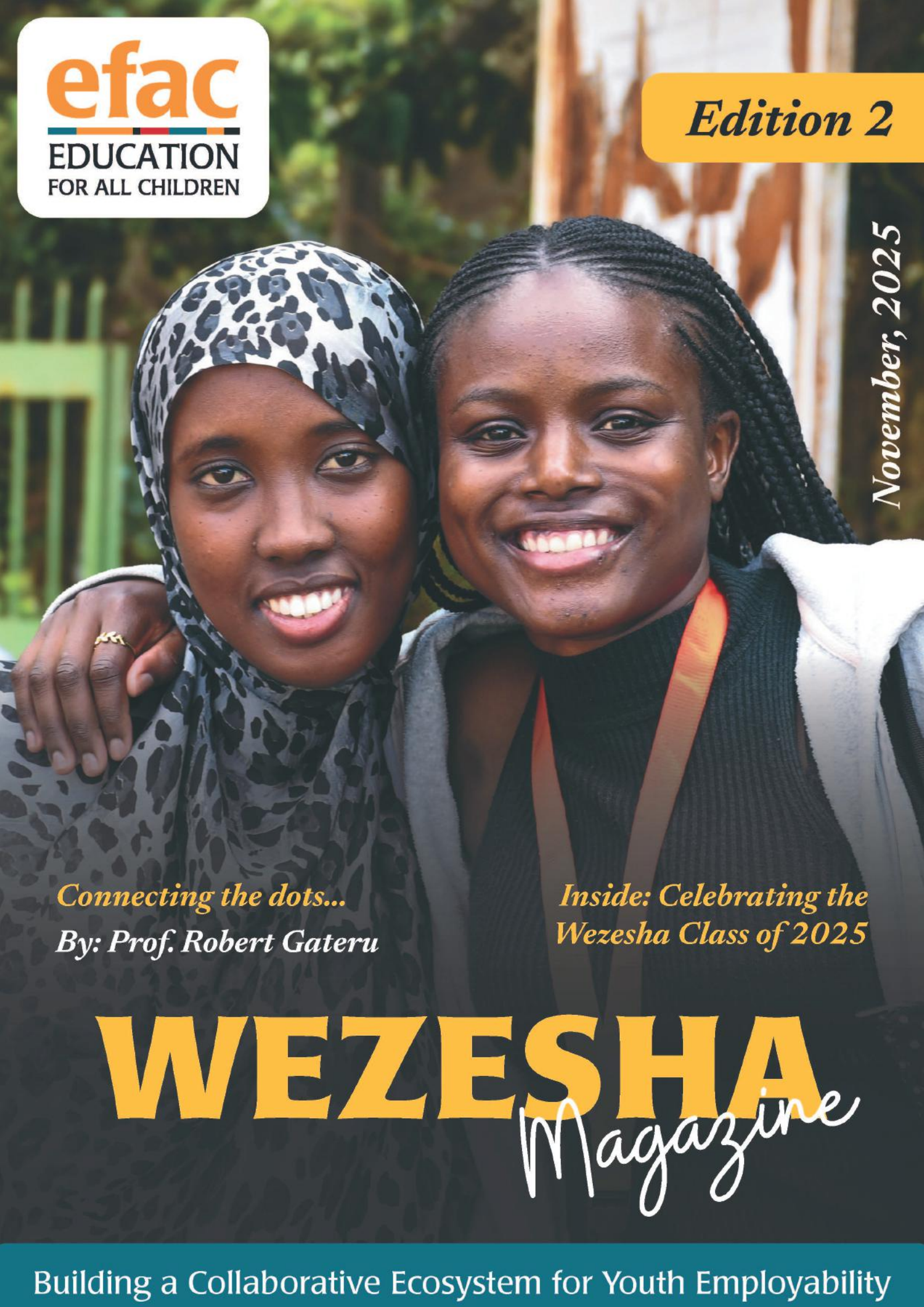
efac
EDUCATION
FOR ALL CHILDREN

Edition 2

November, 2025



Connecting the dots...
By: Prof. Robert Gateru

Inside: Celebrating the Wezesha Class of 2025

WEZESHA Magazine

Building a Collaborative Ecosystem for Youth Employability

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Letter from the Editors

Hello EFAC family,

Karibu sana to this year's edition of the Wezesha Magazine! We've truly missed you! It's been a year since our last catch-up, and this feels like a much-needed reunion.

Our theme, "Building a Collaborative Ecosystem for Youth Employability," has truly come to life in these pages. You'll find stories that remind us of what happens when hearts, hands, and hopes come together. From scholars who dared to dream, to mentors and teachers who guided the way, to our alumni, board, staff, sponsors, and partners who joined forces – this is living proof of community at its best.

Think of this edition as your favourite meal: flavourful, inspiring, and best enjoyed slowly. So go on, grab a cup of chai, get comfortable, and indulge. Every story is a taste of what makes EFAC, well... EFAC!

And of course, meet our crème de la crème: the Wezesha Class of 2025. Young, bright, bold, and ready to take on the world, their stories are proof that when we walk together, incredible things happen.

Asanteni sana for being part of our story and celebrating this journey of possibility with us. May this edition fill your heart and stir your spirit, one story at a time.

With hugs,

Eric & Harleen

Editors, Wezesha Magazine 2025

Connecting the Dots...

By Prof. Robert Gateru
Chair, EFAC Board of Directors, Kenya



When I look back at my journey, I often see it as a series of dots - moments, people, and opportunities that, when connected, tell a story of hope, resilience, and community.

I was born and raised in Laikipia County, in a humble family of peasant farmers. My childhood was defined by hard work, I mean, digging farms alongside my family to earn a living. My grades in primary school were far from outstanding, but my father believed in me enough to sell some of his livestock so I could join Secondary School, a local secondary school not very far from where we lived.

That single act of sacrifice became the first dot in my story.

In secondary school, I worked tirelessly and managed to top my class in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examinations. When I was admitted to the University of Nairobi, the people from my village came together, holding harambees (fundraising) to keep me in school. Life at university was not easy. Albeit being in the buzzing city and a top University, I remember many evenings that I slept hungry because I couldn't afford a meal. But I kept going.

When I graduated with First Class Honours in Physics and Mathematics - the first in eight years, the world began to open up. I earned a scholarship to the University of Cambridge for a Master's in Microelectronic Engineering and Semiconductor Device Physics, and later, another to the University of Surrey in the UK, where I completed my PhD. By the age of 29, I had earned my doctorate, and at 35, I was a Professor.

Each of those milestones was not achieved alone. They were connected by people who believed in me - family, teachers, friends, and communities. The dots aligned because of others' faith, sacrifice, and generosity. That is why EFAC's mission resonates deeply with me. I see in every EFAC scholar the reflection of my own story; young people with dreams that seem distant, yet entirely possible when supported by a community that believes in them.

At EFAC, we are connecting the dots in powerful ways. Our mentors and teachers walk beside our scholars, guiding them through their personal and professional journeys. Our donors and partners fuel the mission, transforming generosity into opportunity. Our board and staff anchor implementation, ensuring that every scholar is seen, supported, and equipped to thrive. And our alumni, now teachers, medics, entrepreneurs, engineers, and community leaders, are creating ripples of impact across Kenya.

This year, 2025, we celebrate remarkable milestones. Our co-founders, Rod and Nancy Van Sciver, were named Global Citizen Awardees by the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire, recognising their vision and compassion that birthed this movement. EFAC has also been honoured at the 2025 DIAR Awards as a leader in Youth Employment Strategies, and received the Warrior for Good in Education Access and Equity Award - affirmations that we are, indeed, connecting the right dots.

As I reflect on these achievements, I am reminded that none of them stand alone. Every scholar, every mentor, every partner, every donor - each is a dot in the beautiful picture we are drawing together, and each is a connector of dots for others. And when those dots connect, the image is powerful: a future where every young person has the opportunity not just to dream, but to achieve.

Building a Collaborative Ecosystem for Youth Employability



We sit down with EFAC's Chief Executive Officer, John Opiyo, for an inspiring conversation on the vision behind EFAC's education-to-employment model and the heart of this year's Wezesha Magazine.

With passion and purpose, he shares what Wezesha means to EFAC, the power of collaboration, and the organization's dream for a thriving community. This conversation offers a glimpse into EFAC's commitment to empowering young Kenyans to learn, grow, and transform their futures.

What does Wezesha mean in the context of EFAC's education-to-employment model?
Although a challenging word for me to pronounce, Wezesha reminds me of the Kenyan Harambee spirit, where we pull together resources to achieve a common goal. EFAC has brought together various partners to provide underprivileged Kenyan youth with education that enables them to be employed or to create employment opportunities. We hope that at the end of the program, all our beneficiaries are engaged in meaningful and sustainable employment or become entrepreneurs who can change their own economic status and that of their families.

What excites you every morning to come to the office as EFAC CEO?
When I think of the many people who generously give their time and resources to our mission, and the impact those contributions make in the lives of those we serve, I have no reason to hold back in my service to this organization.

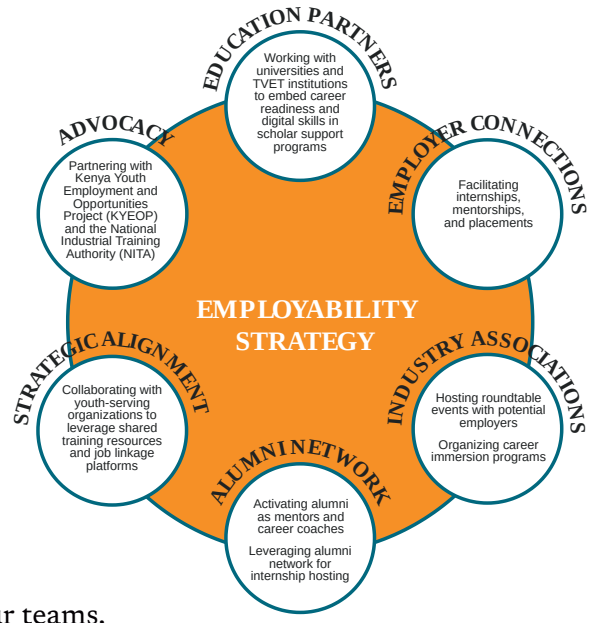
Tell us about something interesting we do not know about the CEO?
Something interesting is that this role has really challenged my naturally idealistic and contrarian approach to leadership. I have learned that vision works best when balanced with patience and collaboration. I am still learning every day.

In relation to this year's theme, how would you say EFAC is "building a collaborative ecosystem," and why does that matter to us? For me, a collaborative ecosystem is a network of interconnected actors working towards a shared goal. Employability is a key pillar in our strategic plan. To be able to enhance employability, the key players are the government and policymakers, employers, academic institutions, other nonprofits and youth organizations, development partners, and the scholars themselves. We work collaboratively with these players in pursuit of our mission.

