

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



WITH THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023



Friends and Supporters,

Our 2022 Annual Report includes the first quarter of 2023 because several of our key initiatives begun last year are now in full motion – We are eager to share their progress!

While we continue to support and guide 20 higher-education sponsored students and our recent graduates, today's EdPowerment is a composite of programs that serves a broader population in places most in need of our intervention.

In 2022 EdPowerment began to deliver essential skills training – never before available – to two underperforming and minimally-resourced government secondary schools: few teachers and books, large classes, no internet, no supplies. These collaborations, intended to motivate a student population left behind, already are producing positive results. Teachers report newly-engaged students expecting better results in this year's National Exams that dictate further studies.

Our linked Boys and Girls' Club serves a much more important purpose than Saturday recreation. We are using this platform to introduce small-scale entrepreneurial, vocational and practical life strategies that show ALL students, regardless of school performance, a way to become productive within their environments.

As we work with these schools, direct interactions with pivotal community officers in one district—SIHA – is enabling education in other fundamental ways.

In 2022 we initiated an emergency food relief program for those whose livelihoods from crops and livestock have been decimated by local drought. Today, this aid has been formalized into our Malnutrition Prevention Program. Working with authorities, we now provide nutritionally sound food packages for the families of students who meet specific criteria in the most affected schools.

Second, EdPowerment has provided seed money, formal training and financial coaching to two small womens' business initiatives taken in 2022: the Uwama and Naishorua Groups. Their local soap-making enterprises will provide these mothers, many of the Maasai society, a supplementary source of income to feed and otherwise provide for their children, allowing them to attend school.

Only your generosity makes our work possible. Only your willingness to serve the poorest gives these young people and their families a path out of a life of poverty and frustration.

Gratefully,

#### MOIRA MADONIA

and the entire EdPowerment Team

# TODAY'S HIGHER EDUCATION SPONSORSHIPS

EdPowerment's Sponsorship Program is without parallel. This is because we commit fully to all of students, whether they joined us at the beginning of secondary school or at the point where their studies would have ended prematurely.

For each individual, we are present in all ways beyond direct school costs: boosting life skills and English, and more importantly assisting them through personal struggles that come from poverty, broken homes, and environs marked by dependencies on local brew and harmful beliefs such as witchcraft and other stigmas.

Their graduations are true triumphs – not an ending, but a start of a different, promising life that will also lift their families and communities.

#### **OUR CLASS OF 2022:**



**DATIVA**Master's of Educational Planning
and Administration



**ELIZABETH**B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics



**GETRUDE**B.A. in Procurement and Supply Chain



**NEMES**B.A. in Business Administration



**ROZINA**B.A. with Education



**KELVIN**B.A. in Economics and Finance



MARY
Certified Public Accountant



**REDEMPTER**Diploma of Animal Health



**ZAWADI**The Law School of Tanzania (pending)

2023's prospective graduates include our third Doctor of Medicine and students receiving a B.S. Electrical Engineering, B.A. Law Studies, B.A. Human Resource Management, B.S. with Education, and Technician Certificate in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

#### TRANSITIONAL SERVICES

EdPowerment's graduates do not return to homes where parents can provide a comfortable living. Many do not come from families that can absorb the cost of feeding and caring for them once again. Recognizing this reality – along with an employment market woefully inadequate to

absorb Tanzania's graduates – EdPowerment offers a transitional assistance program. Careful to avoid dependency, we provide specified monies for job-seeking activities and assist with basic living costs during the "volunteer/intern" period often required to obtain a job in Tanzania.



Once a student at the KIWOCE Open School, Mary A. earned a Diploma in General Agriculture with high marks from Kilacha Agricultural Institute. Because of her strong performance and field work, she immediately was offered a probationary position at Amani Orphans Home, Iringa, as a sales and farm manager. Mary was able to travel and cover her initial living requirements with EdPowerment's transitional assistance. We also provided initial boosts to various side projects that she planned and managed. With her earnings, she began her parents' chicken project in Moshi. Mary represents the full meaning of EdPowerment's support.





#### THE RESOURCE ROOM

Opposite EdPowerment's office is a place of learning open to our sponsored and other vetted students. We provide computer and internet access and guidance, as well as life skills and English tutoring to expand these post-secondary students' knowledge, understanding of the world, and employment seeking abilities.









#### **EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

In 2022 developments in Tanzania compelled EdPowerment to shift some of its resources to help two of the poorest performing public secondary schools in the area where we operate. After discussions with community advocates and school administrators, EdPowerment introduced a Secondary School Skills Program with the goal of showing students that they could, in fact, change

their prospects. In the SIHA district, home of one of these schools, community development officers asked us to consider additional forms of support that would ultimately enable more young people to attend and succeed in school. The following programs result from EdPowerment's decision to extend our reach to the needlest in areas previously beyond our scope.

