

2021

Shelter of Hope Academy (SOH)



MISSIONARY VENTURES CANADA

**Project Overview written in collaboration with
Shelter of Hope Kenya.**

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Project Overview

Shelter of Hope Academy is a part of a larger non-profit organization, Shelter of Hope Kenya. Shelter of Hope Kenya's mission is to be a leading Christian-based organization in Kenya. It aims to restore hope and transform lives of vulnerable persons by addressing their spiritual and material needs. In their pursuit of developing modern educational and medical facilities to serve their communities, Shelter of Hope Kenya oversees initiatives that provide education, spiritual nourishment, childcare, child sponsorship, women empowerment, entrepreneurial training, food and farming programs, and counseling.

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PROJECT MISSION

Shelter of Hope Academy aims to bring transformation to Kenya's next generation through spiritual nourishment, education, and income generating activities to enable their independence.

Missionary Ventures Canada has partnered with Shelter of Hope Kenya since 2018 in their pursuit of developing their education program and facility. We believe that focusing on Shelter of Hope Kenya's education programs will have a positive impact on their other initiatives.

This report will provide an overview of Shelter of Hope Academy's history, project scope and goals.

Milestones

2005

The Vision for Helping the Orphaned was born!

Shelter of Hope Kenya was established as a non-profit in 2005 from an outreach ministry inspired by Ishmael Ochieng' Okuku (current Executive Director) and his wife Molline Adhiambo. This first outreach ministry focused on providing spiritual nourishment to orphans, vulnerable children, youths and women from Kiambiu slums in Nairobi, Kenya. Feeding programs were then initiated after noticing that the vulnerable children and orphans were often hungry. Out of this modest start, Ishmael mobilized his friends to stretch the programs further; that bore the education, health and income generating activities. To hear more about the story of Director Ishmael and his wife Molline, please check out their story on page 8.



A photo of a student at the Nairobi Education Location.

2011

The start of Vision Ministries Kenya

Vision Ministries Kenya (VMK) was launched on September 3rd, 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with Ishmael and Visions Ministries Canada (VMC). Both organizations connected with a heart to bring Christ to the nation of Kenya. With the guide of VMC, VMK was created for the purpose of planting churches and training Pastors in the surrounding communities. As of 2020, they now have a network of 50+ churches throughout four regions of Kenya. Not only do these churches provide spiritual nourishment, but they also bring a sense of community to the villages they are planted in.

These church plants have also provided the opportunity for Shelter of Hope Kenya to expand their connections and reputations within the communities. This has resulted in those with needs to reach out to Shelter of Hope Kenya for services.



A photo of a student at the Nairobi Education Location.

2014

Implementation of Child Sponsorship Programs

From a dream that grew out of the Nairobi slums education program, Orphan and Youth sponsorship was established back in 2014. Starting with 20 vulnerable orphaned children sponsored successfully, church partners in the United States were the first and biggest donors. The sponsorship program enabled the children's access to free quality education, school stationery, school uniforms, and catered the school's feeding programs. Through these initiatives, annual youth camps also began for the youth from the surrounding communities. These camps provided spiritual nourishment, counselling and an opportunity to connect with community members as both an outreach and marketing for the school.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP BEGAN IN 2014 WITH 20 CHILDREN. NOW THE PROGRAM INCLUDES 135 VULNERABLE CHILDREN BOTH IN NAIROBI AND KAGAN, KENYA DUE TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19.



Student assembly outside the Kagan facility in 2018.

Growth meets challenges.

Why the need for a new school building?

The Shelter of Hope building project in Kagan began from humble beginnings in 2016 with financial support raised both locally and from foreign partners. The construction of the first four classrooms on the ground floor was all that could be afforded.

With the dream to reach more vulnerable children, the expansion of the school's building provided further opportunities to be recognized by the community and government.

Since then, the first students of Shelter of Hope Academy sat the Kenya National Examination of October 2017. The results were very positive. Shelter of Hope Academy continues to rank at the top overall score in their region of 27 schools as of 2019-2020 academic year.

In January 2021, the school finally met the government safety standards to provide a safe learning environment to become an official learning center. This certification will bring greater credibility to the school and allow the students to do their exams in their learning environment.

Yet, there is still the need to complete the second story of the Kagan facility to accommodate 200 new students with the financial means to cover school fees and contribute to the pool of scholarships for other students.

The school's administration has goals to complete the second story within the next two years. For an overview of these goals, please view page 7.

2016

Construction of Kagan's Facility Begins

In the last quarter of the year 2016, Shelter of Hope started the construction of it's Kagan village campus. The aim of building a modern campus with a medical clinic and chapel was to help do more advocacy and outreach within the surrounding communities to bridge the economic gaps of poverty.

With the new facilities, Shelter of Hope Kenya planned to increase their program capabilities and beneficiaries. These programs include medical care, women's income-generating projects, farming, youth camps, church connect groups, and more.

2018

MVC Joins The Team

In May 2018, Missionary Ventures Canada (MVC) partnered with Vision Ministries Canada to work with Visions Ministries Kenya (VMK) and Shelter of Hope Kenya. As VMK's mandate is to develop church leadership and pastors in Kenya, MVC was asked to join the team as a partner focused on the development and sustainability of the projects.