How is EFAC preparing for the growth of our community as scholar intake and program outputs multiply? We are guided by formalized strategic plans to scale up the organization. Our expansion is carefully managed through thorough impact assessments that consider our intended reach, organizational capacity, and operational requirements. In 2023, EFAC undertook an organizational redesign aligned with our projected growth trajectory. To steer this growth, we have recently launched Vision 2028, a three-year strategic roadmap outlining the resources required for implementation and the desired impact outcomes.

What would the ideal EFAC community look like in your eyes? Interesting. It would be one that builds belonging, mutual support, and shared purpose among our scholars, alumni, mentors, partners, and EFAC itself. If all stakeholders come to the party to support our mission, then that is the community I desire.

How does EFAC apply this approach to boosting employability? In the context of employability, a key strategic pillar for us, we advocate for stronger education-to-employment linkages within Kenya's youth development ecosystem. We start by practising good stewardship of available resources and prioritizing them for programming activities.



At the same time, we foster collaboration among our teams, education institutions, employers, and development partners to align skills training with market needs. Informed by extensive data on scholar transition outcomes, we strive for continuous improvement and advocacy.

What would be your words to our scholars, staff, mentors, sponsors, donors, and partners in the spirit of building an ecosystem? Ubuntu. Our well-being is tied to the well-being of our community. I must emphasize that collaboration is not just about partnerships, but it is also about shared accountability, resources, and innovation.

"Our well-being is tied to the well-being of our community. I must emphasize that collaboration is not just about partnerships, but it is also about shared accountability, resources, and innovation."



Photo: Wezesha Class of 2024

Presenting the Class of 2025

Congratulations to these newly minted young professionals!



Agnes Kavutha Stephen
Diploma in Business Management,
Coast Institute of Technology



Alex Kiti Nyale
BSc. Information Security and Forensics,
Kenya College of Accounting



Alice Kasyoka Musili
Bachelor in Computer Science and Information Technology,
The East African University



Amos Wangombe Ngure
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Technical University of Mombasa



Annabelle Mumbi John
Bachelor of Education Arts,
Kabarak University



Anne Jemuge Kiprono
Bachelor of Science in Animal Science,
Egerton University



Antony Mwangi Ngugi
Bachelor of science (Urban Design and Development),
Technical University of Kenya



Brivian Chepkemoi Kiboi
Bachelor of Commerce,
University of Nairobi



Calvin Nanyama
B.Sc. Optometry (Doctor of Optometry),
Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM)



Consolata Wairimu Makena
Diploma in Nursing & Midwifery,
Pumwani Maternity College of Nursing & Midwifery



David Natembeya Wafula
Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering,
Technical University of Kenya



David William
Bachelor of Commerce,
Machakos University College



Dominic Matata Katee
Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering,
Kenyatta University



Dorcas Chelangat
BS. Medical Laboratory Science)
University of Eastern Africa, Baraton

Presenting the Class of 2025

Congratulations to these newly minted young professionals!



Emma Adhiambo Oduor
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT)



Esther Atieno Ochieng
Bachelors of Science Human Nutrition and Dietetics,
JKUAT



Esther Kasilingi Munyalo
Diploma Tourism and Hospitality Management,
Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT)



Esther Mumo Kyalo
Bachelor in Laws,
Catholic University of Eastern Africa



Everline Lumonye
Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Moi University



Faith Ndanu
Bachelor of Arts in Statistical and Data Science and, Biochemistry,
Smith College



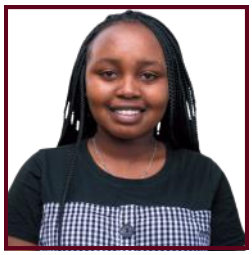
Francis Monamba Chacha
Certificate in Business Management
Kisii National Polytechnic



Irene Linah Titus
Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication and Information Engineering,
JKUAT



Ian Kipngetich Mustai
Bachelor of Commerce,
Mount Kenya University (MKU)



Hyvonne Chepkerui
Diploma Community Oral Health,
Kenya Medical Training College - Nairobi



Hillary Kirui Kibet
Bachelor of Education Arts,
University of Nairobi



Glory Ruhamah Mambo
Bachelor of Science in Architecture,
JKUAT



Geofrey Otieno Obuya
Bachelor of Education (Science) with IT,
Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology



Gelshap Nzilani Mutinda
Bachelor of Economics and Statistics
University of Nairobi

Presenting the Class of 2025

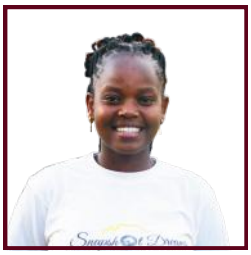
Congratulations to these newly minted young professionals!



James Nganga Muriuki
Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing,
Kenya College of Accounting)



Khadija Mahmud Ibrahim
Bachelor in Software Development,
Kenya College of Accounting



Jane Wanjiru Njoroge
Diploma in Electric Engineering,
Dedan Kimathi University of Technology (DeKUT)



Loise Njoki Wanjira
Bachelors of International Relations,
Mount Kenya University



Joan Jepkosgei
Bachelors in International Relations,
Mount Kenya University (MKU)



Magdalene Akware
Bachelors of Actuarial Science,
Kenyatta University



Joseph Musyoki Mutuku
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical engineering,
Kenyatta University



Marion Jepleting
Bachelor of Arts Education,
University of Eldoret



Joyce Muthoni Njoroge
Bachelor in Psychology,
Chuka University



Mary Naomi Kangwaa
Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Counselling,
Technical University of Kenya



Joyner Wambui Murithi
Bachelor of Filming Technology with IT,
Kenya College of Accounting



Nanjala Martha Simiyu
Bachelor of Education Science,
Egerton University



Juliana Koki
Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry Management,
Moi University



Neema Mwakio Mtei
Bachelor of Science with Education,
Moi University

Presenting the Class of 2025

Congratulations to these newly minted young professionals!



Nicholas Ndoma Kyalo
Bachelor of Education Science,
Mount Kenya University
(MKU)



Ntokoiwuan Ambai
Bachelor in Commerce and
Business Administration,
Mount Kenya University
(MKU)



Patrick Nganga Kimani
Bachelor in Communications
and Media Technology with IT,
Maseno University



Perpetua Awino Makokha
Bachelors of Arts,
Kenyatta University



Peter Njuguna Wangui
BSc. Computer Science,
University of Eldoret



Rhoda Wausi Joel
Bcahelor in Financial
Engingeering,
Kirinyaga University



Rophiner Nekesa Juma
Bachelor of Science in
Oral Health,
Mount Kenya University



Roy Onyango Odongo
Bachelor in Computer Science,
Dedan Kimathi University of
Technology (DeKUT)



Ruth Wekesa Khalayi
Bachelor in Information Security
and Forensics,
Kenya College of Accounting



Sadia Roba Abdi
Bachelor of Science in Clinical
Medicine and Community
Health,
Meru University



Sahara Diriye Ali
Diploma Tourism and Wildlife
Management,
Maasai Mara Technical and
Vocational College



Scholastica Wangeci Maina
Diploma in Clinical Medicine,
Kenya Medical Training College -
Loitoktok



Selah Mwende Muema
Diploma Community Health,
Kenya Medical Training College
- Eldoret



Sharon George Narangi
Bachelor of Laws,
University of Nairobi

Presenting the Class of 2025

Congratulations to these newly minted young professionals!



Shelmith Lerionka Nantoyie
Bachelor of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Technical University of Kenya



Siamanta Koila
Didiploma in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development,
Kisumu Polytechnic



Somia Phillimon Leshorono
Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine,
Egerton University



Stephen Mwaura Mburu
Bachelor in Theater Arts and Film Technology,
Kenyatta University



Tabitha Naserian
Bachelor of Business and Information Technology,
Africa Nazarene University



Teresiah Akula Mbuthia
Diploma in Agriculture, Human Ecology and Consumer Science,
Bukura Agricultural College



Winfred Syombua Mulwa
Bachelors of Arts,
Mt. Holyoke College



Victor Mambo Muthoka
Bachelors of Commerce,
Africa Nazarene University



Victor Hakika Kazungu
Bachelor of Science Clinical Medicine,
Uzima University



Veronicah Akinyi
Bachelor of Education (Arts),
Moi University



Miriam Kimani
BSc. Civil Engineering,
Lafayette College, USA



Winnie Wamuyu Wanjama
Bachelor in Health Promotion,
Kenyatta University



Yeshi Hido Wolde
Bachelor of Education (Arts),
University of Nairobi

By Consolata Makena

The Little Girl from Timau

For nurse Consolata Makena, Wezesha Class of 2025 EFAC didn't just hand her a pen to write her story; it gave her the power to own it.


2017


2021


2025

My story begins among flower farms, wheat fields, and the calloused hands of women who carried families on their backs. My mum was one of these hardworking women. Some days she bent over rows of roses destined for export; on others, she harvested wheat under the highland sun. On lean days, she patched together casual jobs, her wages thin but her will unbroken. With help from her sisters and the kindness of neighbours, she kept us afloat. Many times, it was those little acts of kindness that made the difference between staying in school and being sent home for unpaid fees.

I was not the star of my class. But I was not invisible either; just the bright but quiet child who harboured dreams that changed with the seasons in the small town of Timau on the foothills of Mt. Kenya. One day, I wanted to be a pilot (mostly because of the sunglasses), then an accountant, sometimes a receptionist. But cardiologist was my favourite – not because I understood it, but because it sounded important. What was more important was the inner knowing that I wanted to belong to a world bigger than Timau.

My life bent toward change the day I stepped through the gates of Starehe Girls' Centre. Just being there felt like cheating fate. But the true miracle came folded in a letterhead stamped with four simple letters: EFAC. I had applied for the scholarship without fanfare, almost timidly, scribbling my hopes into boxes I wasn't sure I deserved to tick. I expected silence. What arrived was acceptance. And with that, I was no longer just a girl from Timau. I was an EFAC scholar.

Holding hope for myself and others

EFAC became a family. The workshops, mentorship sessions, and leadership trainings brought together teenagers from different corners of Kenya. I remember the first time I stood to speak in one of those sessions; my hands shook so much, I almost dropped my notes. But when I finished, everyone clapped, not out of politeness, but as if to say, "We see you. Keep going."

The entire EFAC community continues to light the way. The mentors who guided me and reminded me to breathe; the staff who made everything seem effortless behind the scenes; the alumni whose stories lit a fire in me, and my fellow scholars who've become like family. Together, they've not just supported my growth, but they've made sure I never forgot to laugh, even at myself, along the way.

Today, I wear a nurse's white coat, something that still amazes the little girl from Timau. I trained at Pumwani School of Nursing and Midwifery and gained clinical experience at some of Nairobi's busiest hospitals. I've also earned certifications from the World Health Organization in infection prevention and humanitarian safeguarding. But for me, nursing isn't just a job. It's a service. It's standing with people in their most vulnerable moments, easing pain, offering comfort, holding hope.

