

Annual Report

Annual Report 2014-2015



*Building Lives for a Better
Future Around the World*

Mission Statement

To provide life changing opportunities to rescued children and youth living within impoverished villages around the world through education, life skills and enrichment activities.

Vision

I CAN FLY International imagines the world free of abuse, oppression and crimes committed against defenseless children and youth. We envision girls in the developing world having the chance to live up to their GOD-given potential by exercising their basic freedom to access education while in pursuit of their dreams.



Students at a performance in 2016

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Letter from the Founder

Dear Friends,

I send you greetings from the I Can Fly International team. I wish I could personally meet with each of you and share all of the life-changing experiences we've encountered this year. We are all learning new ways in which we can move closer to our destiny and goals. I am proud to say there has been so much progress.

Each school year the I Can Fly High School students compete in a contest for the best school theme. This time around after counting dozens of votes the new theme was almost unanimously voted. Our theme: "THE YEAR OF IMPOSSIBILITIES" won by overwhelming numbers. Those four words fueled my heart and passion to believe for greater things to come for the children and youth. The work we do is not easy. We are often faced with unexpected challenges whether there is a child on the brink of life and defeat or other untimely situations. Overall, we believed this year of impossibilities would take us to new heights.

In our efforts to save the lives of children who needed us most we provided life-changing opportunities through education to **122 youth and children** through the Butterfly Project, Eagle's Initiative and the Early Education Program. Many thanks to our wonderful supporters for all of your love and financial donations throughout the year. Flying,



Sha' Givens, Founder/President
I CAN FLY International *Isaiah 40:31 "Mount up*



Sha' Givens, Founder/CEO



Sha' Givens, Founder/President with the boys

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sha' Givens, Founder/President
Author, Speaker, Missionary, Human Rights Advocate

Deidra Reid, Vice President
Educator, Human Rights advocate

Maresha Johnson, Secretary
Educator, Consultant, Missionary, CEO-Abundant Life Orphanages

Imani Hayward, Treasurer
Financial Advisor, Accountant, Former CEO - PISE Inc.

Emily Butali, Board Member
TV Writer & Film Producer

KIDS THOUGHTS



"When I first came to I Can Fly there was no water and no electricity. Now things have changed. Thank you" **Bonface** (student age 14)

"I Can Fly changed my life. My parents were not able to afford school fees but they took me in." **Jacinta** (student age 15)



"You have helped orphans, widows and other poor people including me. You have made my life prosper through education" **Abednego** (student age 16)

"When I finished primary school I didn't know if I would join High School because my family couldn't afford it. I planned to get a job and work to earn money to sustain myself but GOD's hand showed me the way to I Can Fly" **Lewis** (student age 15)



"It's through you that GOD blessed me to come here when I didn't have hope" **Shirleen** (student age 15)

OUR STORIES

MARIA -14 years old

When Maria's father unexpectedly passed away she was taken in by her uncle who lived in a small village in Magadi, Kenya. Her uncle wasn't sure how he would provide for another child since he already had children of his own



and barely made a decent living off the money he earned from herding cows. Within a short time-span he decided "early marriage" would be the solution. He formally made the announcement to all their relatives, telling them Maria would not be attending secondary school in January 2015 since she was going to be married off. Maria never challenged him knowing any back-talk would make matters worse. She decided to share her thoughts with a distant relative who told a local female pastor who was new in the community. The pastor called I Can Fly High School to see if any assistance could be offered. The I Can Fly leadership team came up with a plan that would involve the Pastor seeking help from the local police and a social worker from the Children's Welfare

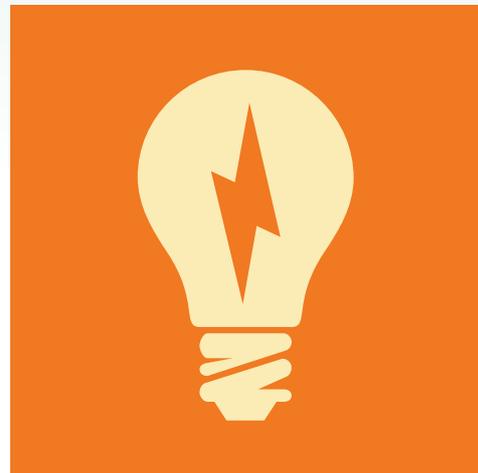
Society. After two days of pleading with the authorities to take a trip to the desert everyone was in favor of approaching the uncle. Once the police officer warned the uncle to release Maria he feared possibly being arrested. Within hours of the visit Maria was released into the hands of social worker and Pastor who filed paper work for her immediate emancipation from the uncle. Maria arrived at the I Can Fly School the next day with a smile on her face and a lot of hope. She was embraced with so much love. She was provided with toiletries, female products, toothbrush, shoes, bed sheets and many items since she left her uncles place with only the clothes on her back. Today, she is happy and thriving at the I Can Fly School.

OVERVIEW

During 2014-2015 year I Can Fly International provided:



122 children & youth a quality education



1,475 hours of lighting



72,405 nutritious meals



340,000 liters of water

Our programs happen 24 hours / 7 days per week all year long

The Butterfly Project & Eagles Initiative

In our efforts to build well-rounded children from deserving backgrounds we designed our empowerment goals and strategies to encompass a series of activities that foster academic progress, Christ-centered living and social wellness. These activities were created to expose children to diverse experiences that increase human and spiritual growth. The activities included:

- Math & Science competitions within the sub-county region
- Subject enhanced coaching from nation-wide experts
- Biblical Foundation classes
- Field trips to Agricultural shows
- Literary theatre programs
- Art & Music talent showcases

Early Childhood Education

Our Pre-schools continue to flourish. The children remain the top performing students within the Makakoi and Makilu village communities after they proceed to elementary and middle school levels. Our commitment to teaching practices that involve visual aids and ESL focused learning has proved to give children ages 4-6 years old an added advantage.

OUR DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Updating the I Can Fly School campus involved creating an underground piping system that would flow into a 20ft. deep septic tank. The septic tank unit is a first of its kind in the local community and surrounding areas. The rectangular shaped unit was constructed with an overflow compartment that helps regulate speed and height of the contents.

The Phase One construction of the multi-purpose food storage house is being built with two rooms at the bottom that will help store dry food products in a cool and spacious environment. The other rooms will function as an office space. Due to our growing student population the demand for more food must be adequately provided with hygienic measures in place. The office spaces will be used for administrative purposes.

REVIEW

After reviewing each aspect of our organization's achievements, our movement proved to be going in the right direction. Our victories were many which included an increase of rescues and climbing educational milestones in the service region. The year closed on a positive note. Our goals and objectives for the new year are already in the works which include major development projects and increased outreach to assist some of Kenya's most vulnerable girls. We believe our future is bright.