

FINDING BEAUTY IN PATIENCE | LEADING BY EXAMPLE | AMBATANA COMMUNITY BUSINESSES LAUNCH!

FACING IT

QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF EMPOWER HOPE USA | EMPOWERHOPE.ORG | SPRING 2024



EMPOWER
a face for
the invisible **HOPE**

Hello, Friends!

We see so much potential in the young adults we serve.

Florence Maina—who we highlight in the article on these two pages—really shine like a GEM as she has found her passion in the fashion industry. Through our Ambatana Community Business program, we have seen young adults like Florence who come from slums, rise up and shine as they develop their businesses, build sustainability, and create jobs for others!

We also recently had the pleasure of chatting with one of our Mt.Elgon boy's VUKA mentors (see page 4) as he shared his experience of mentoring our first group of VUKA boys through their rite of passage. The movement on the mountain is gaining momentum as the community embraces the programs Empower Hope is offering.

We are truly beginning to see the rewards from the efforts of all those who have invested in the lives of these young adults. They are becoming the empowered people they need to be to empower others (see page 7).

We hope you are enjoying receiving our quarterly review. We certainly love having the opportunity to keep you updated with the latest hope-filled stories and exciting news!

With gratitude abounding,



Jiana Wynde

Director of
Corporate
Communications

Finding Beauty in Patience

It is commonly said that beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. But, apart from wearing your favorite items of clothing with a nice fabric and color, what really makes someone beautiful?

Our Girls Empowered Movement aims to elevate, equip, and empower young women from impoverished communities in Mt. Elgon and Nairobi, Kenya. As we empower hope in their lives through mentorship, education, life skills and skills training, we are creating GEMS ready to sparkle and shine!



Meet Florence Maina, one of our Mt. Elgon mentors, whose beauty is irresistible. She is one-of-a-kind and always noticeable from afar for her love of fashion and her warm welcoming smile which makes her so approachable.

After attending a week-long rite of passage camp, VUKA, our girls are placed in high schools across Kenya. This is an opportunity that



Fashionista Florence models some of her latest creations.

very few girls from Mt. Elgon would ever have the chance to experience. Upon graduation, they take part in a year-long program before entering college, skills training or entrepreneurial training according to their natural abilities and desires.

Some have a harder time of it than others as many of our young ladies are the first-born in their families and, therefore, must help to provide for their families and younger siblings.

If sacrifice and patience had a face, it would definitely be Florence's. After finishing high school, she was forced to pause her education for three long years due to financial constraints in her family and to help make a way for one of her siblings to go to school. None of this deterred her from her dream of becoming a fashion designer! Instead, with her eye for quality, she ventured into reselling second-hand clothing.

Florence's grit and determination paid off, and today

“The support and love from people who don't even know me as a person has changed my life.”

she is a student at Thika Institute of Business, pursuing a diploma in fashion.

“I was so sad to not be attending college but I had to help with my family's financial situation,” Florence told us. “I am so grateful to those who did not give up on me and allowed me to come back to fulfill my dreams.

The support and love from people who don't even know me as a person has changed my life, and I am hoping to be able to give back to my community one day. Until then, I will study hard and learn what I need to know to be successful in my new career. I know God is with me.”

Because of the investment of people like you, we are able to continue our programs.

Thank you to all who have invested in Florence's dreams and for your continuous prayers. You are empowering hope in her life and many others' lives!



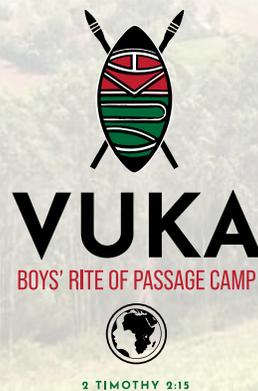
Leading By Example

VUKA Boys' Rite of Passage Camp is raising up men of integrity, thanks to the efforts of supportive local community members like Pastor Emmanuel Chachi

Pastor Emmanuel Chachi is a pastor from Africa Inland Church. He holds a Diploma in Bible, Theology, has training in counseling and pastors two churches in Mt. Elgon, Kenya.

Pastor Chachi is among the pastors that work closely with Empower Hope supporting the staff during bible studies and prayer days, praying with the students and parents. He loves to serve his community and is always ready to serve any time when called upon.

One of the highlights is how he passionately gave himself to serve with the boys during the first ever



VUKA boys Rite of Passage in December of 2023. This two-week program guided 120 young men into manhood with their rite-of-passage ceremony and biblical teaching.

Pastor Chachi served as the overall camp coordinator and wore many hats during this ceremonial time. The boys enjoyed having him as their mentor and teacher during their transition from boyhood to adulthood. During the camp, seventy-eight boys gave their lives to Christ.

"The young men of our area need this program so that they can grow up to be suitable husbands for the

Pastor Emmanuel Chachi (front, center) pictured with Billy Cherongis and boys from the VUKA Rite of Passage Camp graduation in December 2023.

“[I] look forward to the next generation of men who will serve God and their families with integrity.”

young ladies whose lives are being changed by the Empower Hope programs and by education,” Pastor Emmanuel said of the VUKA program for boys. “I enjoyed this special time with this group of young men and look forward to the next generation of men who will serve God and their families with integrity.”

Each Wednesday that he is available, Pastor Chachi also joins the staff team on Mt. Elgon for Bible study and prayer sessions.

We thank God for Pastor Chachi for his commitment and dedication to see a successful 2023 VUKA Boys’ Rite of Passage Camp and look forward to how the Lord will work at the next camp for boys, slated for December 2024.



SPEAK SWAHILI

Wezeshwa
Empower

Did you know? 200+ million people worldwide speak Swahili.