Every time I walk through the hospital corridors, I carry the memory of that uncertain girl who once doubted if she would ever matter. Now I know that I matter and my story unfolds, not in whispers of timidness, but in steady, clear sentences proclaiming, Even in the smallest towns like Timau, brilliance waits to be believed in.

Becoming the Light: Sharon George's Story

A chronicle of resilience, rebellion, and self-discovery. Written by Shelmith Lerionka, Wezesha Class of 2025, and EFAC Communications Intern.


2017


2019


2025

When Sharon George Narangi speaks, her words strike like a sword forged in fire but polished with grace. In addition to studying law at the University of Nairobi, she is a tech enthusiast trained at EldoHub Academy and member of the University of Nairobi Students Association. She also founded Expression Hub Africa, a platform to empower underprivileged communities through art, storytelling, and innovation. But the road to success was anything but smooth.

Sharon grew up in Pipeline, Embakasi, an informal neighborhood on the east side of Nairobi city. "I used to ask myself why other people have it all and not me or my family. But one thing I knew was going to work out was that I was going to win. God was going to send a way out."

Her inner fire burned quietly within. It was a conviction so strong that even in moments of despair, Sharon refused to let go of hope. When it came to pursuing her secondary education, Sharon knew her dreams demanded boldness. She applied for three scholarships – Equity, EFAC, and Safaricom Foundation – determined that at least one would open the door.

EFAC responded, illuminating the path to her dream school, Alliance Girls' High School. "I wanted to challenge myself, to tap my fullest potential," she explains.

But life tested her resolve. She received a letter to join a different school. "I cried," she admits. "My mum and brother told me to settle, but I couldn't. How was I going to be president one day if I didn't go to Alliance?" she laughs. With raw determination, she approached Mary Kiguru, EFAC's Director at the time, and asked to be assisted in moving schools. Something in Sharon's tears, in her fiery persistence, moved Kiguru. Against all odds, she got into the school of her choice. That moment cemented something vital: her voice mattered.

Finding a sanctuary in EFAC

"I escaped reality at home through EFAC workshops," Sharon says. "The great meals, the mentors, the chance to speak and be applauded instead of scolded – it was heaven for me." Her favorite memories swirl around the support system EFAC built for her: workshops on depression where she felt seen, laptops and phones gifted during the pandemic that reminded her she was worthy, and the mentors who became family. "EFAC gave me something I could not get elsewhere: protection, love, and the assurance that my voice deserved space," Sharon says.

Today, Sharon wears her identity like a crown. From her attachment at Keroka Law Courts to her legal tech internship at Swanya Law Advocates, from the founding of Expression Hub Africa to her electrifying public speaking at Oration Hub Nairobi, she is living proof that resilience can become a launchpad.

Reclaiming her story, she can confidently say: "Sharon George Narangi is not just a name on a scholarship list. She is a revolution in motion, a young woman who has turned scars into courage, silence into speech, and pain into power."

By James Muriuki

EFAC Walks with Us, All the Way

James Muriuki, Wezesha Class of 2025, remembers being a boy in Kiserian, fresh out of primary school, staring at a blurry future. Now, his star shines bright, illuminating his future as an Applied Computing student and a budding performer.


2017


2021


2025

It all started so simply. My Kiswahili teacher, Mrs. Muchai, called me to her office one afternoon. My mother stood beside me, a little nervous, as I was handed some forms to fill out. I had no idea what they were for. I just poured my heart out onto those pages; no polish, no plan, just my truth. I didn't know it then, but that was the first step on a path that would change my life. A few weeks later, after my KCPE results came in, my mother got the call: I'd been selected for the EFAC scholarship. Only now, after walking the full stretch of that journey, do I truly understand what a monumental moment that was.

High school at St. Mary's Boys, Nyeri, was a dream come true. With school fees fully covered, I was free to simply be a student: to learn, explore, and grow. But the real magic happened during the EFAC holiday workshops. They were more than just sessions; they were a lifeline. We talked about everything – from personal development and financial literacy to health and mental well-being.

At one such workshop, I found my voice, , while performing onstage with my good friend Antony. Our spoken word piece, "I Don't Give a Damn," became our anthem – a bold declaration to keep pushing forward despite the critics. The crowd loved it, and our popularity soared! Later, my solo piece, "Jamoh Ule Msee," became my grand introduction to the EFAC family. From there, I made lifelong friendships. Off stage, I ruled the dance floor; on the field, I was a striker with more medals than I could count. And of course, the workshops had one more unforgettable highlight: the food!

Learning by becoming a mentor

Choosing a university course in 2021 felt like trying to solve a Rubik's Cube blindfolded. But once again, EFAC stepped in, this time bringing in KUCCPS officials to guide us through our options. I picked KCA University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Applied Computing and relished the thought of growing my love for the performing arts.

At KCAU, I joined the drama club, and we made it all the way to the nationals at Dedan Kimathi University, a huge win for me, especially after only reaching regionals in high school. EFAC's Bridge-to-Success workshops came when I needed them most, helping me navigate new challenges like relationships, independence, and even building my personal brand.

That's also when I decided to give back by becoming an EFAC peer mentor. In early 2024, I proudly earned my peer mentoring certification. Since then, I've attended Bridge-to-Collegeworkshops as a mentor, guiding younger scholars through school, sharing life hacks, and facilitating creative sessions like poetry. Ironically, teaching others became my greatest lesson. It sharpened my leadership skills and helped me open up socially – quite the feat for an introvert like me, though people are always surprised when I tell them that.

Today, as I look back at that small boy filling out application forms with no idea what was ahead, I am filled with deep gratitude. EFAC didn't just fund my education; it walked with me all the way. It built my confidence, shaped my purpose, and gave me a family that believes in me. With EFAC, I've learned that success is not just about getting to a destination, but it's about growing all the way there.

By Perpetua Makokha

It Takes a Village

Perpetua Awino Makokha, Wezesha Class of 2025, on the power of collaboration and partnerships to make dreams come true.

When I think of life before EFAC, the phrase that comes to mind is silent chaos.


2017

I'm the sixth-born in a family of eight. My father was a casual labourer, and in May of my final year in primary school, he lost his job. Just like that, everything changed. We had to pack up and move from Baringo, in the Rift Valley, to a hidden village called Nasira in western Kenya – a place I loved but also secretly hid from my friends. Why? Because it didn't even appear on Google Maps! To get mobile network, you literally had to climb a tree.


2021

Switching schools was hard. I felt out of place, but in my father's house, failure was not an option. I pushed through, worked hard, and did well in my final examinations. But when it came time to join high school, reality hit like a brick wall. There was no money, no plan, no hope. Neighbours asked when I was joining school, but no one had an answer. Days turned into weeks, and my classmates were already gone.


2025

Then one day, the phone rang. On the other end was EFAC, which partners with Dandelion Africa, a community-based organization in Baringo, to find and support students in the most remote places. Without this partnership, my name would've slipped between the cracks. But because EFAC and Dandelion Africa worked hand in hand, even a girl from a village not on the map got a chance to dream again. That's what collaboration does. It ensures that no one is left behind.

Giving back transforms communities

It wasn't until I joined high school at Vanessa Grant Girls' School that I knew the power behind being an EFAC scholar. The mentorship offered through EFAC workshops and programs, especially, has been life-changing. As a young girl trying to find my footing, I had mentors who believed in me even when I didn't believe in myself. Later, I also became a mentor to younger scholars, and that experience taught me that giving back is one of life's greatest joys.

Wendo Aszed, the founder of Dandelion Africa, continues to inspire me. I've watched her grow Dandelion from a tiny office– the same one where I was first interviewed – into a thriving organization, creating spaces where young people, especially girls, can find their voice, rise, and give back to their communities.

Today, as I pursue my degree in Project Management at Kenyatta University, and through my internships at Storymoja Africa, 4G Capital, and Mentors Without Borders, I carry the lessons that EFAC and Dandelion Africa planted in me: resilience, gratitude, and purpose.

To everyone who supports EFAC – donors, mentors, partners – thank you. You're not just funding education; you're transforming families and communities at large. You're proving that when we come together, we change the world. Keep soaring!

Reflections From the Wezesha Class of 2025



JOYNER WAMBUI

"Sometimes, all a dream needs is a chance. EFAC gave me that chance when I had almost lost hope. Being an EFAC scholar put me in a position where opportunities do not bypass me. Also, the right opportunities can unlock not just potential, but purpose."

EVERLINE LUMONYE

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to EFAC for the belief they had in me to sponsor my education to this level. It didn't only impact a single person but also a whole community."

JOYCE MUTHONI

"Today, I stand here not as the little uneducated girl I was eight years ago, but as an empowered, promising EFAC beneficiary who has been given the power to navigate the world in sheer excellence."

IAN MUSTAI

"With EFAC's guidance, I became a peer counselor and even secured an internship that led to a job. EFAC taught me that no background is too humble for greatness."

FRANCIS MONAMBA

"If there is one thing the world should know about EFAC, it is that it doesn't just provide scholarships, it transforms lives. EFAC sees potential where others see struggle, and it turns dreams that seemed impossible into real, achievable goals."

MAGDALYNE AKWARE

"EFAC didn't just pay my fees, it believed in my potential, and that belief sparked a ripple effect: one opportunity leading to another, one achievement leading to purpose."

Reflections From the Wezesha Class of 2025

NEEMA MWAKIO

Do not give a man a fish every day; he will forever be hungry, but teach a man how to fish, and he will never go hungry. EFAC mentorship and training have taught me about investment and entrepreneurship. The skills and lessons I learned helped me to successfully start and manage a small hotel near Moi University, which has facilitated a smooth university life and experience without being dependent on anyone."



PETER NJUGUNA

Growing up in Kinangop with my single mother and elder brother, I had to work from age 13 to help with household needs. When my teacher told me about EFAC, I applied in hope, and when I was selected, it felt like a miracle. Suddenly, my dreams had a real chance

SHELMITH LERIONKA

"I come from Esilanke village in Kajiado, where life was a daily struggle with no shoes, little food, but big dreams. EFAC turned my pain into purpose. Through their mentorship, I learned that my story had power."

JAMES MURIUKI

"The journey from Kiserian to university felt impossible until EFAC intervened. The workshops sharpened my voice, polished my confidence, and showed me how to own my story, and mentor others. Those moments changed me forever."

JULIANA KOKI

"EFAC changed my life completely. Growing up in Narok, I saw how girls were often denied the chance to dream; many were forced into early marriages, while others dropped out of school. I feared that would be my fate too. But EFAC became my second family, giving me the strength and support to chase my dreams."