To increase the measure of sustainability within the network of VMK churches and communities, a plan was created when Brad, Director of MVC, visited Kenya for the first time in 2019. In addition to supporting a sustainable agricultural plot for VMK, MVC has committed to supporting the education project of Shelter of Hope Kenya at both their Kagan and Nairobi locations. It was noted that although VMK and Shelter of Hope Kenya are separate entities, they are interconnected in the success of their projects. In this commitment, MVC would fundraise and assist to the building of the school's facilities and child sponsorship programs.



A classroom at the Kagan location.

IN MAY 2018, MISSIONARY VENTURES CANADA PARTNERED WITH VISION MINISTRIES CANADA TO WORK WITH VISIONS MINISTRIES KENYA AND SHELTER OF HOPE.



MVC Director Brad visiting Shelter of Hope in 2019.

The Impact of COVID-19

The region surrounding Shelter of Hope Academy was hit hard.

In the surrounding communities of Shelter of Hope's two educational facilities, Kagan and Nairobi, families were hit hard by the global pandemic. Many of the families not only experienced economic challenges with a decrease in job opportunities but, in 2020, Kenya experienced high food inflation due to the limited supply of produce cultivated in a harsh season of drought.

With food shortages and strict government regulations to impede the spread of COVID-19, many families lacked the basic daily nutrition requirements. To provide some relief, MVC partnered with Shelter of Hope Kenya at the height of the pandemic in 2020 to give food to their surrounding communities. This relief was welcomed immensely by the families connected

to Shelter of Hope and housing boarding students during school closures.

It has also been found that COVID-19 has impacted Kenyan youth significantly, especially young women. These women have had increased household work over their male counterparts who report being idle at home with limited job opportunities.

With lower cash flows per household within rural communities, it has been shown that there has been a reduction in circulating community support. This results in a decrease of local financial donations to Shelter of Hope Academy, and an increase in their financial need to keep students from transferring to free, overcrowded, government learning centers.



Miss Jerida Wena

In Memory of Miss Jerida Wena

During the school closures, one of the beloved teachers of Shelter of Hope Kagan passed away from COVID-19. Jerida was a Kindergarten teacher at the Nairobi location and had taught for five years with Shelter of Hope. She passed at the age of 27 and will be deeply missed by the students and administration.

2020

COVID-19 Forces School Closures

As of April 2020, Shelter of Hope was forced to not only shut its doors to students, but to its population of boarding students. Boarding students at Shelter of Hope Academy are amongst their most vulnerable children who attend the school. The school's administration had to arrange for foster families for these children within the already struggling surrounding community.

The school's door was closed for an entire school year, until November 2020. There was no ability to teach and prepare fourth grade students for their government exams. Although there were no rankings between the schools in 2020, Shelter of Hope Academy continues to be regarded as a top learning center by the government.

Project Scope

Development

Shelter of Hope Kenya addresses concerns surrounding the cycle of poverty (food, water, health, and education) and is utilizing grassroots efforts to impact the region. They have two campuses to educate the vulnerable children in the regions of Nairobi and Kagan. The completion of the second floor of the Kagan Campus will allow for the school to compete with other schools in the region as a prime choice for potential students. The director of Shelter of Hope Academy also seeks to purchase a school bus to provide transportation services to families for an additional fee to increase their campus' desirability.

Sustainability

Presently the school in Kagan is about 23% sustainable. Due to the hardships of living in a developing region, the school can only charge parents 65% of the actual cost of their child's enrollment. To increase the fees would result in losing most of the current enrollment to government institutions which would negate the work of Shelter of Hope as a ministry to reach the most vulnerable.

For the Academic 2021 year, the budget is approximately \$85,000 CAD to meet teacher salaries, facility expenses, nutrition programs, and housing of boarding students. With only 188 students of 400 paying full tuition, and an agricultural plot that subsidizes partially the nutrition programs, there is still a required \$68,000 CAD to breakeven on their set budget.

Student Enrollment 2021

Kagan Campus	Nairobi Campus
177	233

There is a trend of student drop outs as the students age. This is primarily due to the expectations of parents in low income communities that Shelter of Hope Academy serves. Parents seek full tuition throughout their child's complete elementary education. This expectation stems from parents ability to transfer their children to free government facilities. These facilities are, however, overcrowded and of low educational quality.

Teachers Investment

It is Shelter of Hope's best tools for success: their teachers. SOH expect that their teachers go beyond the criteria for teaching provided at government schools. Each classroom holds fewer students in comparison which allows for greater learning depth and assistance given to each student. The level of education at SOH surpasses other centers in the area.

The government has recognized the scores of the students in yearly exams and has sought the help of SOH in teacher training and classroom management for the surrounding government centers. This is a recognized achievement between SOH teachers.



Number of Students requiring
financial aid in 2021: **135**

Students chosen to be sponsored are based on their familial circumstances and finances. There are three criteria for sponsorship:

- 1) The child is an orphan.
- 2) The child has only one living parent.
- 3) The child's parent(s) is sick with HIV which incapacitates their care of the child.

