Stella's Stars

Annual Impact Report

"What people see as fearlessness is really persistence."
- Wangari Maathai

Welcome to Stella's Stars' 2nd Annual Impact Report! Together we accomplished so much this year. As you delve into the pages of this report, you will witness the tangible impact of your support.

You will hear from the Director, Leonard Muyelele, on the growth of the school and its infrastructure. You will read a poem from the 2021 High School cohort. **We will share with you the substantial impact on the Chebukuyi community as Stella's Stars continues to provide jobs, services, and hope.**

Together, we are not merely changing lives—we are shaping futures, building communities, and leaving an indelible mark on the world.

Join us as we turn the page and write the next chapter together.

Leonard Muyelele
Director, Star of Hope Centre Primary School & Stella Blue High School

To Our Beloved Friends and Partners,

On behalf of the Stella Blue High School family, I take this opportunity to thank you for your unwavering love and support of our work with the kids at Stella Blue High School. Your donations have gone a long way to steward us towards achieving great milestones in the support of the vulnerable children from our community. To date, Stella Blue has been able to support over 100 kids. Forty-five have already been through high school in the past four years since our inception and currently we have 75 distributed in the different classes of high school.

From a very humble starting point, together we have built classrooms, provided furniture, and science supplies among many other supplies that go a long way to strengthen our study programs. That is not to mention the pay for our eight staff that we work with, a clinic for the children and the technical learning programs that we have through the Technical and Vocational Training Education department.

This year through your efforts we successfully implemented solar power provision that ensures we have reliable and uninterrupted power as well as water supplies from the underground aquiver we can now access.

We feel very privileged to have such support that is turning our community around in great ways, providing future hope for the less fortunate kids and a stable and productive community at large. We remain optimistic as we face the future that the kids we assist will turn around to be great community and world changers!

Sincerely,

Leonard Muyelele,
Star of Hope/Stella Blue High school.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME

Chebukuyi is a small, rural village in western Kenya where life is shaped by both resilience and challenge. Home to just over 7,000 people —most of them small-scale farmers— the community works hard to sustain itself despite limited access to clean water, electricity, healthcare, and affordable education.

Stella Blue High School took on these challenges in full force this year.

Water Project

In 2023, Leonard was able to procure a geological study that showed the school sat on top of an aquifer. After months of researching and planning, we were able to partner with eight local Rotary Clubs and a handful of major donors to develop a viable solution to the water scarcity problem the school and the village have faced for over 35 years.

We broke ground in March 2025 and struck water at 75 meters. The water quality tests came back with acceptable results propelling this project forward. Today the well is complete and is providing fresh water to both the primary and high schools. Additionally, a water kiosk was installed so that the school could make water available to the village for a nominal fee, which will add to the operation budgets of the schools. This project is the first of what we hope will be many infrastructure projects that will allow the school more self-sustainability.

Solar Power Project

In April 2025, a long-time donor and friend reached out to see if we might be interested in installing solar panels on campus. As solar energy has long been on our wish list, we jumped at the opportunity. While still working on the water project in July, the installation of solar panels began.

Now finished, these solar panels provide an additional source of affordable energy for the entire campus — both schools, the dining hall, the medical clinic, the kitchen, and computer lab. This is an amazing accomplishment and yet another step toward resiliency and sustainability.

Medical Clinic Expansion

The School Clinic serves both the primary and high school, as well as staff and the community. Supporting a little over 300 people, the clinic specializes in malaria management, typhoid, and other respiratory ailments, wounds and minor accident management, and basic approved vaccines administration.
Services are extended under emergency circumstances to immediate community members needing urgent treatment for malaria, and other emergencies that need medical stabilization before reference for further medical attention.

The clinic physician, Norman Ngutuku, is a clinical medical graduate of Kenya Medical Training College. Before joining Star of Hope/Stella Blue he had worked in public health facility for three years. Doctor Ngutuku is skilled in the management of malaria, which is at the top of the list of the most recurrent diseases.

Your Impact

Stella's Stars has been on an ambitious journey, and this year was no different. 2025 has been a landmark year, bringing new infrastructure to the school that will support its growth and sustainability.

Let's delve into our remarkable journey of growth and resilience:

July - August 2024

- First 'Of Africa' fundraiser put us well on the way to making our year-end goal.
- The dry season in Kenya is in full effect, and the school has had to start purchasing water as the piped 'municipal' water has been turned off, and the local spring is dry.

October 2024

- Grant writing for the Water Project is underway as dry season continues to take a toll.
- Held Trivia Night fundraiser in Seattle.

November 2024

- With help from a major donor and our partnership with Star of Hope, we acquired new computers and a Starlink!
- Reorganization of the grades per the new curriculum standards in Kenya were finalized. The 9th graders will be moved to the Star of Hope campus and Stella's Stars will continue to financially support that grade level for the time being.
- Second graduating class goes on a Senior trip to Impala Park Sanctuary and Lake Victoria.

