



Summer 2016

*Partnering with Communities,
Expanding Opportunities.*

Workshops Teach Lessons for the Generations

Our Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops continue to introduce positive changes to communities throughout Kenya. These workshops make a powerful difference in the lives of countless people, demonstrating that education and awareness go a long way toward empowering women and their communities..

Our most recent TOT workshop took place May 19-20 in Magadi, Kenya. There, a gathering of 43 identified community leaders including teachers, chiefs and church leaders were lead through the training by Kenya Works TOT facilitators. A range of important issues/information was discussed ranging from positive parenting practices to the perils of early marriage. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender based violence (GBV) within the Kenyan community is an issue of great concern and while these practices have a long history in many Kenyan tribes, the TOT workshops play a critical role in the understanding and prevention of the physical and psychological harm brought about by these customs.



Communities where the TOT workshops have taken place report a dramatic reduction in the incidence of abuse against women and in the practice of female gender mutilation. The challenge is formidable, given the pervasiveness of poverty and the resistance to reversing multi-generational practices. These workshops are making great strides by teaching the importance of safeguarding young women to increase the possibilities for their well-being, their education and futures.

The significance of the TOT workshop in Magadi was immediately apparent. One Head Teacher from Sidai Academy, Everlyne Mutheu, spoke of the difference that knowledge and abuse-prevention will make in the lives of the participants and their families:



“I have gained a lot in all the topics that we have covered in this workshop. I will make sure that the whole community is aware of what we have learned. I would also ask that all the attendees proceed and spread this good message to our communities.”

The excitement about the possibility of introducing positive changes within their communities was reflected in the hopeful works of participants after the workshop. With the help of our supporters, Kenya Works will continue to support the TOT Training

workshops in communities across Kenya.

Did you know?

- ✓ Although free primary education came into effect in 2003, causing a dramatic rise in student enrollment, schools are still vastly underfunded, resulting in large class size, lack of materials and dilapidated learning environments.
- ✓ Kenya Works partners with communities to build and improve environments where children will be safe, learn and thrive.
- ✓ At least 46 percent of Kenyans live below the poverty line?
- ✓ Kenya Works holds forums that strengthen access to resources and opportunities to help reduce poverty through economic growth.
- ✓ School absenteeism is a major risk factor in the education of girls in Kenya.
- ✓ Kenya Works' own eco-friendly Makini Pad is giving girls a safe, effective way to manage their menses, while building their self-esteem and academic futures.
- ✓ Very high number of students drop out before completing secondary school education. This is because of high level poverty that cannot enable parents to make payments of school fees. Secondary school costs are the responsibility of the student and family.
- ✓ Kenya Works is providing scholarship for orphans and vulnerable students in secondary school.
- ✓ Gender violence, particularly gender-based violence against women is on the rise in Kenya according to the annual report released Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC). About 45% of women in Kenya ages 15 through 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence.
- ✓ Kenya Works is partnering with different communities in Kenya to address this rising menace, several workshops are being conducted in various counties within the country that has seen many community leaders come together and openly discuss the root causes for this evil and agreeable solutions for the same. Through our Kenya Works Gender-based Violence Awareness Workshops, we are helping communities to address the underlying causes of violence against women. The last workshop was conducted in Madagi, Kajiado County, a nomadic community which has an extremely high rate of gender based violence.



Kenya Works Achieves its Goal

Kenya Works is achieving its goal of creating meaningful and measurable impact for individuals and communities in Kenya. We accomplish this by funding a portfolio of community focused projects, identified by the communities themselves, which cultivate opportunities in education, financial and social support. Our strategies are contributing to an increased well-being for our partners as we work to alleviate conditions of poverty. We can't do what we do without the continued support of our compassionate, committed donors. Poverty is a problem that has proven solutions and giving plays a crucial role in project support. Your investment in Kenya Works mission is truly bringing opportunity and dignity to the people of Kenya.

Pay It Forward Cultivates Opportunities for Growth



In the spirit of offering people a “hand-up” rather than a “hand-out”, our Kenya Works scholarship recipients are expected to become active contributors to their communities. This spring, scholarship students participated in “Pay it Forward Day” at Kotonje Secondary School, where they planted 70 trees to beautify the school grounds. Students also cleaned the markets as a way to show the community how important it is to work in a clean and maintained environment.

The day was such a success that we are adding days throughout the calendar year to provide scholarship recipients with more opportunities to “Pay it Forward”. In August, students will assist the aged with the harvesting and storage of their crops. Other student volunteers will help to organize a fundraiser to provide a university scholarship for a student. In December, students will present Christmas gifts to orphaned children and the elderly. They will offer assistance to the elderly in their homes and visit the sick at Kandiege dispensary.

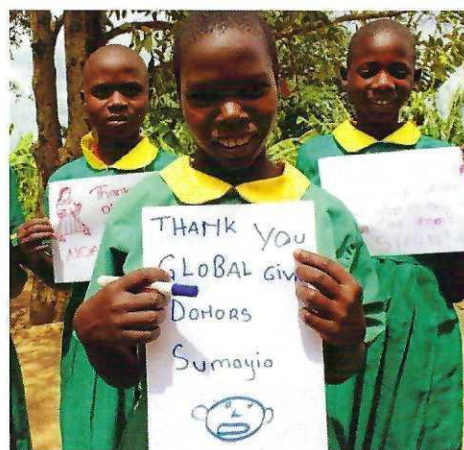
As part of the Pay it Forward program, students are experiencing first-hand the rewarding feeling that comes simply by doing a good deed for someone and expecting nothing in return.

Scholarship recipient, Silas Ogweny shared how he was impacted by Pay it Forward Day:

“Just taking time to plant trees in the school and doing an act of kindness has taught me that we make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give. Giving is the only way to live a happy life.” He went on to say “people don’t always need advice, sometimes they really need a hand to hold, an ear to listen and a heart to understand, this is what I want to be for these people.”

Mr. John Okwanya, the head teacher at Kotonje Secondary School, said the students seemed changed by their experience.

“Students who participated in the program are members of Pay it Forward. Because of this, they are very much committed to helping at will whenever there is an opportunity.”





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