

*"Investment in girls' education may well be the highest return investment in the developing world."*

— Lawrence Summers, Director, National Economic Council,  
World Bank Chief Economist

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## DONOR NAME

FUNDING PROPOSAL, MONTH 20XX

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Submitted to: Donor Name  
Submitted by: One Girl Can Society | [www.onegirlcan.com](http://www.onegirlcan.com) | CRN 82514 9834 RR0001  
Project location: Kenya



Month xx, 2020

Donor Name, Title  
Address line one  
1234 Name of St  
City, BC V5G 3B4

Dear First Name,

Research has established that educating girls is proven to be one of the fastest and most effective paths to ending poverty and gender inequality worldwide. When girls attend school and get a good education, they join the workforce, earn their own income, and assume positions of leadership in their communities. But it doesn't end there, women reinvest 90% of their income back into their families and communities. This is the difference you make when investing in education for girls.

Building is an essential part of our cycle, it's the beginning of everything. With no government funding for building projects, the schools of sub-Saharan Africa have no ability to finance even basic, direly needed renovations, let alone new construction. Having a safe, sanitary environment to learn in is imperative to academic success, physical safety and well being. The school buildings we construct have significant, measurable impacts on the girls' motivation to study harder and their interest in certain subjects grows. As a result, their grades drastically improve.

Help from donors like you has been uplifting girls in Africa through education for 11 years. This year, we are reaching out to a select number of philanthropists to help address a new, urgent crisis.

Eleven children died when a school in a Nairobi slum collapsed in September this year. In response, the government is shutting down every school that isn't up to code in all the slums — about 90% of them. Yet they have no funding or plans to rebuild any of the condemned schools. Thousands and thousands of children will lose their education.

Since we began in 2008, we have built and maintained 105 buildings. But this is our most ambitious capital undertaking ever. We can't do it without you. Details on this year's crucial funding opportunity are outlined in the following pages.

Educating girls creates a far reaching legacy that will have a ripple effect for generations to come. Invest in safe spaces for girls' education and you will ensure they never again have to miss a day of school because of gender inequality.

Thank you for believing in our girls.

Sincerely,

Lotte Davis, Founder & CEO



## OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

One Girl Can is breaking the cycle of poverty and impacting gender equality through education and mentorship. Our holistic model empowers a girl from the time she leaves primary school until the day she gains meaningful employment.

Without targeted interventions, the cultural and financial obstacles that prevent girls from accessing education will continue to trap them in a vicious cycle of generational poverty.

We do this through three pillars: building schools, providing educational scholarships, and mentorship for long-term success in their chosen field of study.



## THE THREE PILLARS of ONE GIRL CAN



### WE BUILD

Studies show that a dynamic, safe learning environment is the first and most fundamental step to academic success. One Girl Can is committed to investing in carefully selected schools for the long term. When the paint begins to peel, we'll be there to put on another coat.



### WE EDUCATE

Education beyond primary level in Kenya and Uganda is not free. One Girl Can provides scholarships for girls with the greatest need and highest potential. This support ensures that bright students can continue their education and that they never miss a day of secondary school due to lack of fees or cultural pressures.



### WE MENTOR

We help girls discover their potential and create a brighter future through mentoring. Students connect with successful international and local women in regular mentoring activities, workshops and conferences to help them envision their future and take the steps needed to make their dreams a reality. From the day they start secondary school until they finish university and start their careers, we are there to guide, encourage and support them.





*"The fastest way to change society is to mobilize the women of the world."*

— Charles Malik, Former President, Human Rights Commission

## GIRLS LIKE RAHMA NEED YOU

One Girl Can helps over 12,000 girls annually — many of whom we have supported for years. One of these girls is Rahma.



Rahma, 9 years old

We first met Rahma in the Kibera Slums of Nairobi when she was only nine years old. She radiated positivity and drive. Rahma followed us everywhere, as if proximity to us would transport her out of her world and into ours. We continued to see Rahma during our bi-annual visits to the Kibera Slums until she was 12 years old and then we lost touch with her.

Three years later our curiosity got the better of us, and we started looking for her.

We finally learned that she had gone to a girls' high



One Girl Can Founder, Lotte Davis, with Celebrity Ambassador, Mackenzie Davis, in the Kibera slums

school outside the slum. Unfortunately, Rahma's parents were a year behind paying her school fees. She was sent home until they could find the money to pay the arrears.

Rahma was now 16 years old, graceful and beautiful, yet despite her setbacks she had that same look in her eyes — she was not giving up. Rahma had a destiny to fulfill.

She was a B student and wanted to go to university to study marketing. Due to Rahma's good grades and the light in her eyes, One Girl Can paid all her school fees and agreed to keep paying them — even through university — as long as she maintained her grades.