Boarding Services

There are currently 25 boarding students who live full time at the school and are amongst the most vulnerable children coming from dysfunctional and broken homes. They receive meals, medical care, housing and education for an additional fee of approximately \$200 CAD/year.

Project Goals

Shelter of Hope Academy's Goals for 2021

1) To revamp the Child Sponsorship program. In 2020, Shelter of Hope lost one of the greatest donors to their child sponsorship program in the United States. New connections need to be made to revamp this program.

2) Stability in finances and enrollment after COVID-19.

Shelter of Hope Academy would like to create a more detailed strategy toward growth and sustainability in order to better utilize their strengths.

Shelter of Hope Academy's Goals for the Next 5 Years:

1. To complete the school building.
2. The purchase of a school bus to meet student transportation needs.
3. To improve student performance.
4. Develop income-generating projects to become self-sufficient.
5. To build a greater staff capacity through training and better wages.

Student Sponsorship

When sponsoring a student with Shelter of Hope you are not only relieving the burden of tuition but you are also providing encouragement to the child.

Student sponsorship guarantees children receive quality education plus medical care, nutrition and the message of the Gospel.



Students at the Nairobi location.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

The academy's need from one sponsor:

\$50 CAD/month

This provides assistance in covering a student's tuition, nutrition, medical care, and facility & administration expenses.

School Fees: \$36/CAD

Food program: \$7/CAD

Medical care: \$7/CAD



Agricultural project at the Kagan campus for the food program.



Students at the Nairobi location.

Missionary Representative Background

Ishmael and his wife had the vision to provide a safe space for vulnerable children to be cared for since they were both young. They have both faced many of the same challenges as vulnerable youth are experiencing today - malnutrition, poor housing conditions, unstable familial relations, limited educational opportunities, and more.

Along Ishmael's journey as a teenager, he was met by a German volunteer who impacted him to develop a positive and kingdom-focus mindset.

When Ishmael met his wife Molline Adhiambo through his Uncle's church, they connected with a similar vision to equip and nourish vulnerable children in their nation. In 2002, they partook in a bible training in Zambia which pushed them to return to Kenya with a renewed hope and boldness to make a lasting difference in their community.

This led them to start feeding programs in the slums of Nairobi in 2005 where their first learning center began.



Shelter of Hope Academy's Staff at the Kagan location.



Ishamel and his wife Molline Adhiambo.

Prayer Requests

1) To finish the 2021 school year afloat.

Times are hard, especially in COVID-19, as poverty increases. As per the World Bank, Kenya's economy has negatively impacted women, youth and refugees. This prayer includes their goals for 2021.

2) That the reputation and relationship of the Academy grows within the surrounding communities.

In order for the school to grow in enrollment and sustainability, the reputation of the school is vital.

3) The love of God continues to flow through the staff to the students.

The heart behind the foundation and building of Shelter of Hope is based on the desire to spread the message of Christ to students and within the surrounding communities.

The Role of Missionary Ventures Canada

Fundraising

1. Student Sponsorship Program

Sponsorship per child: \$50 CAD/Month

Children requiring sponsorship: 135

Students in Nairobi: 50

Students in Kagan: 85

MVC is committed to fundraising and advertising Shelter of Hope Academy's student sponsorship program within Canada and the United States. In collaboration with the school each sponsor will receive a Shelter of Hope Academy newsletter every quarter with updates on teachers, students and projects.

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2. Completing the Second Floor of the Kagan Campus.

Total Funds needed for 2021:
\$68,000 CAD

MVC is committed to fundraising for the completion of the second floor of the Kagan Campus. This would help the school increase their enrolment 100% with students who could afford the school fees. These school fees would also provide financial aid to other students who are unable to afford tuition.



Short Term Missions Teams

A 2020 women's team was planned to go with the goal to assist Shelter of Hope Kenya to do a women's conference and student ministry in collaboration with Visions Ministries Kenya.

Although this trip was cancelled due to COVID-19, there is a hope that this postponed team will be able to travel at the end of 2021 or 2022 at the request of Kenyan Female Leaders.

All short term missions teams are based on the principles of *When Helping Hurts*. All teams are trained in the culture of the host community, and in being open-minded to the different beliefs and customs of the region. The expectation of each team is to support the needs of the project based on what the Missionary Representatives have requested. Goals of each team is to bring encouragement to our project partners, to work alongside the local workers, and to foster meaningful relationships between those who go to serve and those they are serving.

Ways to Donate to Shelter of Hope

1) Give Online (Canadian & US Donors):

<https://missionaryventures.ca/shelterofhope/>

2) Mail A Cheque:

Missionary Ventures Canada
201B - 727 Woolwich St
Guelph, ON N1H 3Z2

3) E-transfers can be sent to: bookkeeper@mvcanada.org

4) By Phone with a Credit Card: Any donation can be made by calling the office at (519) 824-9380.

5) Pre-Approved Debit: Become a recurring monthly donor by signing up to have your donations go through a pre approved debit on the 15th of the month. Please e-mail office@mvcanada.org for more info!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the office.