December 2024

- Contractor is secured for Water Project. Meetings and planning on the ground in Kenya have begun.
- A refrigerator is purchased for the clinic so that vaccines and medicine that require refrigeration can be stored onsite.

January 2025

- Stella's Stars welcomes a new board member Angela Posenke.
- Water project fundraising has progressed far enough to start the process of getting permits in Kenya.

February 2025

- Another round of funds are approved for purchasing water. This dry season has been particularly long.

March 2025

- After much anticipation, 100% of the Water Project funds are raised. The permits are signed, the materials ordered, and equipment mobilized. Drilling begins on March 22nd as the rains finally come, sending much relief throughout the community.

April - June 2025

- The water quality analysis report comes back having passed the required parameters.
- Second Annual 'Of Africa' fundraiser planning is in full swing.
- Solar project is 100% funded!

July - August 2025

- Water Project complete!
- Solar Project complete!
- Second Annual 'Of Africa' fundraiser is a huge success!

Current Challenges

Growth

When people ask us “Why Africa?” our answer is simple—because every dollar goes further in creating significant and tangible, high-impact results. As our school expands, we are able to provide more students with a tuition-free education and access to free medical care. However wonderful our growth is, it brings with it increased demands—more teachers, more educational and medical supplies, more food, and more vocational programming support. While these challenges are substantial, we remain committed to meeting them, even amid global uncertainty.

USAid Withdrawal

Recent changes in U.S. policy have had a direct impact on our school’s community. USAid has been a huge agent for the treatment and prevention of AIDs and HIV in Kenya . The loss of programs like APHIA II (AIDS, Population, and Health Integrated Assistance) has increased pressure on local resources. Leonard shared with us the story of a former student whose mother has been living with HIV for many years, but with the medical and nutritional support provided by APHIA II, she was able to thrive and be a productive member of the community.

With the loss of this support, her future is uncertain. This loss is being felt throughout the Chebukuyi and surrounding communities. Now, more than ever, our collective support is crucial to sustaining a healthy and quality environment for our staff, students, and their families.

Recreation & Arts Center Program

Big challenges give birth to big dreams. Stella's Stars believes in nurturing big dreams. As you see, our dreams have built a great foundation and a budding infrastructure. So, we are going to keep on striving towards our goals including:

- Paying our teachers a livable wage
- Continue to provide relevant books and supplies
- Supplying the clinic with quality medicines

Our next dream is to build a recreation and arts center, including a soccer field and facilities for art, theater, and music—ensuring our children have the opportunity to learn, play, and grow.

We'd like to invite you to continue being a part of making those dreams come true for our school, these kids, and this community. Your support will help us expand our fundraising, marketing, and donor outreach throughout 2026.

7 students wrote the below poem as a group project in response to this prompt.
Write a poem about someone who has significantly impacted your life.

The Light of Hope

And there I was
On the cold floor of abandon, nowhere to go
Broken and troubled
Quiet, dark, empty and hopeless!

Like a blinding light
He walked in
He took my hand and held it firmly,
Come with me, he urged
Side by side
We walked towards the light
So bright and alive
Oh how warm and welcoming as we drew nearer
So different
Vibrant
Full of life
He said to me in the moment
Welcome Home!
He smiled at me reassuringly

I walked steadily towards the light
Was it a dream or reality?

In the light, I felt joy rising in me
No more pain, no trouble, no struggle
He held a key to me that would open doors
Smile on my face, food in my tummy
I perceived the hope that the light held

Shattered dreams regained hope
He then whispered the clarion words,

'Your Dreams are Valid, and there is a future hope for You!

Written and Performed by Stella Blue 2021 cohort: Abegail Resiato, Justin Siamanta, Ann Nairesia, Joshua Meitekini, Timothy Wanyonyi, Jacinta Nekesa and Sarah Wasike.
The creative directing by Naamah Hope.

Gratitude

As Stella's Stars closes its fifth year, we celebrate the incredible impact we are making on the lives of the Stella Blue High School students, but it is YOU, dear partners, that are our true gift. Our celebrations are your celebrations, because we could not do any of it without you. It is your steadfast support that gives us the ability to serve the children and families of Chebukuyi. Your help enables us to deliver the resources needed to continue providing expanded and sustainable educational and vocational opportunities.

From our highest monetary donor to the in-kind donations of creative art for our auctions, flowers for our tables, and volunteers to help create stellar events, we are grateful. From the one-time donors to the recurring monthly donations to the sponsors and advocators of our work, we are grateful. For every way you offer your kindness and your good wishes, we are grateful.

