

Annual Report

August - December 2015



I CAN FLY
International



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.



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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/CEO
I CAN FLY International *Isaiah 40:31 "Mount up*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Deidra Reid, Vice President
Educator, Human Rights advocate

Maresha Johnson, Secretary
Educator, Consultant, Missionary, CEO-Abundant
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Imani Sheryl Harris, Treasurer
Financial Advisor, Accountant, Former CEO - PISE Inc.

Darla Givens, Board Member
News Anchor, Human Rights Advocate



Accomplishments



We continued offering our services and programs to youth ages **13-19 years old**. There were **59 girls** and **34 boys** served through the Butterfly project and Eagles Initiative. They received quality education, housing, three meals per day, basic medical care, uniforms, transportation, personal effects, school supplies, books and enrichment activities. The I Can Fly Pre-schools productivity remained steady. We offered **60 children** ages **4-6 years old** basic fundamentals in reading, writing and math skills.

After we accepted two Butterfly Project participants from an emergency rescue in June of this year we completely maxed out of our space in the Butterfly House. There were no more double decker beds to give these girls. It was clearly time to expand because of the overcrowded atmosphere in the dormitory.

There was even very little space to create aisles between the beds. As a result we knew it was time to build. Thankfully, the I Can Fly High School development project officially began in September.



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Whatever good things we build end up building us
- Jim Rohn

”



Our Development Goals 2015 included:



Butterfly House Phase One development begins with brick layering

Building New Butterfly House 3,300 square feet facility

The new Butterfly House was constructed to accommodate an additional 50 girls in the facility. The building project started with the architectural design based on size, security visibility and space. The facility includes one large sleeping room for students with high ceilings and three exit doors. It also encompasses one large multi-purpose room which includes two staff bedrooms built with indoor washrooms. The facility sits adjacent to the other dormitory strategically positioned for security view and perimeter wall enclosure. *The project is on-going.

Front Face Campus Perimeter Wall

The front face perimeter wall was constructed for one purpose. Enhancing security and protecting our student's privacy was the primary goal. The wall is made up of 12 inch manufactured

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*We shape our building:
there after they shape us
- Winston Churchill*

”



Butterfly House Phase Three development door placement in girls main room



bricks. The wall reaches eight feet tall in height. The foundation begins 2 feet below ground level to ensure its strength and durability. The wall also includes a built-in security room at the gate entrance for visitor check-in, road visibility and monitoring campus in's- and outs.

Multi- purpose Administrative Office Structure

The administrative office structure with storage room is an ongoing development project. Due to student population growth the need for additional facilities is at great demand. The two level building is the first of its kind in the entire community. It consists of four rooms with high railings for extra security on upper levels. *The project is on-going.



The facility includes one large sleeping room for students with high ceilings and three exit doors. It also encompasses one large multi-purpose room which includes two staff bedrooms built with indoor washrooms.



What We Achieved

Once again we climbed the academic ladder of success. Fourteen students were poised to take the Kenya National exit exam upon completion of Form 4 (12 grade equivalent). We were more confident than ever due to our overall improvement in Math and Science subjects. As a result we moved up to position **#18 out of 80** schools in the Machakos Sub-County of Kenya. This is a major milestone for us since we were position **#63 out of 80** schools in 2011. The academic improvement of our student body is evident. The extra training and expertise performed by our staff proved to be working.

Our Stories



FAITH 15 Years old

Faith grew up in a small traditional Masai village in Narok, Kenya. In her community children are expected to do exactly as they are told by parents and village elders no matter the size of the request. When Faith was 10 years old her parents stormed into her room early one morning and said, "Wake up! Today you're getting circumcised."

Faith was in shock. She wasn't psychologically prepared for the procedure. She always knew it could happen to her like many of the other girls in her village who had undergone Female Genital Mutilation, but she didn't know it would happen so soon. She had just turned ten.

After the painful procedure was over she couldn't help but wonder what was next. Within weeks her father mentioned finding her a husband in exchange for a big dowry price. Faith became fearful. She wanted to go to school and finish college someday when she grew older.

Finally, her elder sister came to the rescue after hearing what their father was planning. The sister told Faith to secretly pack all of her most vital belongings and follow her to the bus stop. She dropped her off at a rescue center owned by a local church.

Faith stayed for months hoping her absence would change the heart of her father who had planned to marry her off. The sister was later told they would be killed if Faith returned. There was no way out. Faith was allowed to stay at the rescue center for an extended period of time until another door opened for her. Three years later Faith was brought to I Can Fly High School where she received an emergency scholarship through the Butterfly Project.

Today, Faith is happy and whole again under the care of the I Can Fly International programs and projects. She hasn't had any contact with her parents since she was 10 years old.

Review 2015

When we think about our past we are amazed at how far we've come. With every year there is growth. With that growth the Lord's sovereignty continues to surround us. We know it is only the hand of GOD that allows us to serve such deserving children and youth. The development of the new Butterfly House and other projects is a testament that our work will expand in order to reach other children who have no voice. Our journey has only begun....