



*A year to
Remember*

THE GIVING EXCHANGE · 2020



Improving lives through giving

The Giving Exchange (TGE) is dedicated to supporting people in need through sustainable projects that foster growth and development.

We believe that every contribution is an exchange. When you give, you also receive. Through your involvement with The Giving Exchange, you give hope and opportunity to communities around the world. We are extremely grateful for your support.

In 2020, despite the global pandemic, we offered critical resources and sustainable solutions to communities in need because of your generous donations and the work of our dedicated volunteers. In this annual report, we proudly showcase everything we accomplished together.

*"When the music changes,
so does the dance"*

We are committed to implementing small-scale, high-impact, life-sustaining programs in underserved communities in Kenya and beyond.

The Giving Exchange provides resources, time and expertise to people in need. While some of our projects focus on basic human rights, our overriding goal is to empower our beneficiaries through sustainable projects that will benefit future generations. We work closely with local partners to identify needs and solutions. We use in-country labor and resources on the implementation.

We extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for being with us through 2020. Despite uncertainty and hardship, The Giving Exchange had a record year due to the selfless contributions of our network of supporters who value connecting need with supply for good.

Financial year in review



\$186,000

TOTAL DONATIONS

\$24,000

FISCAL
SPONSORSHIP
PROJECTS

Renato Simone Aviation Scholarship
Yatra Documentary Film
Bibles Next Door
Spanish Girls Relief Fund

10

INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEER
BOARD MEMBERS

640

MEMBERS OF
THE GIVING EXCHANGE

\$38,980

TOTAL SPENT ON PROJECTS

PROJECTS

Greenhouses

\$11,800

Hand-washing stations

\$4,820

Bottle brick water
tanks

\$6,580

Beds for Morning Star
and Kiambu

\$5,000

Sewing machines
for Njoo Dada

\$1,300

Student sponsorship
program

\$1,980

Pandemic emergency relief for Kiambu county

\$7,500

100% of every donation to TGE goes directly to supporting the people and communities we serve. Any surplus is rolled over annually and applied to projects in the next fiscal year.

*The eyes
never forget
what the
heart has
seen.*



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- ♥ COVID-19 Emergency Relief
- ♥ 105 hand-washing stations
- ♥ 3 greenhouses
- ♥ 10 bottle brick tanks
- ♥ 5 sewing machines
- ♥ 60 beds
- ♥ 12 student sponsorships



At The Giving Exchange, every donation directly impacts the life of someone in need. We assess each TGE project for its ability to bring hope and opportunity to those who need it the most. In 2020, we funded a wide range of life-sustaining projects that focused on food, hygiene and clean water. Other projects sought to empower communities through the construction of greenhouses and skills trainings.



PROJECT
01

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA

“An empty sack will not stand upright”

Covid-19 forced us to reassess our annual strategy. Of particular importance was the need to support Kenya beneficiaries with whom we have built relationships over the past eight years. The sudden halt in the Kenyan economy because of the pandemic resulted in widespread job losses and an emergency need for food and hygiene products.



We were unsure how our donors would react to this unique project to supply needed food and hygiene supplies. It does not explicitly comply with our mission to implement self-sustaining projects that lead to financial and personal empowerment. We knew the pandemic was affecting everyone around the world, including our donors. Remarkably, our generous community responded, exemplifying our adage “by giving, we are made all the richer.”

We provided over 600 care packages containing rice, beans, western ndengu (mung beans), cooking fat, sugar, bar soap, sanitary pads, corn flour and wheat flour. Each care package was donated to a family of 4 to 6 members, therefore helping to feed over 2,400 people!



PROJECT
02

HAND-WASHING STATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

TWENTY-ONE SCHOOLS IN KIAMBU CO., KENYA

“Once you carry your own water, you will learn the value of every drop”

After six months of stay-at-home orders, the government required schools to reopen for students taking exams this year. Virtual learning was not an option for the average Kenyan family. Because the pandemic was still rampant, the schools were required to provide students with hand-washing stations and soap.



However, there was no government funding to support this directive, so The Giving Exchange stepped in. We invested in a woman-led micro-enterprise, Portiah Welders, run by a young woman who grew up at Morning Star Children's Home. We gifted Portiah Welders with a welding machine and grinder and paid for the construction of five hand-washing stations to be placed at each of the 21 schools in the Kiambu School District for a total of 105 stations.



PROJECT
03

GREENHOUSES

KIU RIVER PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SAINT ANNE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL,
AND SIKIZANA RESCUE CENTER, KENYA

Growing opportunity.

Greenhouses are a TGE favorite because they promote both environmental and financial sustainability. In 2018, we had successfully built, planted and launched three greenhouses in two rural schools and one at Maasai girls' safehouse. As the greenhouses have flourished, the children have, too. To meet the emergency needs of rural Kenya, which was facing starvation and job scarcity because of the pandemic lockdown, we constructed three new greenhouses in 2020.



We are very excited about progress on the greenhouse and again thank you for your support. We took the first harvest to church for Thanksgiving and started harvesting for consumption and selling this week.



Cosmas, Sikizana Greenhouse,
less than four months from completed
installation



The greenhouses, one each at the Kiu River Primary and Saint Anne's Secondary schools of Kiambu County and one at Sikizana Rescue Center in Mtito Andei, will provide vital fresh vegetables to over 1,200 children. It also will generate a revenue stream to fund current educational programs and future school and home development. Thank you to our donors for making a difference!