ALEX NYALE

"I remember finishing homework by the faint kerosene lamp and walking long distances to school. When EFAC chose me, it was more than relief–it was a statement that someone believed I could belong. That belief lifted me and continues to propel me forward."

Transforming Potential into Opportunity

By Beth Wokabi,
EFAC Director of Programs



Each year, thousands of bright Kenyan students sit for their national exams with dreams as vast as the skies above their villages. Yet for many, those dreams risk fading, not for lack of ability, but for lack of opportunity. EFAC's motto, Educate, Elevate, Employ, is at the heart of this gap and the theme of this year's graduation.

For us, offering a scholarship is only the beginning. We believe that a young person's future cannot be built on academics alone.

Mentorship, exposure, community, and the nurturing of character– soft skills that turn knowledge into impact – are equally important.

When a 14-year-old from Turkana, Kisii, or Mombasa joins a top national school through EFAC's support, their needs go far beyond school fees. Many come carrying not only potential but also heavy responsibilities from home. Our commitment ensures their basic needs – books, uniforms, and peace of mind - are met, freeing them to focus on learning.

In fact, it is at the mentorship workshops where transformation truly begins. There, students encounter their peers - future doctors, teachers, engineers, and changemakers. Learning about leadership, values, communication, and emotional intelligence, the camps become incubators of identity. As one Wezesha graduate put it, "EFAC taught me not just to dream, but to plan, to act, and to give back."

Education opens the door, but employability skills ensure one can walk through it. The transition from university to the world of work is often the most uncertain for many young people. EFAC's alumni and career readiness programs train scholars on CV writing, interview preparation, networking, and professional ethics. Through partnerships with institutions and employers, students gain internships and job shadowing opportunities that make theory meet reality. By the time they graduate, they are not just degree-holders, but confident, capable young professionals ready to contribute to Kenya's growth.

Holistic education that multiplies itself

Janet, an EFAC scholar from Baringo, is a testament to this transformation. When she joined the program, she was a quiet student with big dreams but little exposure. Today, she leads sustainability projects for a climate innovation firm - a career shaped by her passion for the environment and the confidence she gained through mentorship. "I learned how to translate my passion into a profession," she says. Her story mirrors that of over 200 alumni across the country, who are quietly shaping communities and inspiring others to believe that education truly can change lives.

Perhaps the most beautiful fruit of EFAC's work is not just the success of individual students but the ripple effect they create. Many alumni return to mentor current scholars, sponsor new students, or initiate community projects. They have become the very role models they once looked up to. This cycle of empowerment is the final icing on the cake. When one young person's potential is transformed into opportunity, entire families, schools, and communities begin to change.

What truly prepares bright students for the future is EFAC's unwavering belief that education is not only about what one knows, but who one becomes. From potential to opportunity, and from opportunity to impact – that is the EFAC journey.

It Takes a Village

By Mary Kiguru,
EFAC *Director, Strategic Partnerships*



In Africa, where youth represent the majority of the population, graduates entering today's job market need more than qualifications. They need networks, exposure, confidence, and support to turn knowledge into opportunity. Our employability programs are founded on the same belief as our scholarships: it takes a village to shape well-educated, future-ready young professionals.

Traditionally, African communities raised children together. Success was collective. Having established a successful scholarship program on the strength of our partners and supporters, EFAC carries this wisdom into our employability training.

How EFAC's ecosystem builds pathways to youth employment

Our village includes educational institutions, employers and industry partners, mentors and teachers, the EFAC community, alumni, and the scholars themselves. Through collective action, every part of the ecosystem is playing a symbiotic role in transforming potential into leadership. Together, these strands weave a safety net that turns graduates into employable, empowered experts.

Education Partnerships: Academic Strength to Stand On
Top high schools and universities provide scholars not only with quality education but also with career guidance, exposure to leadership roles, and environments where talent is recognized early.

Mentorship: Guidance That Opens Doors
Every scholar is matched with both professional and peer mentors. Mentors coach them through career choices, personal development, and workplace readiness. They help scholars visualize success and build the confidence to pursue it.

Employer Engagement: Connecting Talent to Opportunity
Industry partners offer career talks, project collaborations, internships, and job placements. By learning directly from employers, scholars gain practical insight into real-world work environments and emerging opportunities in AI and digital economies.

Community Service: A Leadership Training Ground
Scholars serve where they come from. They learn responsibility, empathy, and problem-solving while building networks beyond academic settings. Communities become both beneficiaries and champions of student success.

Alumni Network: Peer Role Models Lighting the Way
EFAC alumni return as mentors, employers, and inspirations. Their success proves what is possible and reinforces a culture of giving back, closing the loop for future generations.

Annual Village Convening: Networking Into the Future
Once a year, all stakeholders meet to build relationships, share knowledge, and connect scholars directly with internship and employment pathways. These events simulate the power of professional associations and networks essential in modern careers.

The scholars themselves: Peer Mentorship program
High scholars mentor each other to ensure they are achieving their academic goals and being proactive in community service. At the post-secondary level, a strong group of peer mentors visits the high schools, but also mentors their peers at the university, creating a support system among the scholars.

Strengthening the village for the AI future

Young people entering today's job market face a shifting landscape influenced increasingly by Artificial Intelligence. The village is no longer just local; it is global. As a result, traditional work setups are opening up to include remote freelancing and consultancy-based work. The employment space will therefore seek adaptable and digitally fluent talent. The gig economy rewards initiative. Remote work rewards digital fluency. AI rewards creativity and problem-solving. EFAC prepares scholars to excel in all three.

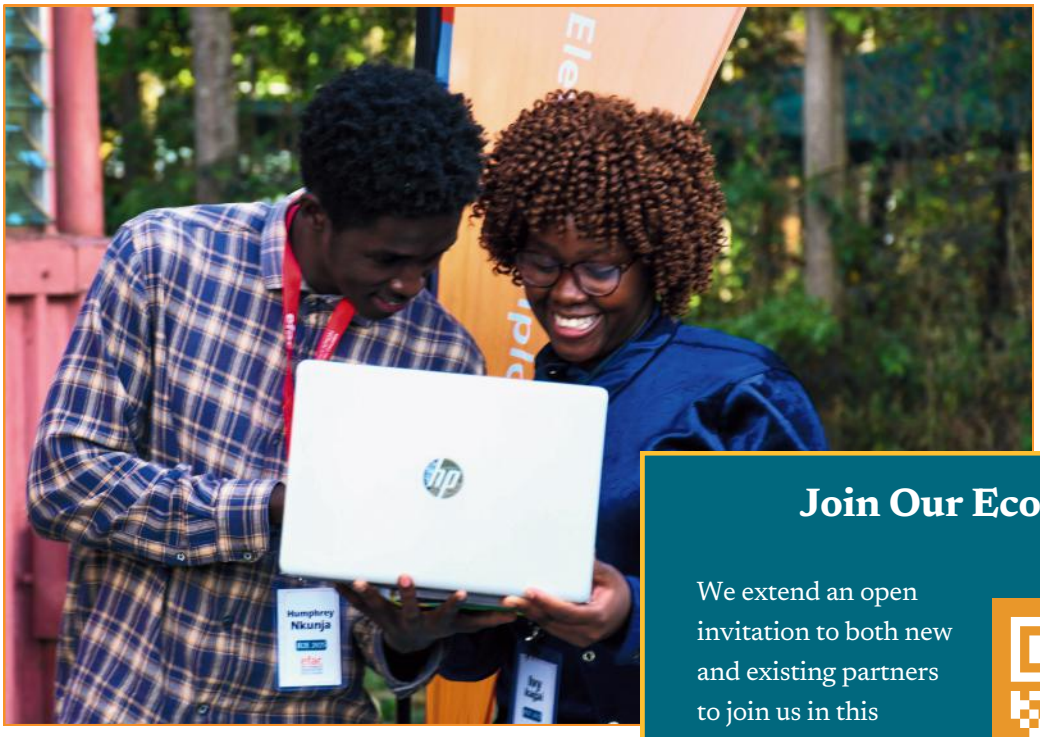
EFAC continues to evolve its employability ecosystem to ensure scholars thrive in an economy that values digital readiness through tech and AI literacy, entrepreneurial thinking, and innovation mindsets, as well as communication, collaboration, and adaptability. Additionally, we strive to create opportunities for rural and marginalized youth to participate equally, building strong professional and peer networks for lifelong support.

A launchpad, not just a scholarship

Every program touchpoint – from the classroom to mentorship to industry collaboration – pushes scholars toward meaningful work. EFAC surrounds young people with those who believe in their potential and invest in their success.

After eight years of growth, from high-potential but underserved to university-ready and leadership-equipped, the Class of 2024 (48 scholars) crossed the finish line. One alumnus earned a Duke of Edinburgh award; another stepped into the Africa SDGs Mentorship Program, proof that EFAC's village is delivering tangible outcomes.

With a village behind them, EFAC scholars enter the future not just to survive, but to lead.



Join Our Ecosystem!

We extend an open invitation to both new and existing partners to join us in this journey. Together, we can shape the future of Kenya's youth, paving the way for a brighter, more prosperous tomorrow.

By Judy Nyakwara,
EFAC Career Development Manager

The Cutting Edge Employee

The workplace is undergoing a seismic shift. Disruption, uncertainty, and constant change have become the new normal. The employees who thrive today are not those who simply follow the script, but those who reinvent themselves through a profound mindset shift. These are the cutting-edge employees: professionals who rise above the ordinary to become problem-solvers, innovators, and purpose-driven leaders. They understand that the future of work demands more than skills – it demands a new way of thinking.

From Fixed to Growth Mindset
Gone are the days when intelligence was seen as fixed. Cutting-edge employees refuse to be boxed in by old habits. Instead of saying, "This is how I've always done it," they ask, "What can I learn to do better?" For them, setbacks are not failures but stepping stones toward mastery.
Mindset shift: See failure as feedback, and effort as investment.

From Task Execution to Value Creation
In the traditional workplace, success was measured by how many tasks were completed. Today, it's about impact. The cutting-edge employee thinks beyond the checklist, asking: "How does my work contribute to team success, organizational goals, and societal change?"
Mindset shift: Think beyond the job description – aim for impact, not activity.

From Comfort Zones to Adaptability
Change is no longer the exception; it's the rule. Whether it's new technologies, shifting markets, or global disruptions, adaptability has become a survival skill. Cutting-edge employees embrace uncertainty, pivot with confidence, and transform disruption into opportunity.
Mindset shift: Move from resisting change to riding its wave.

From Individual Achievement to Collective Intelligence
The lone "star performer" is giving way to collaborative brilliance. Success now depends on emotional intelligence – the ability to empathize, listen, and harness collective strengths. Cutting-edge employees know that in today's world, we rise faster when we rise together.
Mindset shift: Replace competition with collaboration, and isolation with inclusion.

