



## A Journey of Restoration and Hope in Rabuor, Kenya Annual Report 2018-2019

I am excited to share Mwanzo’s annual report with you, highlighting our work in 2018 and 2019. As I reflect on our growth and the many accomplishments over the past seven years, I am reminded how far we have come and how grateful I am for all of those who make this work possible.

### Mwanzo Education Center

Each year since I founded Mwanzo in 2012, when I travel to Rabuor to oversee various programs, I begin with our most important work, celebrating the graduation of our 5-years-olds to grade one! At the celebration, I meet and chat with many community members, both children and adults. Words such as healing, hope, joy, gratitude, and prayers—yes, many times prayers!—and laughter are shared.



Loyce addresses the students at the Mwanzo Education Center

The transformational pictures I bring back of our new school buildings, and the smiling faces of adults and our school children, don't quite capture the feeling of ongoing healing and joy that I experience daily.

Thanks to our many supporters who have walked with us since 2012, and to a matching grant from One Day's Wages, Mwanzo will be able to complete the two-story Mwanzo Education Center (MEC) in Rabuor. MEC currently serves 202 students from 3 to 13 years old, through grade 5. When at full capacity, MEC will have 480 students through grade 8, and 24 staff.



The Mwanzo Education Center

In early 2019, Mwanzo recommitted to work towards the sustainability of our work. Many people who worked on the construction of the school building are local to the area and will continue to maintain the building and its spaces such as the kitchen, the dining hall, and MEC's Early Childhood Education Wing (construction planned for 2020-21). These people can also use their new skills to strengthen their own homes or for gainful employment.

In 2018-2019, Mwanzo also:

- Built a dining hall, providing two warm meals daily in a safe and healthy space for students and staff; and
- Installed underground tanks to collect 40,000 liters of rainwater for use by the school.

## Micro-Enterprise

Through our partnership with the University Congregational United Church of Christ Superfluity fund, the Mwanzo Energetic Proud Farmers Women Group (MEPF) purchased two large tents for hire and bought 100 additional chairs for the catering program. The women catered to over 10,000 people at weddings, graduations, and funerals—a service which brings in needed income.



A MEPF tent in use, providing relief from the heat

Over \$5,000 was shared among women in December 2018 through the Village and Savings Loan Program, and about \$3,000 exchanged hands this year as women took and repaid loans with interest. Many of these families used their money to support the education of their children.

## Agriculture

Rabuor and her neighbors are subsistence farmers. Community members depend on the food they grow to feed their families, and any extra is bartered or taken to market. In 2018-2019, Mwanzo helped to train farmers to mitigate the army worms' attacks, to use a less harmful fertilizer better suited to the area soil type, and to adopt practices that reduce soil acidity, especially with the ongoing changing and challenging weather patterns. When I talked to the farmers, Jane Okeyo reported that she harvested 900kgs, unlike the previous years when she only took home 135Kgs from the same plot of land. Both the training and food availability, though dependent on weather patterns, bore rewarding results for hard-working small-scale farmers.





An agriculture training (L) and fruitful harvest (R)

### Hope Has a Home Here

As most of you know, community members in Kenyan villages love to sing and dance, a unique way by which they express their day-to-day emotions and experiences. I thought that the dances had been lost to the years of the "HIV/AIDS Tsunami" and that the daily struggles had killed hope and thus dance. But when I asked community members in the village to come up with a phrase or two to describe our shared dream for the future, my summation is: Restoration and hope! I thank you for continuing to walk on this journey with my childhood village of Rabuor and her neighbors—thus helping them to believe that joy and dance is theirs to have again and keep.

### Mwanzo's 2018-2019 Expenditures

■ School     
 ■ Construction     
 ■ Agricultural     
 ■ Admin