PROJECT
04

BOTTLE-BRICK WATER TANKS

BUTAKOOLA VILLAGE ASSOCIATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT, UGANDA

**“The usefulness of a well is known when
it dries up”**

After regrouping with our contact at the Butakoola Village Association for Development (BUVAD), we learned Uganda, like Kenya, was dealing with a lack of clean water and good hygiene to enable students to safely



continue their education. The Giving Exchange was excited to fund 10 bottle-brick water tanks for schools in Uganda.

Bottle-bricks are plastic bottles stuffed full of trash and plastic waste until they are compact and sturdy as bricks. They provide a simple and accessible construction material that has been used to build houses and school buildings, and now water tanks! Each waste-plastic bottle-brick rainwater harvesting tank holds 10,000 liters of rainwater at a primary school and serves more than 600 pupils. As a durable and mendable project, each rainwater harvesting tank is projected to last between 50 to 100 years. Thank you for helping us make this happen.



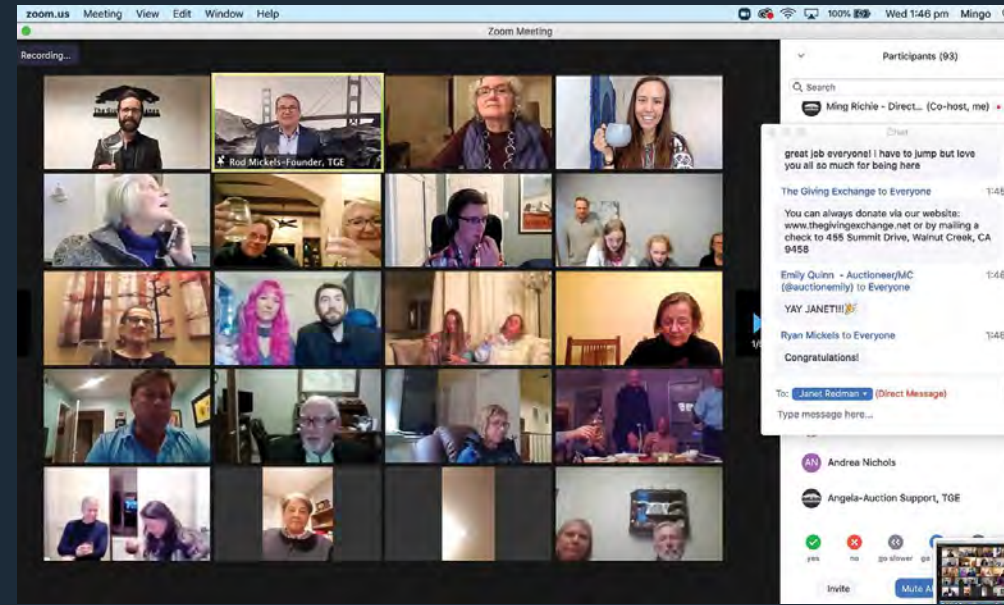
PROJECT
05

GROWING TGE! IN KENYA AND BACK HOME

“Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.”

Due to the global pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions, we were not able to plan a volunteer trip to Kenya to oversee our projects and meet with local coordinators. But that didn't stop us from moving forward in our work.

We are thrilled that we expanded our team in 2020. We welcomed two new Board members and hired two new team members, bringing our workforce to a whopping 2.5 full-time contractors.



I believe in teamwork, which results in a synergic performance, and I strive to give every opportunity my best. I am so glad to be working with you guys to achieve the organizational goals and mission of the organization and to connect need with supply for good.



Peninah



Our local project coordinator in Kenya has been monumental in overseeing that new projects are kicked off smoothly and efficiently, and that existing projects are meeting their goals. Our coordinator has been submitting sustainability reports for measurement.

We also held our first ever virtual Gala fundraiser on December 1, 2020. We chose to hold this very special one-hour event on #GivingTuesday, a day dedicated to transforming communities around the world through acts of generosity and kindness. The TGE Inaugural Gala was a huge success, raising more than \$100,000! We are blown away by your enthusiasm and generous giving. (If you missed it, you can watch the Gala recording on our YouTube channel.)

To play even a small part of such valuable work is something I am both very appreciative of and excited about!



Terri





Share
your
heart.



Making the difference.

Over the last eight years, The Giving Exchange has had a lasting impact on the people and communities we serve. It's a wonderful feeling to know you've made a difference in someone's life. Our hearts are fuller because we've shared them with others.

We are always looking ahead, planning how we can uplift, inspire and empower communities with hope for the future. To see some of our current projects or to make a donation, please visit our website at www.thegivingexchange.net.

The Giving Exchange exists through private and corporate-sponsored donations for the sole purpose of helping others. If you are interested in contributing time, resources or funding for our projects, please contact us at info@thegivingexchange.net.

You can make the difference!

Rod Mickels
Co-Founder

The Giving Exchange is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to improve the lives of impoverished people around the world. All donations are tax-deductible. We cover all administration costs, so that 100% of every donation goes directly to support the people and communities we serve. We also certify that all projects are satisfactorily completed, ensuring that your generous donations fulfill their promise.



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