

2022

Annual Activity Report

As we emerged from a period of relative quiet imposed by the global pandemic, KUTOA AFRIKA FOUNDATION found new opportunities for impacting communities in crises, and attracted new partners to collaborate with, in providing solutions to those communities.



Second hand pump (well) provided to the community of Woryan (Wence) Town, Kakata, Liberia, West Africa. This well provides clean, potable water in close proximity to the new elementary school.

“Its a big job, but many hands make light work” - *common idiom*

Kutoa Afrika continues to grow and we know that change is a necessary part of growth. One important realization for us is that, Kutoa Afrika Foundation is capable of a much larger footprint on the landscape of community development when it **partners with a locally based nonprofit**

to bring change to a community. Another lesson learned is that, when we **strategically align with like-minded nonprofit partners**, the probability of producing lasting success is exponentially increased. This past year, 2022, has provided proof of the above with multiple accomplishments and exciting new opportunities for collaboration.



Kutoa Afrika / Hilltop Schools

After a 3 year funding grant, Kutoa Africa Foundation reviewed its activities with the all-girls' school Hilltop Academy, located in West Point, Liberia. KAF was able to establish a literal Safe Space on campus for the students, and provide them with paid counselors to help them navigate the many difficult moments facing them in and out of school. A portion of the Safe Space was dedicated to creation of Yasmine's Closet, a supply repository of feminine hygiene and other personal care products for use by the students as needed. Additionally, KAF purchased, transported and renovated a storage container to the campus where it now serves as a classroom fit for up to 15 students, outfitted with electricity and air conditioning.

We evaluated our partnership and determined that, although the impact of Kutoa's investment was significant and the appreciation of the students and their parents was profound, sustainability was a problem and the decision was made to not renew the grant. Hilltop School remains open and continues to serve its girls and the community with pride! We recently met with one of its alumni, Abigail David, who successfully graduated from high school (the first of her family) and is now navigating life as a freshman at AME Zion University in Monrovia,



Liberia. She also was an attendee at our girls' after-school tutoring program (see following). She wishes to organize a workshop in her community targeting common health care misconceptions among girls and women, in the next year. We are very proud of Abigail!

After School Girls' Tutoring Program

KUTOA AFRIKA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BILL ROGERS YOUTH FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

GIRLS TUTORIAL *and* MENTORSHIP

EVERY FRIDAY

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0777651380

BRYF OFFICE
19th Street Sinkor
Monrovia, Liberia

3:00PM ◀ 5:00PM

The Director Precious G. Olukaya
for education & women engagement, encouraged female students from grade 10-12 to be a part.

KAF launched its inaugural tutoring program, at the offices of the BRYF (Bill Rogers Youth Foundation) in April of 2022. Ms. Precious Olukaya, the Director, maintained a weekly session with female students from various schools in Monrovia, wherein she would assist them with their school assignments and help them to prepare for their exams. Guest lecturers were invited from several disciplines to educate and inspire the students. Several students and their parents expressed gratitude for the program, which is free of charge to any interested student. Students and their parents agree to abide by a code of conduct while participating in the program, which helps them prepare for interacting with the wider world of professionals in the future. Kutoa Afrika provided funds to rent the space and also pay the director a small stipend for her management and execution of the program. The students were also provided with snacks and in certain cases, transportation, courtesy of KAF. The program ended in June of 2022, with requests to continue the program from the students involved.



Girls' Introduction to Computers - Kutoa Africa Collaborates with the Leap Forward Program

