

# FACING IT

QUARTERLY

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**EMPOWER**  
a face for  
the invisible **HOPE**



Bob Cook and his wife Sharon

## Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of our new Facing It Quarterly newsletter! We're excited to highlight some of what our teams here in the US and in Kenya have been accomplishing over the past few months, including:

### Doubled Scholarship Students

We nearly doubled the number of students supported by our Educate4Life™ high school scholarships from 230 in 2021 to 454 in 2022!

### New Website Launch

We're so pleased with the simplicity of our newly revamped website, where you can watch videos about our work, sign up for email updates, and make secure online giving via credit card and ACH. (Check it out at EmpowerHope.org)

The Lord has truly been faithful to Empower Hope both in the US and in Kenya. We are so grateful for your support—it's because of your generosity and prayers that we are able to pursue our mission!

With Hope,

Bob Cook  
CEO, Empower Hope USA



# EMPOWER HOPE

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(above) Construction progress on Ambatana Manor as of May 2023



## Ambatana Manor

### Making Strides Toward Ministry Sustainability

**A**mbatana Manor, an Empower Hope Business4Purpose™ project, is our first major endeavor into self-sustainability. The property for this ultra-luxe boutique hotel is nestled in the heart of Nairobi's most influential and prestigious Runda area, which is home to the capital's 93 diplomatic embassies.

In addition to helping to reduce dependence on charity to sustain the overhead of our ministries in Kenya, the Ambatana Manor project also aims to provide jobs for members of the community and improve the standard of living by helping to build much-needed infrastructure to the location—paving roads and providing access to clean water.

Construction first began January 2021 and continues steadily today, with the hotel's anticipated grand opening in 2024. "We are looking forward to the completion and success of the project," said Liz Ndegwa, Director of Operations for Ambatana Companies. "We would like to continue doing God's work by Kenyan people for Kenyan people."

Please remember this project in your prayers—for safety and productivity at the construction site, and for the project to bring the community closer to God through our team's Christ-focused approach to life.

For information about Ambatana Manor and other Business4Purpose projects, visit [empowerhope.org/business](https://empowerhope.org/business).

# Finding Freedom

## VUKA Camp Graduate Leads Her Family Toward Healing—and Faith in Christ

**T**he Empower Hope team at Mt. Elgon recently met with a local community member named Stephen and listened as he shared his story. He'd struggled for years with addiction to alcohol and had seen the negative effects it was having on his family. He told us how his daughter Magdalene had come to a VUKA Rite of Passage Camp bearing the scars of his struggles. As she listened intently to the teaching and shared her story, she began to find healing through faith in Christ. She is a very bright girl, had done well on her exams and qualified to go to a national high school in spite of the challenges at home.

Magdalene returned from camp, and it wasn't long before Stephen

began to see positive changes in her behavior. He began to ask questions about her new-found faith, and she challenged him to stop drinking and also to go to the Empower Hope office for answers to his questions.

Stephen took up the challenge and went. He described how he received Christ at Empower Hope and has completely given up drinking and has been following Jesus ever since. Through the amazing

transformation in his life, his wife has also become a Christ-follower. Today, free from the bondage of alcohol, he continues to be mentored and the family is thriving. Magdalene is doing extremely well at school.

May this story be multiplied all over Mt. Elgon as whole families

**When Stephen asked his daughter about her newfound faith, she challenged him to stop drinking.**



Stephen, his daughter Magdalene, and his wife Ruth in front of the high school Magdalene attends, thanks to a scholarship from Empower Hope's Educate4Life Girls Empowered Movement program.

are reached with the life-changing power of God!

**Bwana asifiwe! Praise the Lord! ■**



**“** Last year, my husband Howard and I went on an **Empower Hope Vision Trip**

to see the life-changing opportunities that this ministry has provided and continues to provide to the poorest of the poor in Kenya. We saw firsthand how God has provided vision and resources to lift up and come alongside the many impoverished—but not forgotten—people, offering them opportunities for a hope and a future.

