



The Giving Exchange

ANNUAL REPORT · 2022

From the Founder



Wow, another remarkable year in the books for The Giving Exchange.

When I ask donors why they choose to support our mission, I hear time and time again these three things:

1. **Projects:** it feels both good and smart to help people help themselves
2. **Transparency:** we know each of our beneficiaries personally and can introduce you to the exact individual whose life you've changed
3. **Impact:** 100% of donations go directly to our projects and the US dollar is stretched to make a huge difference in the communities we serve

The Giving Exchange is a small but mighty non-profit. As you'll see in this year's annual report, 272 individuals donated a total of \$399,000 to The Giving Exchange in 2022. We developed trusting relationships with nine outstanding beneficiaries and invested \$103,000 into their solutions and communities.

I started The Giving Exchange in 2013 with my daughter, Alissa. Since then, our organization has impacted more than 65,000 individual lives.

In the coming years, I see us scaling up to replicate our model in other countries, even beyond East Africa, and continuing to hone our focus on income-generating, community-building, project-based economic justice work.

Thank you for being right here with us. I am so excited for what's to come.

Rod Mickels
President and Co-Founder



Our Mission

We partner with under-resourced communities to implement self-sustaining projects for a lasting impact.

We dream of a world

Where children have every opportunity to build their best future;

Where all needs for education, health and livelihood are met by locally-grown resources;

Where communities are implementing the solutions they need to make life better for themselves and for generations to come.

2022 Fast Facts

\$399,000

TOTAL DONATIONS

23,000

Lives impacted



\$103,000

Invested

9

Self-sustaining projects

272

Individual Donors



15

Board members

35+

Volunteers

100% of every donation to TGE goes directly to our projects; any surplus in donations annually is rolled over and applied to projects in the next fiscal year.



2022 Highlights

- ♥ Impacted 23,000+ individuals
- ♥ Implemented 9 unique income-generating projects
- ♥ Returned to Kenya with a team of 10 Ambassadors for the first time since 2019
- ♥ Hosted our first in-person Gala event, raising \$240k for our mission
- ♥ Hired two new part-time team members bringing our paid staff to 5

Meet our Team

STAFF



Ming Richie
Executive Director

“ I am honored to have been promoted to ED of this truly unique and impactful organization rooted in local ownership striving for social and economic justice.

Ming, Executive Director



Reanna Placide
Director of Operations



Peninah Ndirangu
Project Coordinator, Kenya



Shelly Boyd
Finance Manager*



Brittany McCarthy
Development Associate*

* part-time

A huge thank you to our volunteer Board of Directors:



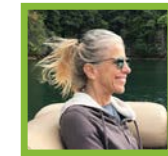
Rod Mickels



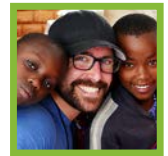
Drew Hagen



Paul Salinger



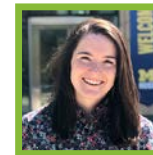
Kristen Radakovich



Christopher Revetria



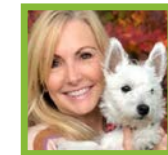
Ming Richie



Chloe Hull



Terri Wygal



Laura Cervelli



Jill Tanner

“

I am a strong believer that we need to give back to the global community given the inequities between the US and other developing nations.

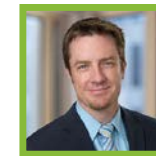
Bruce, Board Member



Raymond Brown



Cary Edgar



Michael Berta



Bruce Cacho-Negrete



Amy Alanes

“

I understand how fortunate I am to have been born in the US and feel an obligation to help people in places where a little can go a long way.

Cary, Board Member

The Process

The Giving Exchange's projects change annually based on a thorough application process conducted by a team of staff, volunteers, and Board Members. We assess each new application with weighted criterion including feasibility, impact and sustainability. Together with the beneficiary, we develop achievable metrics customized to each project.

In 2022, we received 70 new project applications – more than ever before – a testament to our work and reputation in East Africa.

After assessing and vetting, we moved forward with implementing the nine strongest project requests we received. We have chosen just a few key highlights to share with you here – you can always learn more on our website: www.thegivingexchange.net.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Mushroom Farm with ZimConserve

This year, our first ever project in Zimbabwe was a mushroom farming program that provides employment, business training, and a sustainable income for a community suffering from drought.

Adding oyster mushrooms to their permaculture gardens has shown many benefits, as it requires less water but yields much more than other local crops, and it has a lower carbon footprint.

ZimConserve has successfully trained 50 people and generated over

\$10,000 income.

The profit made has enabled

300 individuals

to access education, health, and improved livelihood.



