

Journey4YOUth 2016 REVIEW

EDUCATION

This year we provided: **105 Elementary Sponsorships** (school fees, shoes and uniform)
2 Secondary Sponsorships (full boarding, tuition, books, a uniform and some personal items)
1 partial Secondary Sponsorship
1 University Sponsorship (full boarding, tuition, books, uniform and personal items)
4 Special Needs Sponsorships (full boarding, tuition, books, uniform and personal items)

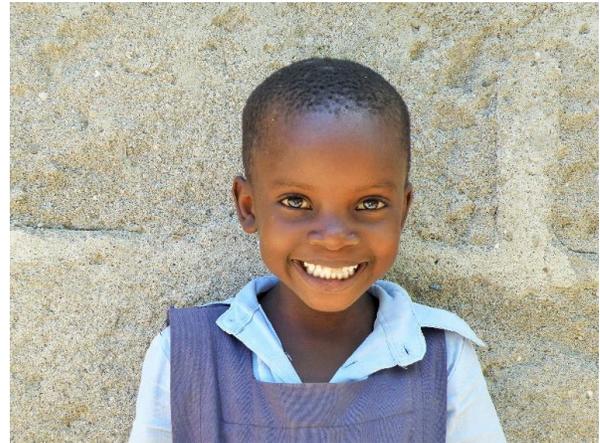
Our hope is to provide more Higher Education Scholarships this year.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

We gave Ruth a loan to get trained as an HIV/AIDS counselor in 2015. In 2016 Ruth utilized her training as well as personal experience and stigma associated with HIV to test and counsel many in their homes, in a community where 25.7% of the population is living with HIV/AIDS. The stigma and shame associated with the disease is huge which prevents many from going to get the tests and medication they need. Ruth's efforts were noticeable and the rate of people who started coming to the hospital for ARVs increased. This year Ruth was offered a job through Island of Hope Humanist Health Care where she continues to test, counsel and educate people on how to both live

better with HIV/AIDS and prevent infecting others or getting the disease. You can read this incredible report [here](#).



CARE OF THE ELDERLY

We provided several food baskets to the elder women we serve this year. In December we added Lona (pictured to the left) to this program. The elders give back to the community spiritually through providing guidance and wisdom. Many of these women also take care of orphans.

We created Water is Life shirts, tanks and sweatshirts and are giving 50% of the proceeds to installing rain water harvesting catchments at the homes of these 8 women. The other 50% goes to protecting water at Standing Rock. Check out the clothing [here](#).



CHALLENGES THIS YEAR

While the businesses that have been started are standing strong the loan recipients have not been making their payments as they had agreed. We were told that someone from outside the group began to influence the members that Journey4YOUth never wanted to give loans but grants so the loan recipients approached us asking to switch from loans to grants. We reiterated why we believe so much in a Pay it Forward Loan Program and the long term potential this could have on their community, benefiting many and not just some. Yet after a few months of recipient's not making payments and receiving no penalty or interest they got comfortable in this habit and payments have still not been made. In the last few months many meetings were held with their chief and they have agreed to begin payments again this month.

We told the group that we will not give any more funds for new loans and that all loans from here on out will come from the money they pay forward (their monthly loan payments). At the moment the group has enough money in their account to pay for 3 new businesses and as long as future payments are made more businesses can continue to be launched.

We want the women to realize that the success of this program is in their hands. We are hoping they will continue making their payments on the loans we have given them so many new small businesses can be launched.

On a more positive note, Beatrice who received the first loan from us to expand her shop was able to send her child to secondary school this year and Jane who started a garden/fruit tree farm harvested papayas and bananas off her trees already and during the harvest season she did not have to buy any vegetables for her family and was also able to give some food to her neighbors who are struggling.



The group elected new leadership with the hope to strengthen their vision and realign their goals.



One of Janes Papaya Trees and her solar water pump that irrigates her garden and trees.