



INSIDE:

How your support  
changed lives in 2023



SHELTER  
YETU

2023 IMPACT REPORT

*DBA - Friends of Navaisha Children's Shelter*

# A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

KRISTEN LOWRY & EUNICE MURAGE



We are so deeply grateful for your support in a year of growth and improvement! In 2023, you served more vulnerable children and families in Kenya than ever. We are constantly amazed at your faithfulness and generosity. All the numbers in this report represent deep transformational change in 2023:

- On the new **playground** you built, street kids are experiencing safe childhood again.
- With staff you trained in **parenting strategies**, moms and dads are learning practical lessons in their homes on family connections, expectations, and discipline.
- Through **business training and seed money**, you've helped parents afford hot meals and school fees for their families.

Did you know you've also helped forge a **national movement** in Kenya this year? Traditional orphanages are now required to embrace a family-based care such as we have been providing for 10 years. Your Shelter has become a beacon, training others in the region. Countless children will be liberated, rehabilitated, and reunited with loving families!

What's next? Our 2024 priorities include secondary **trauma training** to empower our staff, and a new **case management system** to reduce relapse. We are also looking forward to expanding our **financial empowerment** program, and **a new guest house** so you can come see your impact!

Your ongoing, generous support is changing lives for vulnerable children and their families. Thank you!

Kristen Lowry and Eunice Murage  
Co-Executive Directors, Shelter Yetu

# Our Approach

## RESCUE

Our social workers reach out directly to boys living on the streets and build relationships with them. They invite them to the Shelter, where they are provided with clean clothes, medical care, food, a warm bed and loving adults to care for them.



**122**  
rescued

## REHABILITATE

At the Shelter, boys experience group and individual counseling, life skills training, remedial academic work, leadership opportunities, and spiritual care. They also participate in normal family chores (milking cows, washing clothes, helping prepare food), sports, hiking and art.



**71**  
reunited

## REUNITE

Staff works to understand why a boy left home and trace his family. They identify safe home options and assess to make sure both the family and the boy are prepared for reunification. If the family is prepared to provide basic needs and school, the boy is reunited with his family. Shelter social workers continue to visit at home and school to make sure the child is progressing well.



**285**  
active cases

## EMPOWER

We empower vulnerable families to PREVENT their children from returning to or living in the streets, child labor, or underage marriage. YOU provide parent curriculum, microbusiness training, technical training, and school fees.

**106**  
received school fees

**54**  
families given food support

**13**  
young men in tech training

**18**  
families started micro-businesses



Jackson



Margret



Esther

# Family Empowerment Program

**18 families**  
launched small  
businesses  
**\$13,170**

This year, you launched our GRADUATION APPROACH to financial empowerment. Selected at-risk families were trained in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, business skills, savings and loans groups, and developing a business plan.

Why? PREVENT RELAPSE! As we've rescued children and prepared them to return home, many families struggle to meet basic needs. This leads children to begging on the streets,

dropping out of school, drugs, gangs, and criminal activity. **Children thrive in safe homes with stable incomes!**

We hired an amazing head of department and started 2 cohorts with 18 families total. Many are finding success! Esther can now afford to send all her grandchildren to school. Jackson can now feed his family more than one hot meal each day. We plan to train **40 more families in 2024.**

## First 2 Weeks

Intensive group training in financial literacy, micro-business, & savings groups.

## Kick Start

Seed money for supplies to start a business. Support funds provide school fees & food.

## 6 months

Check-ins and business coaching. Support funds taper off as income grows.

## 12 months

Mentorships conclude and a self-sufficient family is together and thriving!



## New Playground is in full swing!

Over, under, upside-down--the boys are loving our new playground! Thank you for helping us replace our 20-year-old equipment. Our contractor repurposed natural materials and included elements for our older boys, including seesaws, monkey bars, swings, and more. Safe PLAY is an important part of our program as children heal from trauma on the streets.



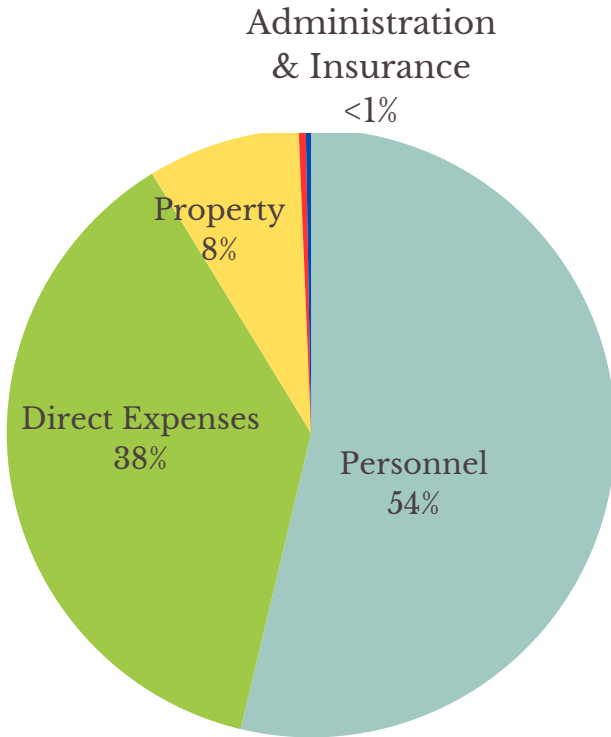
## New outdoor classroom

Thank you!

A serene space where boys are healing from trauma with professional counselors, setting goals, and building healthy relationships.

# 2023 Financials

General Operations Fund  
\$115,895



## Did you know?

Shelter Yetu only pays local staff. No funds are paid to U.S.-based personnel.



## Special Fund: Education \$10,124



You help families pay required school fees for many of our reunited children and their siblings. In school = NOT on the streets!





## You're making sure our boys are in good hands.

As Shelter Yetu grows and expands our reach, we want to be intentional to equip our staff to perform at their highest capacity. This year, you helped us make significant investment in our amazing staff through a number of trainings. This is one of the surest ways to improve services to our vulnerable children!

# Staff Training

Rivercross - a drama-based trauma therapy.	2 staff and 2 volunteers
Families Together - Parenting lessons they can teach all parents in our program in their homes	16 staff
Government training on Kenyan reforms in family-based orphan care	2 staff
Competency curriculum	2 teachers
Leadership Training	3 staff
Helped develop a curriculum for street-connected children	2 staff
Graduation Approach to teach families financial empowerment	12 staff



# NOT JUST THE BOYS

SUCCESS STORIES ARE EVERYWHERE



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Shelter Yetu focuses our rescue efforts of boys because of the high number of boys living on the streets.

However, our social workers are always looking for opportunities to serve and empower girls in the community. Recently, one of our social workers conducted a home visit with family where he had recently reunified a young boy.

The social worker found fourteen-year-old Amani\* at home. She dropped out of school in fourth grade when her parents separated and her mother began to struggle with finances. As they were talking, Amani shared her desire to go back to school.

Amani admitted to feeling lonely at home when other children her age are in school.

She shared that older men in the community are hitting on her and pressuring her toward early marriage. Relatives are also pressuring her to engage in domestic work in exchange for food.

But Amani dreams of a different life. And now, because of your support, Shelter Yetu has supported Amani to return to school! She is so excited and dreams of being able to support her mother once she has finished her studies and gotten a good job.

*\*At Shelter Yetu, we respect children's right to privacy. So while their stories are true, client names and images may have been changed to protect their privacy. Thank you for understanding.*



# Thank you

for partnering with us as we continue the important work of rescuing, rehabilitating, and reintegrating street-connected children. Please reach out to us with any questions.

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2023



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