Cindy from Njoo Dada Trust



Meet Cindy, a young woman who, in 2016, found herself in a dangerous environment, and found refuge at Njoo Dada Trust, home for teenage mothers in peril.

In the last three years, The Giving Exchange has donated sewing machines, a classroom, and funded business training for residents of Njoo Dada Trust.

In March, our team visited Njoo Dada and met Cindy in person. We learned that she excelled in the trainings, has graduated from high school, and is now in college with a marketable business plan and customer base.



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Where you come from
does not determine
your future.

Cindy, beneficiary from
Njoo Dada Trust



Cindy makes “ting tings,” a snack of small fried donuts, that she sells to a local shop and at the neighborhood soccer club. Her business is strong, and her family’s future is bright.

Her son is now 7 years old.

Back to Kenya

In March, we returned to Kenya for the first time in two years with a team of 10 Ambassadors.

The purpose of this trip is to:

- Raise awareness
- Meet with our beneficiaries
- Build our local partnerships
- Oversee and report on projects

Over the course of eight days, our team visited four children's homes, two schools, one community self-help group, and one remote Maasai village in Amboseli National Park!

Our next Trip to Kenya is scheduled for August 2023.



“ [The Trip to Kenya] gave me perspective: how there are so many people who are living with real difficulties in their lives but how, with business, some really good intentions, and a little financial assistance, we can really help them change their lives, and even the lives around them: for the whole society.

Kanishk Goyal, Ambassador



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Skills Training with Inspire Girls Foundation

Inspire Girls Foundation applied to The Giving Exchange with a project that appealed directly to the hearts of TGE's staff and donors because of its alignment with our strongly held value of women's rights and gender quality.

The project investment procured ten tailoring machines and various accessories (hooks, needles, greasing oil, etc.), learning materials, monthly allowances for the trainers, and monthly rent for the classrooms for six months.

105
women and girls
have acquired valuable skills in handcrafts and education in small business management.



“ Our mission is to empower girls and women with confidence and skills to discover their potential, to ascend their socio-economic situation, and to transform their lives.

We thank The Giving Exchange for the support given to us towards the implementation of vocational and business skills.

Lilian Biira, Project Manager,
Inspire Girls Foundation



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

BSFL Animal Feed Production with Karambi Group

One of the most unique projects The Giving Exchange has ever taken on must be our new partnership with Karambi Group for People with Disabilities which uses using Black Soldier Fly Larvae (BSFL) to produce Animal Feed.

The price of animal feed in East Africa has skyrocketed in the last two years due to inflation, the War in Ukraine, and the severe drought. All of our animal-rearing projects are feeling the strain.



Get this clever alternative: Black Soldier Flies are found in animal waste and produce larvae that feed on any organic decomposable matter. BSFL is high in nutrients, quick to reproduce, and strengthens the immunity of animals.

41 animals in surrounding farms have been sustained through the feed produced, and the growth rate is promising, unlike before.

This project generated over **\$4,000 profit**, which will be used to expand production and start a chicken coop.

This project is benefiting **100 families** and helping sustain an entire community in a strong and lasting way.

Hybrid Gala

The Giving Exchange held our third annual Gala on Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

It was our first ever in-person event, held at the Lesher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. At the same time, we couldn't host this event without including our supporters around the world, so the Gala was also live streamed to a virtual audience tuning in from their own homes.

114 guests joined us in-person at the theater and about 100 more supporters joined us virtually online.

During the main event, our Director of Operations, Reanna Placide, delivered a passionate keynote speech about the impact that our donors have made on communities in Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe in the last 12 months, and how we hope to accomplish so much more in the weeks to come.



Thanks to
165 individual
donors, we raised
\$240,000!

Some of the great feedback we heard from guests in attendance that night:

“

Wonderful event, great hearing about the projects and hearing directly from those who are benefiting from the The Giving Exchange's incredible projects.

“

This is a wonderful charity that is making a difference. You all are doing a great job.

“

You did an amazing job and are doing a great thing to help humanity!





The Giving Exchange exists through private and corporate-sponsored donations for the sole purpose of helping others. To see our current projects and learn more please visit our website at www.thegivingexchange.net.

If you are interested in contributing time, resources or funding for our projects, please contact us at info@thegivingexchange.net.

We look forward to hearing from you.



The Giving Exchange is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to improve the lives of under-resourced communities around the world. All donations are tax-deductible. We have angel donors who cover all administration costs, so that 100% of every donation goes directly to support the people and communities we serve. We partner with beneficiaries on every project to complete measurement and evaluation reports, certifying that your generous donations are properly and ethically applied.



*Thank you for
your support!*



THE GIVING EXCHANGE

455 Summit Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 USA