— **Connie Livingston, supporter**

**”**

### What is a Vision Trip?

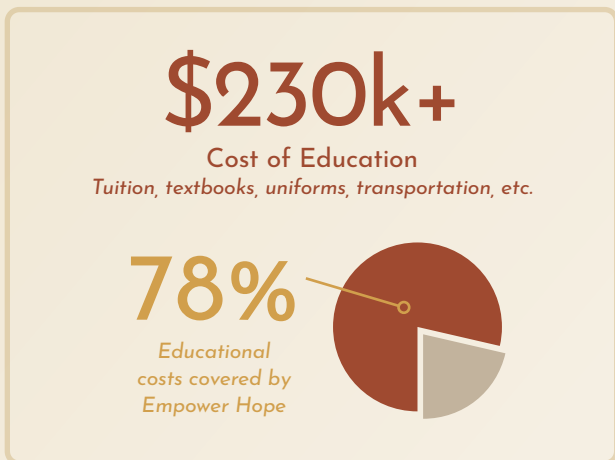
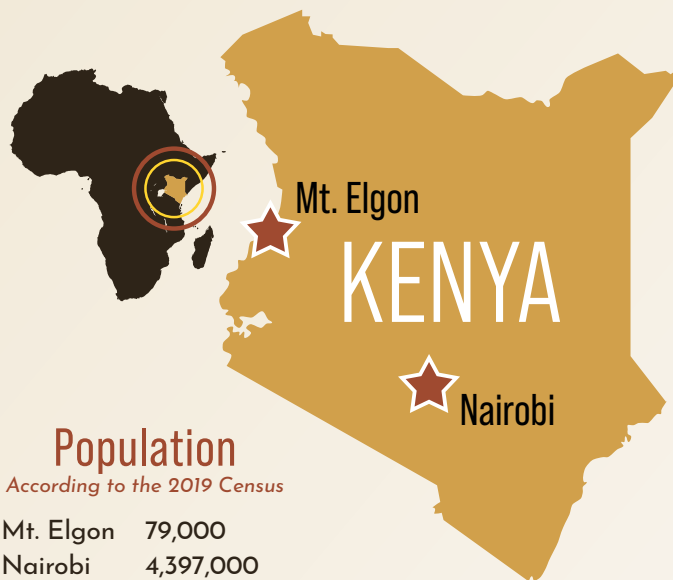
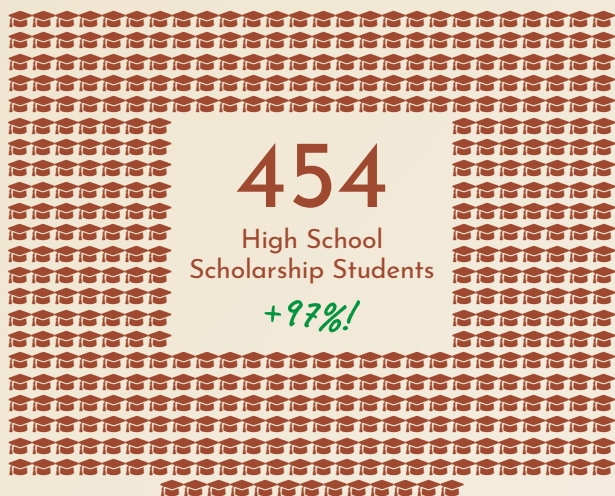
A Vision Trip is a chance to see 'up close and personal' the work that Empower Hope is doing in Kenya

### How often do you go?

Opportunities are available several times per year! Anyone who is adventurous and interested in the work we are doing is invited to learn more about this opportunity to go deeper with our team... and catch the vision!

Contact us at [info@empowerhope.org](mailto:info@empowerhope.org) to get started.

# OUR 2022 IMPACT | BY THE NUMBERS



**Languages**  
English, Swahili

**Land Area**  
224k square miles



# Highlights & Happenings

## October 2022 - May 2023

**Your generous financial support and prayers make these life-changing programs possible!**

### Elimu Msingi Scholarship Fund Meeting

28 Ambassadors were in attendance for the Group 5 meeting to receive information about college and the three pathways for their future.