An extra special debt of gratitude to the Stella's Stars Water Project Donors:

- Holly McNeill
- Danny Newbrun
- Ron Jandrasi
- Felicia Kramarz
- Neil & Lisa Quateman
- John Carroll & Richard Leidle
- Amanda Franklin (who also sponsored the installation of the Solar Project)
- David Russell
- LCM Builders
- Star of Hope
- Kaleo Quenzer
- Hannah Mootz

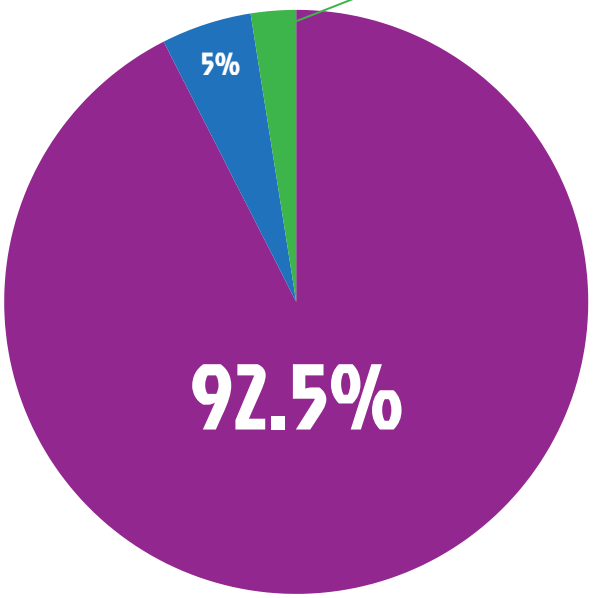
We are extremely honored to have received grants from the following Rotary Clubs:

- University District Rotary Club
- Lake Forest Rotary Club
- Lake Union Rotary Club
- Shoreline Rotary Club
- Woodinville Rotary Club
- Federal Way Rotary Club
- Edmonds Rotary Club
- Bellevue Rotary Club
- Lynnwood Rotary Club
- Kilindini Rotary Club

Lastly, we THANK our Rotary Club Sponsors, Dave Spicer and Ezra Teshome of the University District Rotary Club, and Anil Dohia with the Kilindini Rotary Club of Mombasa, as well as Deepak Pandit, President of Eurowater Services Ltd. and Rotarian.

And as always, we are beyond grateful for the impact you have on us.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



Non-Discretionary Fees

2.5% of the funds raised this year went to things like website maintenance, CC processing fees, international wire transfers, & donor management platform.

Fundraising Events

Venue rentals, entertainment, onsite donation platforms & equipment, event supplies.

Distribution to Kenya

Teacher & staff salaries, school supplies, uniforms, food, building and grounds maintenance.

2025 Projects and Infrastructure 50%

Ongoing School Operations

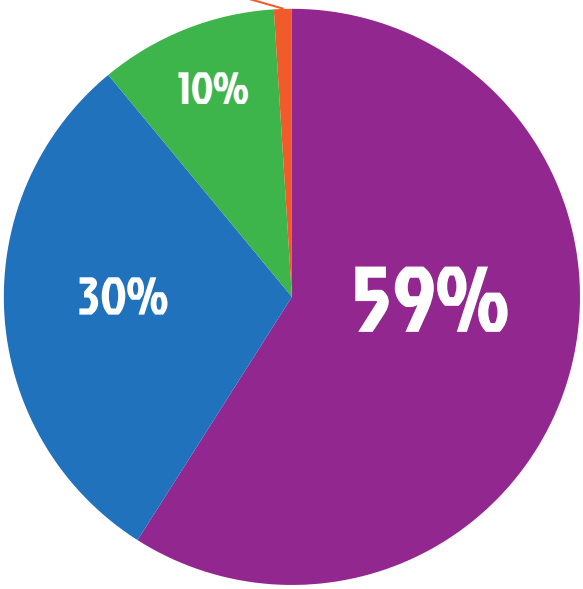
Teacher and Staff Salaries **27%**

Food & Supplies **16%**

Medical Clinic **6%**

Emergency Funds **1%**

WHO PROVIDES THE MONEY



Grants & Investments

Rotary grants and investment returns made up 1% of this year's funds raised.

Individual Donations

Every penny counts and they go so far! $75 feeds a student for a whole year.

Major Donors

Our major donors care deeply about the long-term sustainability of Stella's Stars High School by funding specific projects and daily school operations.

Monthly Donors

Monthly donations are critical to our organization. They allow us to plan and budget more effectively, and they lower our stateside costs, which means more of the donations make it straight to Kenya.

Total Funds Raised July 2024 - June 2025

$117,203

We invite you to help make the world a little brighter, more educated, and more connected with a donation to Stella's Stars today.

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