondary located in the village area in Tanzania. I come from humble beginnings and believe that all forms of education allow doors of opportunity to open. The transition from Tanzania to Kenya has been met with many challenges that began with the burden of tuition payments. Over the last few years, especially during the COVID pandemic, I have witnessed many youths headed down a path that has led to substance abuse, depression, transactional sex, youth suicide, and mental instability.

This is what ultimately turned me toward Counseling Psychology as my major and my calling to help my community solve or mitigate this gap. I am currently in the last semester at PACU first pursuing a certificate before I begin at the diploma level. I have a great desire and passion to understand human behavior and other human tendencies that continue to plague our society. My ultimate mission and vision is to study these obstacles and barriers that lead to destructive families and communities.

I am thankful to say that my father continues to support me with what little he has but the weight has been lifted off of him because of the emotional support I receive from PACU and now the financial support from We One Action Network (USA) which I am very appreciative of. Thank you so much!



# Brown

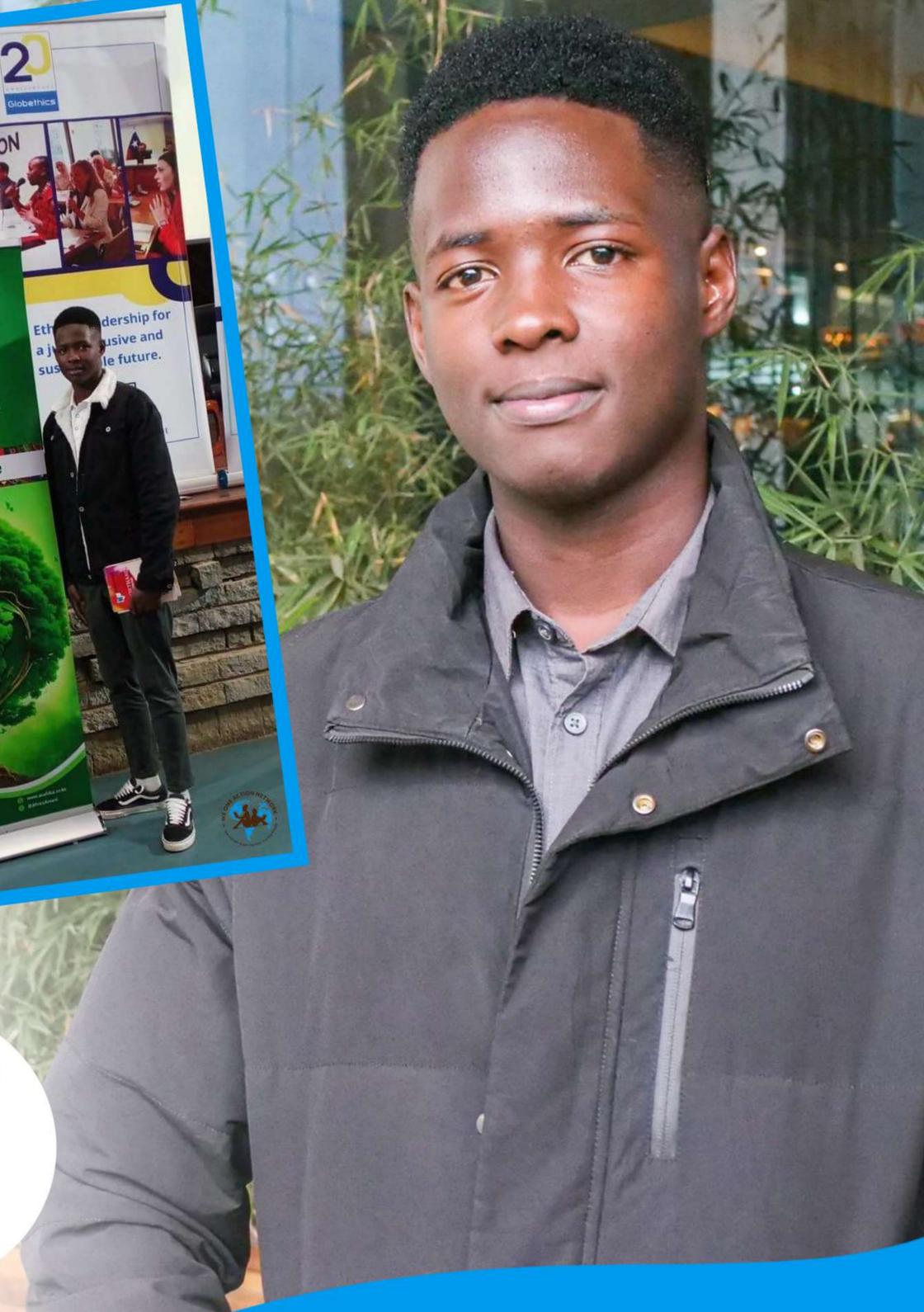
## The Catholic University of Eastern Africa

Hello, my name is Brown Nyangoto and I am from the village area of Kisii County in western Kenya. I enjoy playing volleyball, and being part of an officiating team that referees rugby matches! With me hailing from the village area, there is a strong sense of pride that I am representing more than just myself. My dream is to soar beyond my wildest imagination to achieve great heights!

Unfortunately, my most significant hurdle has been a lack of school fees and tuition payments. Being the youngest of three siblings has its benefits and drawbacks. My parents have struggled financially as the cost of inflation has risen as they are casual workers. However, despite those challenges, I still completed my primary school education at Birongo Mixed Academy in Kisii, receiving high marks on the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam (KCPE). This allowed me to continue my education at Kisii Secondary School and earn high marks on the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exam.