Rahma kept her end of the deal: she graduated from university, started a small business that sustains her, and is taking a digital marketing and design course to upgrade her skills further.



Rahma now mentors girls who are just like the little girl she used to be

Now Rahma mentors and coaches girls regularly at Ushirika school in the Kibera slums where we first met her.

You have the opportunity to support more girls like Rahma, who have extraordinary capacity and capabilities.

They just need a champion, like you.

# ONE GIRL CAN in the KIBERA SLUMS

The Kibera slums in Nairobi, Kenya are the oldest and biggest slums in Africa. They're about the size of Central Park and home to over a million people. Yet there is no government support to provide water, electricity, sanitation, garbage removal, health care, or education.

In most of Kibera there aren't even any toilet facilities. Sewage runs downhill in open trenches. Rape and assault cases are common. The average life expectancy is only 30 years.

This is where One Girl Can began its work in 2008. Just one look at the mud-walled, dark, overcrowded classrooms at Ushirika school in this slum and we decided instantly on the spot that our work would start here. We built a new block of six classrooms that year.



## FACILITIES MUST be SAFE to ENABLE LEARNING

In order for students to benefit from their education, they must have access to facilities that enable learning, ensure their health and safety, and provide them with a sense of dignity. Every child needs a safe place to learn in and a stimulating environment to grow.



One Girl Can partners with select schools for the long-term. We renovate dilapidated school buildings and build new facilities to relieve overcrowding. Over the years, we continue to support the infrastructure required to maintain the highest standard of learning.

## A BEACON of HOPE



Ushirika is a beacon of hope in the Kibera slums. It brings opportunity to girls who have fallen through the cracks of the worst possible society. They take the emotionally wounded, abused, neglected and forgotten. They even take girls who have missed so much school that they can't be admitted to most other secondary schools.



## REBUILDING USHIRIKA SCHOOL

Over the years, the student population of Ushirika School expanded from 20 children at its beginning to 615 girls today.

No public funding was available to support the rapidly growing student body. They resorted to adding more and more classrooms in an ad-hoc manner, as needed. Cheap, corrugated sheet metal was used, coupled with even cheaper workmanship.



The result is this rambling, frighteningly unsafe, structural shambles. Although precarious and unsightly, it was pieced together over time to educate students who had no better options for schooling.

In September 2019, a school in another slum in Nairobi collapsed and 11 children were killed. Many more were injured.

The government immediately began closing down schools throughout the slums that didn't comply with safe building standards. We expect this to result in the closure of 90% of the schools in the three slums of Nairobi, including Kibera.

Thousands and thousands of students will lose access to their education.

The founder and head of Ushirika School, David Kitavi, emailed us right away to see if we could help to completely and immediately rebuild the school. It was the beginning of the fiscal year and all of our



funding had been allocated. Plus, we had never taken on a capital project this vast and expensive.

We had to say no. We'd been partnering with this school for 11 years and supported them in many ways. We knew that if we didn't help, it was unlikely they'd find anyone who could.

So we said yes.

Urgently, we encouraged David to get contractor bids right away to have a set of drawings developed. They worked quickly to produce a well-designed plan that would withstand the test of time.

## BUILDING HOPE in the SLUMS

### USHIRIKA SCHOOL, FOUNDED by DAVID KITAVI

No one cares more for the girls of the Kibera Slums than David Kitavi. He was raised in the slums, but managed to get an education, leave Kibera and had a good job as an IT Manager, for a time.



He often came back to visit his parents, who still lived in the slums. He noticed how many young children were unsupervised and out of school. So in 2006, he started a centre in a small, rented room for 20 children where they could be occupied through play, participate in some sports and a little, basic teaching.

The numbers grew. David hired teachers, quit his day job and dedicated himself full-time to the new school.

### WORLDS INTERSECT

One Girl Can Founder, Lotte Davis, was introduced to David in 2008. By then Ushirika School had 80 children in five mud-walled rooms. He was desperate for proper classrooms. One Girl Can built him a two-story building with six classrooms.

David maintained his relationship with One Girl Can. Support was given for his brightest students to attend high school at boarding schools outside the slums; and then university scholarships for those who graduated with good grades. Some minor annual operational funding was also provided. But Ushirika is a primary school, and One Girl Can's fo-

cus is on secondary school and university, so the support remained limited.

### THE FIRST GRADE NINE CLASS

By 2017 David had seen so many high school age girls out of school, wandering the streets, neglected by their parents, that he decided to start a grade nine class for girls — 35 in total.

Most had very poor grades because they hadn't gone to school regularly. Many girls were abused, a couple of them had been abducted, and all had horrendous home lives.

One Girl Can provided scholarships for all 35 girls to help support the operational costs to get this first grade of high school going. We also built a new classroom for it.