1. Attend college/university
2. Do apprenticeship
3. Take business training skills and start a business

### Mentor's Appreciation Celebration

28 of our mentors at Mt. Elgon felt appreciated and renewed their commitment to continue serving.

### VUKA Parents Engagement Forum

278 parents of VUKA Program members attended and were challenged to continue supporting their daughters.

### Tembea Nami Fellowship

286 girls and boys attended; academic and spiritual performance was evaluated.

### Global Leadership Training

12 staff & 4 Ambassadors gained improved leadership skills & knowledge

### Ambassador Program (Nairobi)

- 45 young adults attended orientation for our Ambassador Training.
- 23 continuing students received college scholarships, and 10 students graduated from college.
- 25 new students were accepted into our college scholarship program and began classes in May.
- 8 newly-trained Ambassadors are interning in various places.

- Over 60 attended our recent All Ambassador HIV/AIDS Workshop training session.

### Githogoro Empowerment Center (Nairobi)

Jan 27, 2023 - Land dedication

### VUKA Camp (Mt. Elgon)

- 100 new girls/20 mentors attended, and all 100 girls attended the camp completion ceremony.
- 100 girls and 4 boys who completed our VUKA Program graduated from high school.
- 40 parents attended our VUKA Program Parents Engagement Forum.
- 65 young adults attended orientation and training to become VUKA Ambassadors, and 13 other attended the Mentor Orientation and Training.

### Scholarship Program (Mt. Elgon)

- 110 girls were accepted into 9th grade (Form 1) in Jan 2023.
- 332 scholarship students have progressed to grades 10-12 (Forms 2-4).
- 21 college scholarships were awarded to high school graduates.

### Tailoring Class (Mt. Elgon)

- 6 students graduated
- 4 passed exams, 2 will retake
- 1 passed with honors
- 10 new students have begun classes

### Culinary Class (Mt. Elgon)

7 students graduated, and all are engaged in cooking businesses within the communities.



Mairori family at Seth's funeral in March

## Update on the Mairori Family

**T**hank you for your prayers over the past weeks for Roselyne Mairori, Executive Director of Empower Hope Kenya, her husband Stephen and their three daughters.

It has been just over two months since Roselyne and Stephen's son Seth unexpectedly passed away. Though the grief is still raw, all of them are doing well in spite of their deep sadness.

Roselyne and Stephen have returned to their respective positions of leadership and are surrounded by caring friends, team members and their extended community.

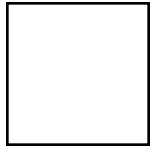
**Roselyne told us, "We are still amazed by the love and support we continue to receive from so many and will be forever grateful to God for His love and presence through His people."**

Please continue to pray with us for the Mairori family as they work through the long grieving process and continue their work with Empower Hope Kenya.



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100 South Queen Street, Ste 222  
Lancaster, PA 17603

*Your Summer 2023 Update on our work in Kenya*



## PRAY WITH US

Please keep Empower Hope in your prayers:

- For the new group of Ambassadors at Empower Hope: Nairobi
- For renewed energy for our overstretched and exhausted Mt. Elgon team
- For the faith and success of Educate4Life scholarship students
- For financial stability and growth to enable us to continue expanding the Lord's work in Kenya
- For the Lord to continue the supply of desperately-needed resources
- For our director of Kenya operations Roselyne and her family, as they continue grieve the death of their 26-year-old son (see inside right)
- For the Lord to open job and business opportunities for graduating students

## We are grateful for you!

We rely on the generosity of our supporters and sponsors to grow and sustain our ministry to the people of Mt. Elgon and Nairobi, Kenya. Because of you, we can continue to pursue our mission!



### Ways to Give

- GIVE ONLINE**  
Visit [empowerhope.org](http://empowerhope.org) for details
- MAIL A CHECK**  
Please make checks payable to Empower Hope USA and mail to: 100 South Queen Street, Ste 222, Lancaster, PA 17603
- PLANNED GIVING**  
Contact us about donor advised funds and other planned giving options

## Spread the Word

Follow us on social media, and don't forget to Like and Share our posts for greatest reach!