From Job Security to Lifelong Learning
The promise of a single secure job has faded. Careers today are fluid, shaped by constant reinvention. Cutting-edge employees understand that skills – not positions – are the true currency of the future. They invest relentlessly in digital know-how, soft skills, and leadership development.
Mindset shift: Anchor your security in skills, not positions.

From Success to Significance
At the highest level, cutting-edge employees pursue more than a paycheck. They are driven by purpose. They ask: "How does my work improve lives? What problems am I solving?" In seeking meaning, they not only inspire themselves but also elevate those around them.
Mindset shift: Move from chasing success to creating significance.

The Final Word
The cutting-edge employee is more than a worker – they are a catalyst for change. They embody resilience, curiosity, adaptability, and purpose. In a world where the only constant is change, the true differentiator is not technical expertise but mindset. So, pause and ask yourself: Am I clinging to the old ways of working, or am I stepping into the mindset of a cutting-edge employee?

Investing in the Beacon of Education

By Harleen Sehmi,
EFAC Communications Consultant

As a member of the US and Kenya Boards, George Trumbull's impact on Kenyan students will continue to resonate far into the future, thanks in part to his legacy gift to EFAC.

Mounted in George Trumbull's study is the quote 'Joy is the present life gives you when you give away your gifts to others.' When he retired in 2011 after decades as a business leader working around the world, George established the Trumbull Family Foundation Inc. with his wife, Lyn. The words became his north star when she passed away, and George found a new focus as a board member of Education For All Children (EFAC).

The education-to-employment program for Kenyan youth has been a beneficiary of the foundation since 2014. EFAC is the only organization in the Trumbull Family Foundation Inc.'s portfolio working outside the United States, and it is perhaps the closest to George's heart. After serving on the board for seven years, he has made a provision to include EFAC in his legacy plan. "At some point in time, we won't be around to provide guidance," he explains, "but there will still be some financial support."

Education was strongly valued in the Trumbull household when George was growing up, and it remains a cornerstone of the family foundation. George graduated from Dartmouth College on scholarship and immediately embarked on a Master of Business Administration at the Tuck School of Business in 1966. Rod Van Sciver, who co-founded EFAC in 2008 with Nancy Van Sciver and Prof. Leah Marangu, was one of his graduate program classmates.

The alums reconnected after George learned about EFAC in 2013 and soon made a three-year commitment. "I shared their belief that the only real way to make fundamental change is through education," he explains. He also served on the organization's Advisory Board for two years before Lyn's passing in October 2016.

The turning point was in 2017 when he travelled to Kenya with Rod and Nancy. He witnessed how EFAC's scholarship program was helping Kenyan students and transforming their families. "That trip literally changed my life," remarks George. Gaining a new perspective as he moved through the grief of his wife's loss, he became a member of EFAC's board.

"The robust mentoring program is another thing that attracted me to EFAC," he adds. Whether as a sponsor or a board member, George has walked hand in hand with students on their journey from secondary school through university and into the job market. Having had mentors who significantly impacted his career, he also finds joy in sharing his expertise with the young professionals emerging from the EFAC program.

Reflecting on his legacy, George always thought being the chief executive of a large global company was the pinnacle. Thanks to his fulfulling journey with EFAC, now he is certain: "The highlight of my life will have been the opportunity I've had to help change so many lives."

We are excited to launch the EFAC Legacy Society, which recognizes and honors loyal supporters who have included EFAC in their estate plans, ensuring that we can continue to make an impact for many generations to come.
If you would like to explore the various gift options that align with your charitable wishes and financial goals, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Cooper at (401) 578-7331 or kcooper@efac.org.



George Trumbull (right) at a previous EFAC event

By Katie,
EFAC Sponsor

A Privilege Beyond Measure

Reflections from an EFAC Sponsor

When EFAC sponsor Katie first traveled to Kenya, she didn't know the journey would touch her life so deeply. Through EFAC, she found a way to keep giving back to the country she loves by supporting young scholars with big dreams. For her, being a sponsor is pure joy, a reminder that one act of kindness can change a life and ripple out to change many more.

I first set foot in Kenya in 2006. As a nurse practitioner, I was part of a medical volunteer group serving both rural and urban communities. I returned in 2007, and by that time, my husband, Josh, also visited. We knew we had fallen in love with the people, the culture, and the country. Two years later, in 2009, we adopted from Kenya. I lived there for much of that year, while Josh visited frequently. It became home to our hearts.

When we later learned about EFAC, we immediately understood its value. The human potential in Kenya and indeed in all developing nations is immeasurable. The question is never one of ability, but of opportunity. Many of Kenya's challenges are far too complex for any one person to solve, but we've seen firsthand how a single child can thrive and change the trajectory of their family and community when given the chance to learn in a stable, nurturing environment.

For us, the most rewarding part of being EFAC sponsors has been the personal connection. Many large charities measure impact through numbers, and while data matters, it rarely captures the human touch. EFAC feels different. It's big enough to make a real difference, yet small enough to make you feel like you're part of a family. The letters, the updates, the stories, all of them remind us that this is not abstract giving. It's relationship. It's community.



Each interaction with our scholars has been deeply fulfilling. In one case, we had known a single mother in Nairobi whose daughter we encouraged to apply to EFAC. In others, we were matched with scholars we had never met before. Regardless of how each connection began, EFAC's thoughtful communication from the formal updates to the heartfelt letters from scholars has been a consistent source of joy and meaning for our entire family.

We've had the privilege of seeing what I'd call the compounding of human capital. One of our scholars, for instance, moved from high school to university through EFAC and later secured a great job. But what inspired us most wasn't her professional success - it was her instinct to give back. She's helping her siblings and supporting her community, living out the same spirit of generosity that first opened the door for her.

Our dream for every scholar is simple: that they gain the education, confidence, and social connections that will allow them to see and seize what's possible. Kenya's story is still being written; it's a young country, just over sixty years old, with so much promise ahead. Having lived and worked there, we know progress doesn't come from a single act or a quick fix—it's built one brick at a time, one scholar at a time.

Being an EFAC sponsor is a humbling experience. We believe deeply in the potential of each scholar, and it's an honor to play even a small part in their journey. Success takes a village, and we are grateful to EFAC for creating one that reaches across oceans, connecting hearts, dreams, and futures.

Wezesha Comes Full Circle

By Delva Mugo,
EFAC Program Officer

When EFAC sponsor Katie first traveled to Kenya, she had no idea that one of the lives she would touch so deeply would one day come full circle. That life is Delva's - an EFAC alumna and graduate of Economics and Sociology, who now serves as Program Officer for EFAC's High School Program, walking alongside scholars just as others once walked with her. Through this article, we experience firsthand the power of support and how that finds its way back.

I joined EFAC about fifteen years ago. Young, as timid as they come, but with the zeal to be someone great in the future. My story began long before that, when my mother met an amazing woman named Katie through a mutual acquaintance. At the time, Katie, who had been working in Kenya, was on an adoption journey, and my mum helped care for the children (Katie's adopted children) while raising me on her own.

My mum had never gone to college, but she carried a fierce dream that her children would. Education was her prayer for us. When Katie returned to the United States, she was introduced to EFAC and immediately thought of me. She encouraged my mum to help me apply, and by God's grace, I passed my exams and met EFAC's requirements. That was the beginning of a journey that would change my life forever.

Through EFAC, I joined Vanessa Grant Girls' School, where I received not only an education but also hope, guidance, and support at every step. Coming from a family where education wasn't strongly emphasized, I often felt unsure about the path ahead. But EFAC became my compass.

I still remember a turning point after finishing high school, during the EFAC transition workshop. Our current Director of Programs, Beth, gave a talk that opened my eyes to possibility. She said, "Don't limit yourself to one course or one university; open your mind to what could be." Those words changed something in me. I made a quiet promise that one day, I would be that voice for someone else, especially an EFAC scholar.



Delva facilitates an EFAC Mentor's Training Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya

Today, that dream has come true. Working at EFAC gives me the privilege to walk beside young students navigating the same uncertainties I once faced. Every time I talk to them, I want them to know that no matter where they are in life, they will figure it out, and that they're not alone.

Katie, my sponsor, has always been more than a name on paper. She has been a mentor, a parent figure, and a constant light. Writing letters to her as a student wasn't just correspondence; it was a classroom in itself. I learned grammar, confidence, and new ways to see the world.

Looking back now, I realize how easy it is to take such moments for granted. But with time, you understand that every bit of support, every word of encouragement, every letter - it all builds who you become. It all built who I have become.

EFAC shaped me in every way. It gave me wings and then handed me the chance to help others fly. I will always carry that with me.

A Bond Beyond Borders

Meet the Roberts family and the EFAC scholars they sponsor

By Kayla Lawson,
EFAC Sponsor Program Manager



Fisher, Faustine, Owen, and Kelvin during a recent trip in Kenya

At EFAC, the connection between sponsors and scholars goes far beyond financial support – it's about shared dreams, mutual growth, and the beautiful exchange of humanity that bridges continents. When sponsors like the Roberts family open their hearts to support education, they don't just change lives, they become part of a story. A story of hope, mentorship, and friendship that continues to ripple through the EFAC community.

Introduced to EFAC by their grandfather Bill, Fisher and Owen Roberts sponsor two students with their dad and grandfather. They have been sponsoring EFAC scholars Kelvin and Faustine through their education journeys since 2020. Fisher and Owen, the youngest members of the family, share their reflections on what sponsorship has meant to them.

What has been the most rewarding moment for you as sponsors? "One of the most rewarding moments for us was traveling to Kenya and meeting Faustine and Kelvin in person," says Fisher. "In Nairobi, we were warmly welcomed by the EFAC team and spent time learning about the program's impact. Walking with them onto their new university campuses for the first time - seeing their excitement and pride was unforgettable. Supporting them in reaching this milestone was deeply moving and incredibly fulfilling."

What hopes or dreams do you have for the scholars you support? "Our greatest hope is that Faustine and Kelvin continue to thrive academically while embracing every new opportunity," says Owen. "They're intelligent, compassionate, and determined. We want them to feel confident in exploring their paths and, someday, give back to others as they've been supported. Watching them grow into capable young leaders is an incredible privilege."

In one sentence, how would you describe the feeling of being an EFAC sponsor? "Being a sponsor is a rewarding blend of responsibility, pride, and purpose as you support someone else's growth and success."

"I'm glad to have Fisher and Owen as my sponsors. What excites me most is that we're of the same age group. It makes our conversations so easy and real. Whether we're talking about school life or what's happening beyond it, they're always ready to listen and share thoughts. Their support has lifted a significant financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies and pursue my dreams. Thank you for believing in me." Kelvin

"The support from the Roberts family goes far beyond funding; it's an investment in my potential and a genuine human connection. What truly motivates me are my conversations with Fisher, who shares wonderful insights about high school and campus life. Knowing they believe in me makes me feel like I have a dedicated team helping me build a future." Faustine

A Shared Journey

The Roberts–Kelvin–Faustine connection captures the heart of EFAC's mission; that education flourishes best within relationships built on empathy, trust, and shared purpose. Through this bond, the world feels a little smaller, the future a little brighter, and the journey – truly shared.