My journey has been marked with resiliency and an unwavering commitment to excellence in the classroom and my community. Education is a personal path to achieving my goals and making a lasting impression on my community. I have actively remained a devoted church member, facilitating Bible studies and volunteering with my older brother and best friend whenever needed. I am participating in community cleanups, tree-planting endeavors, and campaigns to raise awareness of the adverse impacts of climate change.

I was excited when I learned I was a finalist for this one-year academic scholarship from We One Action Network. Thank you for believing in me. I will make you proud and do my best at East Africa Catholic University. God bless you all!



# Florence Otieno

Program Coordinator

Building and Maintaining Relationships





## One Hand Must Wash The Other!

A series of seven destructive wildfires affected the Los Angeles metropolitan area in California. The fires were exacerbated by drought conditions, low humidity, a buildup of vegetation, and hurricane-force winds. The wildfires forced more than 200,000 to evacuate and destroyed or damaged more than 18,000 homes and structures.

We One Action Network Board of Directors approved a financial contribution to help residents affected by wildfires. **Operation Blessings** operates globally and is helping restore hope. They partner and staff relief volunteers with emergency management and local churches to bring food, clean water, medicine, and other vital supplies to meet the immediate needs of those suffering.

Please visit [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org) to learn more or to make a donation.





## One Hand Must Wash The Other!

2024 witnessed one of the most horrific disasters: Hurricane Helene, which devastated the western part of North Carolina. We One Action Network Board of Directors, approved a financial contribution to **Manna Foodbank**, a member of Feeding America to help residents affected by Hurricane Helene.

Manna Foodbank provides critical on-the-ground needs for food, water, and other logistical support. In the last decade, they have responded to needs following weather-related disasters caused by hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding.

As recovery efforts continue in western North Carolina, we encourage our WOAN Friends to keep them in your prayers and consider donating to Manna Foodbank at [www.mannafoodbank.org](http://www.mannafoodbank.org).



## Friends Of Ours

Kent and Lesley Long are natives of Charlotte, North Carolina. They have been supporters of We One Action Network (WOAN) since 2019. They are passionate about supporting life from conception with Christian values as they teach Sunday School to high schoolers. They love sharing God's love and finding peace and contentment in life.

The Longs have three little children and another one on the way. They enjoy simple pleasures like exploring nature with their kids, going to the beach, having the occasional coffee date, and doing community service. They believe WOAN found them and is a perfect fit for their desire to help others outside their normal reach to improve their quality of life.





## Community In Action

Nicole Banks, MBA, began Youth Elite Pathways (YEP) as a nonprofit program in 2024 to empower disengaged high school students in marginalized communities. Based in Orlando, Florida, YEP partners with major corporations, universities, and small businesses to provide STEM education, employable training, and internship opportunities.

YEP also offers a variety of mentorship programs and career development initiatives that maneuver students from low-wage, low-skilled jobs to more sustainable careers in STEM fields. YEP understands that helping students who may not excel in the classroom still requires a support system and direction to improve.

### Key Components of YEP:

- **Curriculum Development:** Hands-on curriculum that covers STEM areas such as Project & Program Management, Data Analysis, and Project Cost Control.
- **Training Workshops:** Interactive activities delivered by industry professionals. The primary focus is building technical and soft skills through real-world experiences.
- **Certification Programs:** Partner with technical colleges and certification bodies to provide students with industry-recognized credentials.

Born and raised in an underserved community in Washington, DC, Nicole can relate to the challenges of success. She is currently employed in a prominent financial and cost management role, leading various initiatives in the energy and telecommunication sectors.

Please visit [www.youthelitepathways.org](http://www.youthelitepathways.org) to sign up for YEP updates and/or contact her at [nicole@youthelitepathways.org](mailto:nicole@youthelitepathways.org)





*Rest in  
Peace*



## In Remembrance

Friends can come and go, but TRUE friendships can last a lifetime. Harley McCorkle was a true friend of We One Action Network, and we credit Harley for encouraging and motivating us to keep striving for our best. Harley, a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away on June 26, 2024.

Born in Mooresville, North Carolina, Harley graduated from Mooresville High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Montreat College. He furthered his education at the University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School), where he completed the Executive Education Program. Harley had a great career of 37 years with Duke Energy, where he was Vice President of Operations in Indiana.

Harley was known for his big personality and ability to light up any room. He was personable and thoughtful, always treating everyone like family. Throughout his life, Harley was deeply committed to empowering and impacting countless lives through his unwavering dedication to serving any community he was a part of. His benevolent efforts were a testament to him fulfilling the calling God had bestowed upon him, leaving a lasting legacy of kindness and generosity that touched countless lives.

# Stay Connected With Us



[www.weoneactionnetwork.org](http://www.weoneactionnetwork.org)



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Special thanks to the following individuals and their teams for breathing life into our 2025 Spring Newsletter! **You are amazing!**

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**Brian Obebo** | Web Designer | SmartWeb Kenya  
**Ismael Otieno** | Photojournalist | Ismael Photography  
**Glen Okoth** | Graphic Designer | Freelance



**Jared Medford**  
Board Member  
Huntersville | North Carolina



**Pamela Fann**  
Board Member  
Atlanta | Georgia



**Crystal Chandler**  
Board Member  
Cary | North Carolina



**Hannah Lineberger**  
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## Thank you | Team WOAN



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Nairobi | Kenya



**Prasad Challagundla**  
Treasurer  
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**Julie Poynter**  
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**Travis L. Rudd**  
Founder & President  
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