Highlights & Happenings

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

Empowerment Center at Githogoro (Nairobi)

We are grateful for the successful move of the administrative offices to the new facility at the Empowerment Center in the Githogoro slum in Nairobi.

Ambassador Mentorship Training Program (Nairobi and Mt. Elgon)

Praise the Lord for the new groups of ambassadors in both locations.

Our Mt. Elgon team is running the Ambassador Mentorship Training programs in three local locations on a weekly basis.

We also have ongoing tailoring and catering classes.

During spring break from school, students gathered for their mentorship sessions in various locations.

On the Horizon

Final finishes on the Empowerment Center are also ongoing. We have begun to move some things in and will be looking forward to a Grand Opening once all necessary steps have been completed.

(See page 6 for a special update about the flooding that damaged the new building and has interrupted operations.)



Identify. Solve. *Launch.*

We praise the Lord for these success stories from Ambatana Community Business!

Ambatana Community Business (ACB) is a community-based cooperative created to provide a platform for our Empower Hope trained Ambassadors to solve the job crisis for those living in poverty by helping them to develop businesses that solve problems in their communities.



Veronica Wanjiku
NYWELE Holistic

Like many Empower Hope Ambassadors, Veronica Wanjiku had a difficult upbringing. Her mother, who is a widow, has not had a steady source of income for most of her adult life which has made life especially difficult. As a result, the family could not afford for Veronica to attend university.

After high school, she went to work with her cousin in a beauty salon and was able to learn hair dressing. During her interaction with the clients she developed a passion for beauty but more specifically natural hair.

During our 28-week entrepreneurship development program, Veronica used her experience in the beauty industry to identify a problem—most of the natural hair clients at

the salon where she worked have struggled to find wholesome, natural hair products. Instead, they have had to use chemical based products or wax to maintain their hair.

Veronica worked hand-in-hand with other Ambassadors to develop natural hair products and has partnered with another fellow ambassador to promote her business with his digital marketing skills.

In the first month of business, Veronica generated profits greater than Kenya's national average salary! Access to income at this level has obviously had a major impact on her life. She is currently looking into renting her first apartment and helps to provide financial stability for her family.



Benard Onyango
iLOOP

From early on Benard Onyango knew that life was not fair. He was born and raised in the Mathare slum in a single-room house, where his mother brought her children up on meager earnings. This life of poverty spurred Benard to pursue ways to change their circumstances; his passion for business is unrivaled.

When he joined ACB's first entrepreneurship cohort, Benard was keen on solving problems that a lot of his neighbors in Mathare were facing. Benard was interested in the fish vendors and on several occasions woke up at 3am to understand and experience what they go through to find good, fresh fish. He also

noticed that after purchasing fish at 4am, most vendors wouldn't return home until mid afternoon, when they would then start working to prepare the fish to sell to customers in the evening. It was an exhausting, tedious process.

Benard developed a solution that focuses on getting fish vendors excellent fish at their doorstep. **In his first month of business, Benard was able to generate profits equal to three times the national salary average.** Today, Benard employs three young men who lived with him in the slum, and their customers are extremely happy with his solution, which saves them hours of effort each day.



PRAY WITH US

Please keep Empower Hope in your prayers:

- Our students in high school, college/university—for protection, good health, and to do well in their studies.
- For employment and job opportunities as students complete college.
- For God's continued provision for our huge school fee budget and for the funds to complete the Empowerment Center so we can move forward with serving the Githogoro slum community from within, as well as increased funds to grow the ministry.

Please pray for our staff team in both locations:

- Mt. Elgon: for strength and grace as they run our Ambassador Mentorship Training program in 3 locations. Also for the new mentor and social worker recruitment.
- Nairobi: for adjustment to the new office space.

Please pray for the success of new classes:

For our new tailoring and catering classes to be successful and our students to be able to attend and learn the skills they need to succeed.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Dorine's Kidney Dialysis

One of our high school students, Dorine, is very sick with severe kidney and heart issues. She has to go for dialysis every two weeks



and needs a kidney transplant. This has been a tremendous stress on her heart and her mother doesn't have the money to continue dialysis or get her the care she needs. She is missing her last year of high school. Please pray for a God-sized miracle and, if you feel compelled to give towards her dialysis and a heart specialist appointment so she can go for care, please note that in your giving online or by check. Give online at EmpowerHope.org/give/



Flooding in Nairobi

Over the past month, Kenya has faced severe flooding due to heavy rainfall. Unfortunately, our brand new community center and office complex in Githogoro has flooded and, at this time, we are not sure how much of the contents will be able to be salvaged once the water recedes.

While we thank God that no one from our team has been injured, we are concerned for the thousands, including many of our Ambassadors, who live in Huruma and Githogoro, the slum communities we serve. Many of the tiny tin huts are flooded from the heavy rains that continue in the area. There

is simply no place for them to go to escape the water and mud seeping into their homes. Most will continue to live in damp houses and imminent mold.

On one bright note, we are grateful to the Lord to report that Ambatana Manor, which sits on high ground, has been untouched by the flooding and construction continues.

We ask that you lift Kenya and its residents up in prayer, and if you would, please consider a generous gift to aid in the recovery process.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity!



EMPOWER
a face for
the invisible **HOPE**

FACING IT

QUARTERLY

Indicia
Here

100 South Queen Street, Ste 222
Lancaster, PA 17603

Your Spring 2024 Update on our work in Kenya

MAILING PANEL

[VARIABLE DATA]



Come With Us

Join Us in Kenya for the Adventure of a Lifetime!

The Empower Hope Vision Trip this summer is an opportunity to experience the work our team is doing in the communities we serve in Kenya. Anyone who is adventurous and interested in our work is invited to learn more about this opportunity to go deeper with our team—and catch the vision!

For more information, visit empowerhope.org/vision-trips/

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 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!