Building Tomorrow's Innovators

Wavumbuzi Team



EFAC's Eric Malavi receives award on behalf of EFAC from Wavumbuzi Country Director Dr. Roselyn Marandu-Kareithi

EFAC partner Wavumbuzi breaks down why it's vital to spark entrepreneurial thinking early. Through the Wavumbuzi Entrepreneurship Challenge, students learn to see problems as opportunities and ideas as tools for change. Wavumbuzi is nurturing young innovators ready to build, lead, and shape Africa's future.

Most entrepreneurs wish they had started younger. What if we could give an entire generation that advantage? Many dream of leading meaningful lives, where they can add value to society and contribute to their economies. Entrepreneurship is one way of leading a meaningful life. Having the right entrepreneurial attitudes, abilities, and actions can give one a lifelong advantage. We admire the success stories and the resilience of those who have built thriving businesses, but often, we're left wondering how to begin.

Navigating the complex world of entrepreneurship takes more than just willpower; it requires a specific set of attitudes, abilities, and actions. The challenge is that most people only discover this after leaving school, when career paths have already been chosen and entrepreneurial thinking feels foreign rather than natural.

The breakthrough lies in early exposure: imagine being introduced to this world in secondary school – exposed to real-world problems, inspired by entrepreneurial stories, and challenged to see problems in various industries as opportunities for innovation and business creation.
When students are empowered with an entrepreneurial mindset and action during their formative years, entrepreneurship can become a viable career option rather than an intimidating leap into the unknown.

That's exactly what the Wavumbuzi Entrepreneurship Challenge is: a long-term ecosystem talent pipeline for nurturing a critical mass of young people who will be tomorrow's high-impact entrepreneurs. A flagship program of Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy EA, the Wavumbuzi Entrepreneurship Challenge is a state-of-the-art program designed to be a catalyst for entrepreneurial aspirations by equipping the next generation to be job creators, not seekers

Through industry-inspired Quests, learners move from passive learning to active problem-solving, developing key entrepreneurial skills such as: Initiative-taking, Innovative problem-solving, resourcefulness, Opportunity recognition and assessment, and Mobilizing others. These are among the 18 most piercing attitudes, abilities and actions experts in the field associate with becoming a successful high-impact entrepreneur.

This talent for pipeline-building is particularly crucial for Africa. The continent is often spotlighted as a rising economic powerhouse, driven by a young, dynamic population, immense untapped potential, and growing innovative capacity. Yet despite these advantages, youth unemployment remains high. Too few innovations are transformed into sustainable ventures. Kenya, through programs like Wavumbuzi, is demonstrating how early entrepreneurship education can unlock this potential and transform Africa's demographic advantage into economic prosperity.

To break down some of these barriers, integrating entrepreneurship education and training into mainstream education systems is no longer optional; it is a critical step toward Africa's entrepreneurial revolution and future. As philanthropist Strive Masiyiwa emphasized at the 2025 World Economic Forum: ***"As part of formal education in our high schools, we need to introduce a course in entrepreneurship, which is examined in the same way as other school subjects. Students leaving high school must know the formal process of starting a business, including how to raise startup capital and pitch to investors."***

Mindset: The Engine of Productivity and Employability

By Peak Performance International

In today's fast-changing world, productivity is no longer about working harder, it's about working smarter, with purpose and the right mindset. For young people navigating education and the transition to work, mindset is the unseen force that shapes how they perceive challenges, seize opportunities, and turn potential into performance.

At Peak Performance, we've seen that the real difference between two equally talented students often lies in how they think. A growth mindset – believing that effort leads to mastery – helps students embrace feedback, stay resilient, and keep improving. A fixed mindset, on the other hand, limits progress. This mental framing determines how well young people use the tools and opportunities around them.

Cultivating productivity skills early creates a foundation for lifelong success. When students learn to set goals, manage time, and reflect on progress, they begin to see themselves as active participants in their growth. These habits directly enhance employability. Employers today seek individuals who are proactive, emotionally intelligent, and self-driven – traits built through discipline.

Performance coaching plays a key role in this transformation. Through our work with EFAC scholars, we've seen how structured mindset and productivity coaching unlocks focus, discipline, and self-awareness. Many students begin with limiting beliefs: "I'm not good enough" or "Others are naturally smarter." But coaching helps them reframe these thoughts, realizing that ability grows through practice and deliberate effort.

A critical part of coaching is helping students bridge the gap between effort and results. Many work hard but not strategically – studying long hours without understanding how to retain or apply what they learn. By learning reflective journalling, goal-setting, and deliberate practice, they build confidence and sustainable success. Productivity becomes a mindset rather than a checklist.

Beyond academics, a productive mindset develops emotional intelligence – essential for employability. It enables students to communicate effectively, adapt to change, and stay solution-focused under pressure. They begin to ask, "How can I grow through this?" instead of "Why is this happening to me?" – a powerful mental shift for any future professional.

Mindset shifts strengthen the ecosystem

One memorable example comes from a student who once felt overwhelmed and discouraged by his grades. Through coaching, he learned to set small, achievable goals and celebrate progress. Within months, his performance improved, and more importantly, his confidence grew. He began leading study groups and inspiring peers. That ripple effect – where one empowered student lifts others – is what accelerates productivity across an ecosystem.



EFAC Scholars in a session facilitated by PPI

When young people learn to manage themselves effectively, they naturally build more collaborative environments. They take initiative, share knowledge, and support group goals. This is how EFAC's vision of "building collaborative ecosystems that support youth employability" comes alive – through individuals who are productive, purposeful, and accountable.

As Kenya and Africa prepare the next generation for the future of work, mindset and productivity training must take center stage. Knowledge alone is not enough; what matters is the capacity to apply it consistently. Productivity bridges learning and doing, potential and impact. At Peak Performance, we believe that by equipping young people with the right mindset, tools, and habits, we do more than improve their grades – we shape leaders and innovators who can sustain excellence. Every young person, regardless of background, can grow, adapt, and thrive when they learn to think and act productively.

Supporting a Generation of Innovators

How EFAC and EldoHub Are Building Youth Employability Through Technology and Innovation

By Eldohub Team

Technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation are no longer optional skills for young people; they are the foundation for youth employability in Africa's digital economy. For the African youth, these competencies unlock opportunity, create self-reliance, and drive inclusive economic growth.

Why Tech and Entrepreneurship Skills Matter

Today's world is rapidly evolving, and traditional jobs are being redefined. Young people who are digitally literate and entrepreneurial are better positioned to create their own opportunities. Through entrepreneurship, youth learn to identify challenges within their communities, from finance and agriculture to health, and turn these into sustainable business solutions powered by technology.

Innovation further empowers them to think critically and creatively, ensuring they contribute to inclusive and sustainable economies. A young person in Eldoret with digital skills can now compete globally, secure remote jobs,ormanagedigital campaignsfor international companies from home. This is the promise of a connected Africa.

From Learning to Leadership

Beyond technical training, the partnership emphasizes mentorship, experiential learning, and leadership development. Students transition fromshy learners to confident professionals who can present their ideas, lead teams, and manage digital projects.

Over the past eight years, EldoHub has reached over 25,000 youth and women through digital and entrepreneurship programs, providing practical skills in areas like software development, data science, cybersecurity, and digital marketing. These programs don't just build employability, they create innovators who become employers and changemakers in their communities.

Scaling Impact Across Africa

EldoHub's vision aligns with EFAC's mission: to nurture a new generation of innovators who drive Africa's digital revolution. Moving forward, the partnership aims to expand access through smart digital learning initiatives that reach youth beyond Eldoret and across the continent of Africa.

By working closely with partners such as the Association of Countrywide Innovation Hubs (ACIH), EldoHub is strengthening ecosystems that connect students, educators, businesses, and investors, ensuring innovation thrives at every level.



EFAC & Eldohub Team during partnership signing

Driving Africa's Digital Future

True success isn't measured only by job placements but by the number of sustainable solutions young people create. The graduates emerging from this partnership are building applications, businesses, and platforms that advance economic growth and digital inclusion.

In today's fast-changing world, possessing tech, entrepreneurial, and innovative skills is no longer a luxury. It's a necessity. Together, EFAC and EldoHub are demonstrating that when institutions and innovation hubs collaborate, they can unlock Africa's full potential and prepare young people not just for employment, but for leadership in the digital age.

Lighting the Path

My Journey as an EFAC Teacher Mentor

By Gachuiri Tarchisio,
Kagumo High School



EFAC partners with some of the top high schools across Kenya, where dedicated Teacher Mentors help us walk closely with our scholars. They are the daily link between EFAC, the school, and the student. Through mentors like Mr. Gachuiri, our scholars find the care and direction they need to thrive.

When EFAC first reached out to my school to find a contact teacher, there was only one scholar in the program. Being the teacher in charge of sponsorships, the task naturally landed on my desk, and I gladly took it up, adding to the existing over 140 scholars already under my care. What began as a responsibility quickly became a calling.

I had always seen the gap in mentorship within our schools. As early as 2007, I was already involved in high school mentorship as a peer teacher, guiding students more on life choices than on academics. Over time, I became deeply passionate about supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds whose potential is often overlooked. EFAC gave me the platform to turn that passion into action. Teachers, I believe, are an important bridge between learners, parents, school administration, and EFAC. We are the ones who spend the most time with the students, who see their strengths, fears, and dreams unfold daily.

EFAC model's deep commitment to mentorship and long-term support stands out. While many programs focus solely on academic sponsorship and end their assistance after secondary school, EFAC walks with its scholars all the way, ensuring they grow into responsible and self-sufficient adults who can thrive in the job market. That continuity makes a profound difference. It transforms the idea of education from a one-time opportunity into a lifelong foundation. It is indeed a Bridge to Success.

The story of Frankline, the very first EFAC scholar I got to watch grow, is a true testament of this. From the timid and unsure boy who had joined the school in form one, it was fulfilling to watch him grow in confidence and intellect. Term after term, workshop after workshop, he grew to a fine young adult. So great was his growth that he vied, campaigned and was overwhelmingly elected as a captain. It goes without saying that he excelled in his final exam, but the highlight of his journey was when he remembered to come back as a peer mentor, his presence alone providing mentorship for the other EFAC scholars and the entire school population.

Nothing gives me greater joy as a teacher than seeing successful people who have passed through my hands. Each success story reminds me that my efforts are not in vain. Being part of EFAC has not only given me purpose but also countless opportunities to learn and grow. Through interactions with other teacher mentors and professional mentors, I have expanded my understanding of the diverse needs of learners. Working closely with EFAC staff and peer mentors has taught me valuable lessons on child protection, empathy and even the legal aspects of handling students.