#### **DONATIONS CAN ALWAYS BE TARGETED TO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS**

SECONDARY SCHOOL SKILLS, CLUBS, AND SUPPORT



WOMEN'S SMALL
BUSINESS INITIATIVES
& COACHING



MALNUTRITION PREVENTION PROGRAM



EARLY DISCOVERY

#### SECONDARY SCHOOL SKILLS SUPPORT







Both secondary schools chosen by EdPowerment for partnership operate with minimal government and parental support in villages that include "TASAF" recipients – those designated by the government as needing extraordinary social assistance. Each week, we bring our resources – educators, computers, projector, screen, speaker system, generator, videos, handouts (and snack foods) to these diverse, but equally underserved schools. Working closely with the schools' staff, our Tanzanian team coaches Form 2 and Form 4 students (years marked by national tests) in

active, participatory seminars each week. Topics inculcate positive behaviors at home and in the classroom; teach critical study skills such as note-taking and summarization; demonstrate test-taking strategies, and share videos (YouTube, etc.) that will spark curiosity, engagement and a positive approach to learning. We will evaluate our success by the number of students who are able to improve their National Test scores and thereby access government Advanced Level High Schools or Colleges –options now more affordable under recent government educational policy changes.

#### REUSABLE FEMININE HYGIENE SUPPLIES

This Spring EdPowerment is introducing a new life-changing initiative: teaching all female students at Dahani Secondary School how to make and care for reusable sanitary pads. In 2022, EdPowerment purchased and supplied sanitary pads to girls in this district as part of International Women's Day. When teachers recently told us the difference that these supplies made in girls' attendance, we began to formulate a better answer than single-use pads. Collaborating with another area NGO and Dahani, plans are underway to teach all the female students how to make reusable pads. We will be funding materials and training, as well as costs for ongoing production and possible expansion to women in the community.

#### **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS**

EdPowerment brings teens a new kind of Saturday, one that includes sports, arts and games AND practical lessons in income-producing activities including crop production, the making of locally-sourced goods, and useful service skills. EdPowerment introduces diverse business persons and community leaders to deliver invaluable advice, ideas and motivation.









#### THE WOMENS' SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

SIHA is an area of vastly different terrains. While the highlands nearest Mt. Kilimanjaro have lush vegetation, the lower lands can resemble a desert because of a lack of rains over several years.









In 2022, EdPowerment laid the groundwork to help two diverse groups of mothers in the areas that now lack vegetation for planting and raising livestock to form a small business alternative. Each group of 20 women has banded together in a formal structure to begin a soap-making/marketing enterprise. The goal is that through EdPowerment's seed money,

sponsored formal training (with Moshi-based SIDO-Small Industries Development Organization), and financial/operational coaching, these women will build a sustainable business whose profits will help to feed and send their children to school. If successful, this project will become a model that can be applied to other undertakings.

#### MALNUTRITION PREVENTION PROGRAM

While primary school may be touted as "free" in Tanzania, the reality is that families are required to provide either a financial stipend or a provision of food in order for their children to eat at school.

Given the economics and prevailing drought conditions in some of the area's villages, SIHA's District Nutritionist reported to our management that an increasing number of students go hungry every day, unable to focus, sometimes fainting during class. In response, EdPowerment has honed its emergency drought relief food program begun in 2022. Working with authorities, EdPowerment is now feeding students suffering from acute hunger, meeting the criteria of severe malnourishment.







#### THE EARLY DISCOVERY PROGRAM

In 2022, educational officers asked EdPowerment to provide learning essentials to 15 primary students who showed great promise, but could not regularly attend school and perform to their ability. This year, 13 of these students continue to progress, using the books, supplies, uniforms, solar lights and other resources that we provided.









Consolata, orphaned and living on her own with a brother, managed to complete primary school at the top of her class in 2022 – because of our intervention. With the help of a neighbor who assumed guardianship and our support, she now attends

a local government boarding secondary school. She has a future. She is another example of EdPowerment's commitment to identifying students who have that special spark and clear a path for them to excel, rather than languish.

### Financial Statement

In 2022 EdPowerment was able to sustain a strong level of support from donations throughout the year and at year-end, September's "Educate One More" event anchored by a special ride at NYC's Soul Cycle, and Giving Tuesday (further details can be found at our website).

This generosity allowed us take on the activities described in this Report – reaching those MOST IN NEED of our care. Founder support continues to allow all donations to directly fund EdPowerment's programs.

## **Looking Forward**

In 2023 we are committing greater resources to the minimally-served government schools and surrounding communities that struggle to live with the most basic level of dignity under increasingly harsh conditions.

We seek your generosity in order to help as many individuals as possible: students who must rely on outsiders such as EdPowerment for a way forward; and community members, especially mothers & grandmothers, who struggle to give the barest necessities to their children.

Education can only happen when students are fed and equipped to learn.

THANK YOU

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