In 2018, we built a second classroom for the girls passing into grade 10, as well as a science lab.



# THE NEW USHIRIKA SCHOOL

## BIG IMPROVEMENTS in SHORT TIMELINES

Grades in the first year started out very poorly, but over time they have significantly improved. Last January only 22% of the girls met our standard of C+ or better. But by September it increased to 77%.



David now has six teachers who support these girls, as well as the workshops and mentoring provided by One Girl Can. The girls finally feel confident about their future; they feel supported and loved; and their demeanour and outlook has improved considerably.

*“Educating girls is a powerful investment that benefits both individuals and society for current and future generations.*

*“Girls sponsorship is one of the greatest gifts a person can give a vulnerable and marginalized girl. Sponsorship opens up a girl’s life and gives them access to things and love they would otherwise not have.”*

— David Kitavi, Founder of Ushirika Girls’ School in the Kibera slums

## THE NEW SCHOOL

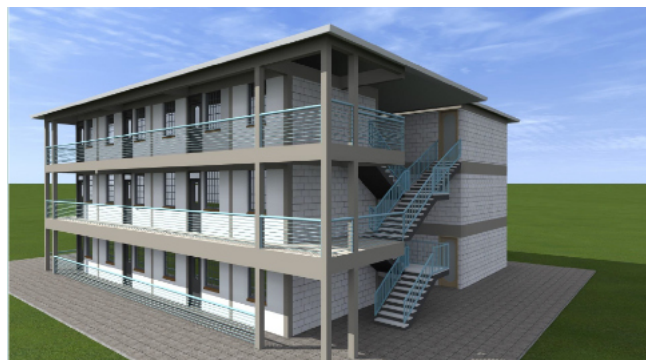


This is what the new school will look like. It will cost \$366,000 to build, and construction is starting immediately.

It will take six months. In the meantime, the students will learn in satellite facilities. They’ll begin classes in their new building by July 2020.

## ALL WE NEED is YOU

We’re telling this story with urgency, hoping to find sympathetic supporters who have the hearts and means to respond to this crisis.



Your partnership and support can rebuild Ushirika School. You can help provide 615 students with a safe, appropriate learning environment for quality education.

Join us in rebuilding this important school and providing education for girls like Rahma.

**Born and raised in the slums, their only good fortune is being a student at Ushirika School.**

The education we provide will enable them to re-write their stories and break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.





## CYLE OF EMPOWERMENT THE ONE GIRL CAN SUSTAINABILITY MODEL

When our students become graduates they complete the cycle of empowerment. They become mentors and pay forward 5% of their income for four years into a fund that ensures more girls are given the same opportunity.

As our program grows and more girls graduate, the seeds of their achievement will sow benefits for their

knowledge, skills, and voice to forge a new path for themselves and the girls of the future.

Success is demonstrated when the students begin earning an income and can pay it forward. Our first university graduates are beginning to enter the next chapter of their journey. After graduation they will join our mentor programs.



*100% of all donations go directly to fulfilling mission goals: building, educating and mentoring African girls living in extreme poverty. This is possible because all overhead and administrative expenses, including staffing, marketing and travel are generously covered by our founder's company, AG Hair.*



## MAKE A TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFT YOUR IMPACT WILL BE PRICELESS

Your support will help eradicate gender inequality for girls in Africa.

One Girl Can has a proven model of empowerment for girls. Thousands of girls whom we support in Africa have inspiring success stories. Many are now graduating from University and beginning their careers.

By investing in One Girl at a time, you can contribute to powerful change. You can start a ripple that will have waves of impact for generations to come.

Give these bright, bold, determined girls the means to rewrite their stories and break the cycle of poverty they have been thrust into from birth.

### RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT

Your generosity to the girls of Ushirika School is deeply appreciated. We look forward to discussing with you the best ways to acknowledge your support. There are a variety of ways we can show our gratitude for your kindness, and we can tailor these recognition opportunities to best suit your needs.

# ONE GIRL CAN

...with your help.

# Thank you!



Founder of One Girl Can, Lotte Davis,  
with Ushirika Primary School  
Student, Brittany





THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF GENEROUS SUPPORT  
 FOR THE GIRLS OF USHIRIKA SCHOOL AND FOR CONTRIBUTING TO  
 GLOBAL GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION.



### ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

A girl's earning potential increases by 10-20% for every year of school she completes. With education she can earn a living wage and lift herself out of poverty.



### HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS

Educated girls are 90% less likely to become victims of child marriage, and 33% less likely to experience spousal violence.



### INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRESS

Children with educated mothers have a 50% higher chance of survival, and are far more likely to finish school themselves.



### THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Educated girls create a ripple effect in their communities by challenging gender stereotypes. They become role models for younger girls to aspire to.