EFAC, to me, is a community. It gives hope where there would otherwise be none. It nurtures potential in children who could have been forgotten and reminds all of us that brilliance is not defined by background or circumstance. For teachers, it provides the rare chance to go beyond academics; to touch hearts, guide lives and witness real change.

When I look at the young people we mentor, I see Kenya's future: bold, bright and ready. Programs like EFAC matter because they help shape that future, one child at a time. As Josh Shipp says, *"Every child is one caring adult away from being a success story."* The numerous success stories remind us that mentorship is not an act of charity, but an act of nation-building.

In the News

By Samwel Mwiko,
President, EFAC Alumni (EAA)

EFAC Alumni Association Marks Milestone with Registration and New Leadership

The EFAC Alumni Association has officially been registered and certified by the Registrar of Societies, marking a significant step in strengthening its structure and operations. Since the first class graduated in 2017, the association has grown steadily, now boasting more than 220 alumni across diverse professions and regions.

Beyond enhancing identity and visibility, the registration represents recognition of members' journey from scholars to professionals, shaping change in their communities. With this milestone, alumni can now speak with one voice, advocate for causes that matter, and build a legacy that reflects both EFAC's values and members' collective achievements. The formal establishment also opens new doors for collaboration with partners, institutions, and fellow alumni networks, ensuring the association is not only a source of fellowship but a driver of opportunity and positive change.

In May 2025, the association held elections, ushering in new leadership. The outgoing president, Simon Wanyoike, handed over to Samwel Mwiko, an electrical engineer and peer mentor since 201,3 who currently works in renewable energy. Cynthia Nyaguthii passed the vice presidency to Ann Waringa, a Procurement and Administration Officer and certified mentor, while Nkuraiya Wuama became Secretary. Ishmael Ngei took over as Treasurer from Joyce Waringa, with Boniface Were retaining his role as Welfare Officer. Peris Wamweu joined as Public Relations Officer, alongside new class representatives from 2013 through 2020, ensuring broad representation.

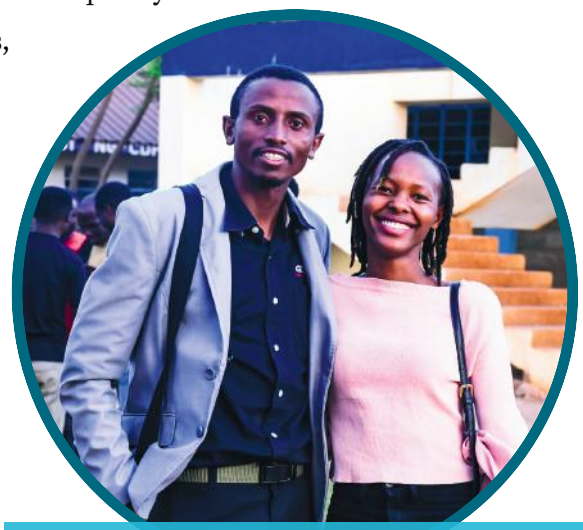
With official registration, a dedicated leadership team, and expanding membership, the EFAC Alumni Association is poised to grow into a vibrant network that nurtures fellowship and positively impacts communities. Over the past year, members have actively engaged through social and networking activities, including hikes and luncheons. The 2025 Annual General Meeting held in Ruiru drew members from across Nairobi, reflecting renewed energy and unity.

Looking ahead, the association has lined up community service initiatives and a get-together event to promote mentorship, give back to society, and strengthen connections among members. Vice President Ann Waringa, an alumna of the Wezesha Class of 2022, currently serves at the Women's Empowerment Link, advancing human rights and gender equality.

She continues to mentor and network with alumni and scholars, crediting EFAC for shaping her resilience, collaboration, and commitment to giving back. Her story reflects the strength of community and the power of mentorship—reminding us that people rise higher when they lift one another.



EFAC Alumni during a past meet up session



EFAC Alumni President Samuel Mwiko with fellow alumnus Nancy Chege

Beyond Us - Jenga Jamii!

By Regina Cheptoo,
EFAC Class of 2023



I grew up in West Pokot, a land of breathtaking hills and wide horizons, but also a place where many girls' dreams fade too soon. In my community, 74% of women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), 57% are married before their 18th birthday, and teenage pregnancy stands at 36%, more than double the national rate.

For most girls, the path is laid out early: undergo the cut, get married young, bear children, and spend your life in the struggle of survival. School, if it ever happens, rarely goes beyond the basics. I knew that reality too well. My own future felt uncertain until one opportunity changed everything.

In 2015, I was selected to join the Education For All Children (EFAC) program. That moment \ remains the turning point of my life. I joined Starehe Girls' Centre, one of Kenya's top national schools, where I encountered new ideas, confidence, and a community of girls who, like me, were determined to change their stories.

Through EFAC, I learned that education is more than personal advancement — it's a tool for transformation. We were encouraged to serve, mentor, and give back. It was there that I first understood what it means to lead with purpose and compassion.

After high school, EFAC continued to support me as I joined Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Medicine. My background in health revealed how deeply connected the challenges in my community are: poverty, gender inequality, poor health, and climate change all feed into one another. I realized that treating people medically was not enough; lasting change had to come from addressing the roots of these issues.

That realisation inspired me to found Jenga Jamii, which means *Build* the Community in Swahili. Jenga Jamii is a youth- and women-led organization based in West Pokot, focused on empowering adolescent girls, survivors of gender-based violence, and young mothers through education, health, climate resilience, and economic empowerment.

Through Jenga Jamii, we have reached more than 2,000 people with integrated programs that improve livelihoods and restore dignity. Over 150 survivors of gender-based violence have completed our financial literacy and skills training, enabling them to start businesses, adopt sustainable farming, and gain independence.

My journey has been shaped by many hands - mentors, teachers, fellow women who believed in me when the world didn't. That's why I lead with empathy. Every program I design comes from lived experience and deep connection to my community's struggles.

In 2025, I was honored to receive the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life, recognising our work at Jenga Jamii in empowering rural women through health education, economic inclusion, and climate resilience. The WWSF described our work as "strength in soil and solidarity," words that truly define our communities and the unity of women who refuse to be left behind. I was also humbled to be named among the Top 10 Young Changemakers in the North-West Region and Top 40 nationally by the Inclusion Climate Innovation Labs (ICIL), a reminder that lasting change begins right where we are.

Looking ahead, I envision Jenga Jamii growing into a leading grassroots foundation with national and regional influence. Every time I stand before a group of girls in Morpus or a women's cooperative in Chepareria, I see reflections of my younger self - unsure, yet full of potential. And I am reminded that I am here because someone believed in me. EFAC gave me that chance. Now, through Jenga Jamii, I am giving it to others, one girl at a time.

Building an Ecosystem, Through Code

By Eric Malavi, EFAC Communications & PR Officer



From the heart of Kibra to the world of code, Maxwell Ochieng - EFAC alumnus and creator of the EFAC Community Portal - is proof that innovation can grow from resilience. Now a developer at HuruPay, the fast-rising stablecoin banking platform founded by fellow EFAC scholar Philip Mburu, Max is using technology to connect, empower, and redefine what community means.

When you meet Maxwell Ochieng, better known as "Max, there's a calm assurance about him, the kind that comes from knowing where you've come from and what you've overcome. An EFAC Alumni of the Wezesha Class of 2024, Max is the young mind behind the EFAC Community Portal, a digital platform now connecting scholars, mentors, and staff, and soon, sponsors in one vibrant space.

But before he became the "man behind the keys," as he is popularly known within the EFAC Community, his story began in the narrow, crowded corridors of Kibra, Nairobi's largest slum. Known to many outside Kenya as Kibera, it's a place full of struggle, but also of hope.
Max was born into a family of four. Tragedy struck early when he lost both parents and his younger sister while still a child. He was taken in by his uncle, who became a father figure and made sure Max went to school despite the daily hardships.

"My Uncle didn't have much," Max says, "but he gave his best. That taught me what real sacrifice looks like." That spirit of resilience would later define how Max saw life and how he chose to give back. He describes the day he received the EFAC scholarship as one of the best days of his life.

"That day, the world suddenly felt brighter," he recalls. "I knew my story was about to change."
At his first EFAC "Bridge" Workshop, Max met other scholars who shared their stories – stories that resonated with his own. At this point, he realised that he wasn't alone, he had people he could talk to, friends he would turn to, and there and then he realised that he had a family.

The spark for the EFAC Community Portal came when Max was at university. Every semester, students, including himself, had to fill out long, repetitive forms to apply for fee grants and stipends, a process that was time-consuming and easy to get wrong.

At the same time, Max had just started his first job as a young software engineer and met a mentor who taught him a golden rule of programming: ***Don't Repeat Yourself.*** That simple principle triggered an idea. What if EFAC scholars could have one simple system where they entered their information once, and everything else worked automatically? He shared the idea with the EFAC Programs Team, who saw its potential and gave him the go-ahead.

"I couldn't believe they trusted me with something that would serve hundreds of students," Max says. "It was one of the happiest moments of my life."

The portal Max built now connects the EFAC community like never before: High school students use it to submit grades and write letters to their sponsors - building real relationships beyond numbers on a page. Post-secondary students can apply for grants, request certifications, browse opportunities, and keep their career profiles updated. EFAC scholars can share their stories and interact with each other. Behind the scenes, the portal syncs automatically with EFAC's internal system, helping staff make quick, data-driven decisions and maintain transparent communication.

For Max, this isn't just technology. It's a bridge that keeps scholars, mentors, and staff connected, inspired, and growing together. "I want every new student to feel welcome from the very first click," he says. "Every time a student logs in, I hope they see what I see - a community that believes in them, just like EFAC believed in me."

From Kakuma to the Spotlight: Modelling Culture and Courage

EFAC Intern Margaret Mukundi takes us beyond the classroom in celebrating one of EFAC's fastest-rising fashion-modelling stars – Nyamam Gai

In the dusty lanes of Kakuma Refugee Camp, dreams often fade before they even begin. But for Nyamam Gai, an EFAC scholar from the Nuer community of South Sudan, her vision to become a model is becoming a reality.

Part of the EFAC transitioning class of 2025, Nyamam is among the few refugee students that EFAC has supported so far. Her love for fashion and representing her own culture have always made her stand out. So, a few months ago, when a local clothing brand, Ancestry Heritage, noticed her potential and brought her on board, her life began to shift. The brand draws inspiration from Nuer traditions, blending culture with modern creativity.

"We're in the same community in the camp," Nyamam recalls. " The creative manager approached me because he saw my potential." Modelling for Ancestry Heritage was her very first time on set. Nervous yet excited, she didn't know what to expect. "I had never modelled before," she says. "The photographer told me just to be myself – and magic happened!"