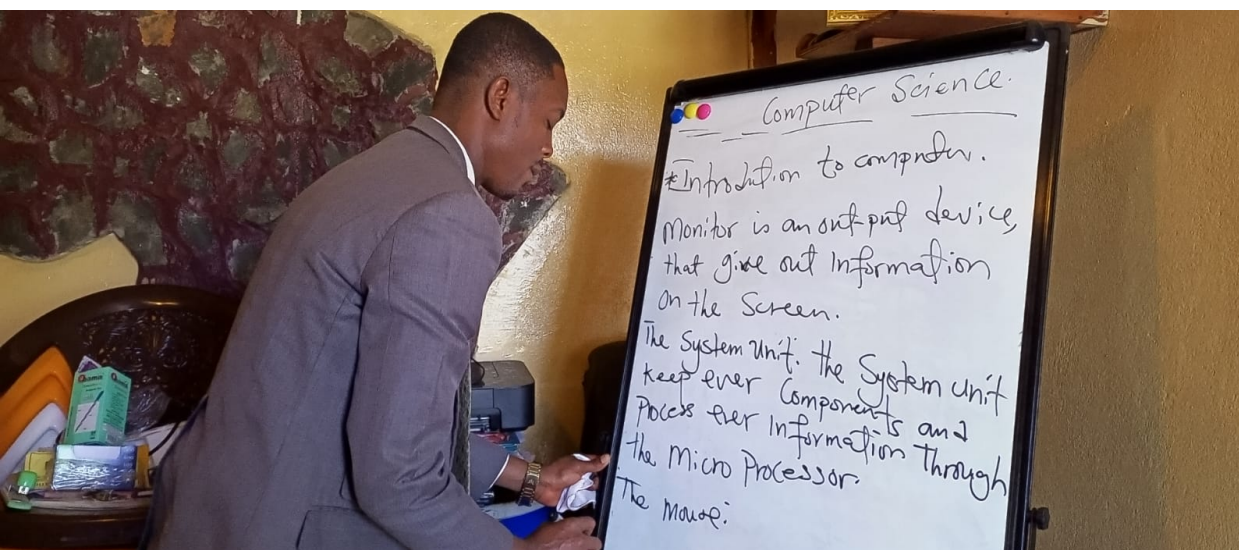
One of our students, now an alumni, had this to say about the program - “ Before the computer program, I didn’t even know how to turn on a computer.” She was a 12th grade student when she enrolled in the inaugural session of the Leap Forward Program, which recruited students who were already enrolled in the Tutoring Program and who were interested in learning more about computers and basic computer programs. All of these students did not have access to computers, although some of their school work demanded familiarity and access to the internet.

Offered free of charge, the program provided refurbished, fully-equipped computers for each enrolled student and a computer workshop was offered by the instructor, a certified and experienced IT professional. The program was

carried out for a total of 6 weeks, with solid attendance, but was interrupted by an environmental problem - a leaky roof - and suspended while the BRYF foundation located a new and more secure space. Final results of the



program are still being compiled.



The Woryan Town Project - a collaboration between Kutoa Africa, BRYF and the community of Woryan Town

Woryan Town (also called Wence Town) is a village located a few miles distant from the capital city of Kakata, in Margibi County. Kakata is known as a transit town at the heart of the historical natural rubber plantation belt in Liberia.

Kakata is surrounded by many similar villages and towns, mostly belonging to the Kpelle tribe. These communities depend on subsistence farming for food, and lack the resources to provide safe and clean water, medical treatment, and latrines for hygiene. Additionally, the children in those communities are commonly not schooled, prone to develop various deadly tropical diseases, and are at risk of being “left behind” as the country strives to shed its post-civil war image and rebuild its municipalities.

Five years ago, funds to build a hand pump well were donated by Dr Gracie Ann Dinkins to the community of Woryan Town. The well was dug and established with the assistance and monitoring of the Bill Rogers Youth Foundation, a local-based NGO dedicated to developing youth in Liberia. That pump remains functional today. The women of Woryan Town, sensing an opportunity for improving the lives of their children, reached out to Kutoa Africa through the BRYF, and requested funds to purchase farming tools to cultivate 20 acres of land which was donated to the BRYF for development. The funds were provided by KAF and the women planted both vegetable gardens and cassava for harvest and sale.

In April of 2021, Dr Dinkins traveled to Woryan Town to inspect the hand pump, the farm work and discuss their impact on the community. That meeting was both celebratory and sobering, as the community leaders, both male and female, poured out their appreciation for KAF and BRYF, and lamented the lack of any school in the area to send their children to (some 150 children live

in the town). There was a school building that was built and donated by the Chinese government, but it had not been utilized and its doors and windows were looted, leaving it open to weather and wear.



After returning from that eventful trip, Dr Dinkins proposed that the KAF partner with both the citizens of Woryan Town and the BRYF to create solutions that would address the concerns raised by the women. The council of elders were asked to provide KAF with a list of most-pressing deficiencies, and they complied. KAF then chose the top 3 items for funding and implementation of solutions. They were:





Lack of furnishings for the school - lack of basic chairs and desks

No bathroom accommodation for the school

No drinkable water near the school



With the significant help of the BRYF in supervising and monitoring the work, KAF was able to realize the completion of two of the three agreed upon tasks - the manufacture and delivery of 160 school desks, and the digging and completion of a hand pump just outside of the school.



– the children and adults of Woryan Town gather to receive their brand-new, brightly colored school desks. It was a gala day!



The third and final task, that of construction of a latrine to serve the school, is slated to begin soon as the rains cease and the dry season commences in Liberia. We anticipate completion of the latrine, with gender-separate bathrooms, by the end of 2022 or early 2023.



It's been a busy year for Kutoa Afrika Foundation, and a fruitful one. We look back with gratitude for all our partners, donors, and well-wishers, and look forward to new partnerships and further successes as we find communities in crisis and offer impactful solutions. May your holiday season be full of love, joy, and peace and blessings!