Photos of Nyamam modelling for Ancestry Heritage

Behind the photoshoot was a deep concept: embracing modern fashion while staying true to her roots. "It's about maintaining my values, beliefs, and history as a Nuer girl from South Sudan," she explains.

One of the designs features words inspired by Ngundeng Bong, a traditional Nuer prophet whose teachings still echo through generations, serving as a proud reminder of identity and belief. "I was enthusiastic, doing what I have always wanted to do for the first time," she says. "It just came naturally – my excitement and talent made it happen."



Supported by her family and driven by purpose, Nyamam is now using the runway as her stage to speak, inspire, and represent."The runway is my voice," she says. "It's where I get to live my dream and celebrate indigenous culture through fashion."

Beyond modeling, Nyamam impacts lives through Tedi Africa, a social enterprise empowering women and youth. She has helped preserve her community's heritage by recording and translating traditional songs and previously volunteered as a teacher in Kakuma – a true reflection of EFAC values in action.

From Kakuma to the world, Nyamam shines, blending beauty, culture, and courage to show that dreams can rise, no matter where they're born.

The Rising Runway Star: Stella Mutete

By Eric Malavi,
EFAC Communications & PR Officer

It has taken us weeks to get hold of Stella. Between classes at Murang'a University of Technology, where she is pursuing a degree in Tourism Management, and representing her university, her county, and EFAC on the runway, Stella has been busy!

When she finally picks up the phone for our interview, she's in the middle of a shoot. "Just a minute," she says with a soft laugh before moving to a quieter spot. Moments later, her voice returns: calm, grounded, full of life. What follows is a conversation about grit and the power of believing in oneself.





Photo of Stella (left) having received the Miss EFAC, 2022 (EFAC Founders Rod & Nancy standing behind)

Finding her footing

Stella's journey with EFAC began eight years ago, and she remembers that day vividly. "Getting the scholarship felt like a dream; a mix of joy, relief, and deep gratitude," she recalls.

Today, balancing assignments, photo shoots, and pageant preparations is part of her everyday rhythm. "EFAC taught me discipline and resilience," she says. "Those lessons show up in everything I do. Whether I'm on the runway or in the classroom."

Modelling, for Stella, didn't begin with fancy heels or flashing cameras. It started in childhood, in front of mirrors, in borrowed outfits, and with friends cheering her on. "My friends used to say I had the walk," she laughs. "I didn't even know what that meant back then!"

Her real journey began through school pageants and later, EFAC events, where she gained confidence and exposure. Among her many achievements, being crowned Miss EFAC Class of 2022 stands out as a defining moment. Holding that crown, Stella realized that beauty with purpose is powerful. "It wasn't just about winning," she says thoughtfully. "It was about representing EFAC's values: excellence, integrity, and empowerment.

Stella's journey from campus pageants to the spotlight began when she was crowned Miss Congeniality 2025 - a moment she describes as surreal. Since then, every crown has reminded her that confidence and consistency can move mountains. With dreams of gracing international runways and telling powerful African stories through fashion, Stella's greatest goal is to mentor young girls from humble beginnings.

Her message is simple yet powerful: ***Believe in yourself. Passion, faith, and humility will take you further than you imagine – so walk every runway, in life or in fashion, like it was made for you.***

Showcasing EFAC Start-ups

At EFAC, we believe in nurturing the whole scholar - empowering young people with the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to thrive not only in class, but also in the marketplace. The ventures below are shining examples of start-ups built by EFAC scholars who are transforming their ideas into impact.

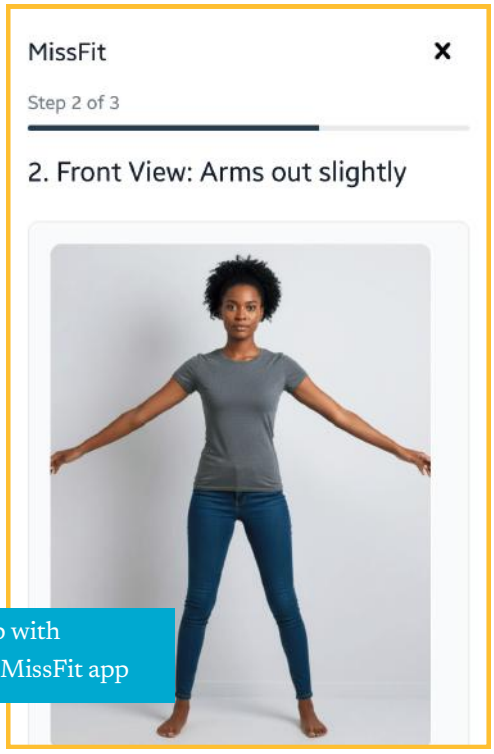
MissFit – Smart Body Measurements. No Tape. No Tailor.

Founder: Emmanuel Jara (EFAC Scholar, Class of 2022)
About the founder: BSc. Mathematics & Computer Science, JKUAT

MissFit captures accurate body measurements using just photos – no fittings, no tape, no tailor. Built in Kenya, this first-of-its-kind app bridges fashion and technology, helping individuals, tailors, and brands get precise, shareable measurements in seconds.

Why it matters:

- Seamless, digital, and accurate.
- Designed for convenience and confidence.
-



Screenshot of a photo mock up with measurements taken from the MissFit app

📩 For business inquiries, contact ***jaraemmanuel562@gmail.com*** or find ***Emmanuel (Jara) Abae*** on LinkedIn.

Eli Bakers – Where Every Bite Tells a Story

Founder: Elkana Mwangi (EFAC Scholar, Class of 2022)
About the founder: B.A. Economics, Technical University of Kenya (TUK)

Eli Bakers brings Nairobi's and Thika's sweetest celebrations to life – from bespoke cakes and vibrant cupcakes to cinnamon rolls, doughnuts, and gifting packages, all freshly handcrafted to order.

Why it matters:

- Every creation is personal, never mass-produced.
- Fresh, convenient, and delivered with care.
-



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Showcasing EFAC Start-ups

At EFAC, we believe in nurturing the whole scholar - empowering young people with the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to thrive not only in class, but also in the marketplace. The ventures below are shining examples of start-ups built by EFAC scholars who are transforming their ideas into impact.

JAPLC: Where Every Chick Counts



Founder: Jared Hillary (EFAC Scholar, Class of 2023)
About the founder: B.A. Communication & Media Studies, Multimedia University of Kenya

Jared Agricultural Products Limited Company (JAPLC) is a youth-led agribusiness championing sustainable poultry farming – rearing day-old chicks to maturity and supplying high-quality poultry to local markets in Nairobi and beyond.
Why it matters:

- Empowers youth through jobs, mentorship, and financial discipline.
- Combines purpose with profit to build stronger communities.

For Business, Contact officialhillaryjared@gmail.com or call ***+254 114 700078***







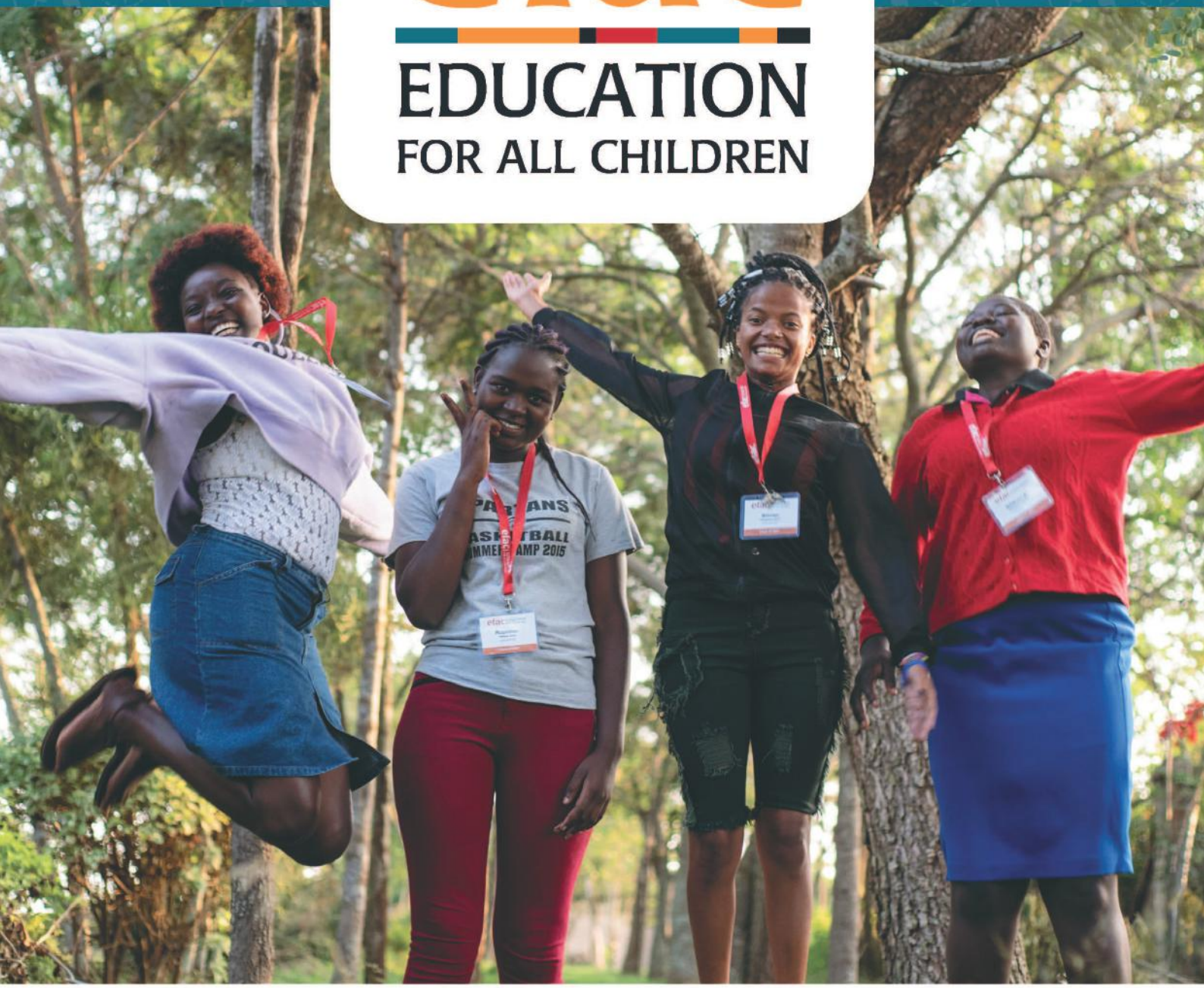




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Millenium Business Park, Langata Road,
Karen
P.O BOX 15827 - 00509, Nairobi, Kenya
+254 700 617758 | efac-kenya@efac.org

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