

N

NYAMWANGE FOUNDATION

NYAMWANGE FOUNDATION 2024 IMPACT REPORT

LIFTING VOICES. BUILDING LEGACY. INSPIRING CHANGE.



LETTER FROM FOUNDER:



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Changemakers,

As I sit to reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and a deep sense of purpose. The journey of the Nyamwange Foundation is one that has been guided by faith, fortified by community, and fueled by the audacious belief that every child, no matter where they come from or what they face, deserves the chance to thrive.

This year, we saw dreams take flight. We saw young scholars stand taller, speak louder, and embrace the power of their identities. We witnessed communities come together across continents, bridging divides with acts of service and solidarity. We celebrated milestones, from leadership academies to cultural immersions, and from ribbon-cutting ceremonies to state proclamations.

Yet, the true power of this work lies not in the accolades but in the lives forever changed. It's in the spark of pride ignited in a young scholar discovering their roots in Kenya. It's in the confidence of a student who realizes their voice can shape their community. And it's in the resilience of a family that knows they are not alone in the face of hardship.

This report is more than an account of programs and numbers; it is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together with purpose and conviction. It is a reminder that progress is not a straight line but a journey of determination, courage, and hope.

But as we celebrate, we also acknowledge the challenges. We know that the work of justice and equity is far from finished. For every scholar we support, there are others we wish we could reach. For every opportunity created, there is a barrier to break down. This fuels our resolve to grow, to do more, and to do better.

Frederick Douglass once said, *"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."* His words resonate deeply as we navigate the complexities of building a foundation that both empowers and sustains. Transparency, accountability, and radical hope will continue to guide us as we move forward.

As you read this report, know that none of this would be possible without you. Your support—whether through time, resources, or belief in our mission—has turned aspirations into realities. Together, we are not just creating opportunities; we are shaping a legacy for generations to come.

So, let us press forward with boldness and conviction. Let us lift as we climb, knowing that the journey we embark on today is the foundation of a brighter tomorrow.

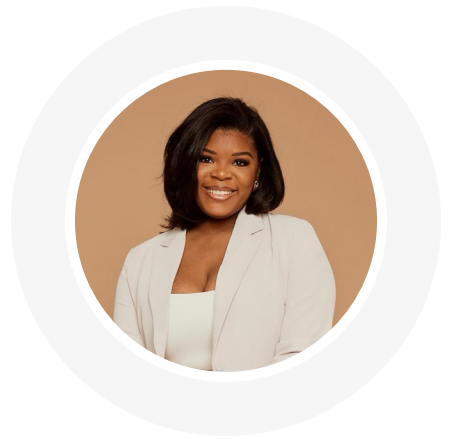
Thank you for standing with us, believing in us, and building with us.

With immense gratitude and hope,

Joseph Nyamwange

Founder, Nyamwange Foundation

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:



As I reflect on the incredible journey of the Nyamwange Foundation, both as its leader and as someone who has personally experienced its transformative impact, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Our mission is personal to me—it's not just a vision, but a lived experience.

In 2019, I had the honor of being a Nyamwange Scholar, part of the very first cohort of students that the foundation supported. That year marked a pivotal moment in my life as I joined a group of peers on an unforgettable journey to Africa.

Traveling to Africa as part of the foundation's Birthright Afrika experience was life-changing. It deepened my understanding of cultural identity, resilience, and the power of community. That experience instilled in me a profound sense of responsibility to use my gifts and opportunities to uplift others, particularly the children and families in our own communities.

Today, as Executive Director, I carry those lessons with me every day. Leading the Nyamwange Foundation is both a privilege and a responsibility I hold close to my heart. This year, we've made incredible strides, from expanding our Leadership Academy to building partnerships that strengthen our ability to serve. Our impact goes beyond statistics—it's seen in the personal growth of our scholars, the smiles on children's faces, and the hope we've renewed in countless families.

My journey from scholar to leader is a testament to the power of this work. It's a reminder that investing in young people creates a ripple effect, empowering them to not only overcome obstacles but to become changemakers in their own right.

As we look to the future, I am committed to ensuring that every child we touch has the chance to experience the same transformative opportunities that shaped my path. Together, we will continue to break barriers, nurture potential, and build a brighter tomorrow for the next generation. Thank you for being part of this journey—we could not do this without you.

With heartfelt appreciation and unwavering commitment,

Dejané Lawrence

Executive Director, Nyamwange Foundation

//01 ABOUT THE NYAMWANGE FOUNDATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Nyamwange Foundation grew in impact, reach, and purpose. From cultivating leadership skills in Black and Brown youth to connecting them with their cultural heritage, our programs exemplify the power of intentional investment in the next generation.

Through your support, we have built bridges of hope that span continents. This report highlights our successes, lessons learned, and our vision for an even greater future.



MISSION STATEMENT

To give Black and Brown children the foundation, resources, and opportunities they need to confront and overcome economic and identity inequities and grow into their highest purpose.

//02 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



NYAMWANGE **LEADERSHIP** **ACADEMY (NLA):**

The Nyamwange Leadership Academy (NLA) equips young leaders with the toolset, skillset, and mindset essential for creating lasting change. Our approach is grounded in building resilience, fostering growth, and empowering scholars to lead with purpose. This year, our scholars engaged in transformative workshops that nurtured their leadership abilities, financial literacy, communication skills, and advocacy. Here's a closer look at the key sessions that shaped their journey:



THE IMPORTANCE OF VALUES

At the core of every great leader is a strong sense of personal values. Using methods endorsed by the International Coaching Federation, NLA scholars participated in a group coaching experience designed to help them identify and better understand their personal values. By reflecting on how these values shape their daily lives, scholars laid the foundation for authentic leadership grounded in integrity and purpose.

WHAT IS A LEADER?

To lead effectively, it's crucial to understand what makes a great leader. In 2024, scholars explored case studies of impactful leaders and dissected the characteristics that made them exceptional. They then built their own leadership profiles, identifying their strengths and areas for growth, and crafted actionable steps to pursue their personal leadership goals.

//02 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

RESILIENCY & CHARACTER BUILDING

In a world where knowledge is easily accessible, mental toughness is more critical than ever. This year NLA focused on emotional, cognitive, and physical resilience. Scholars were taught to embrace life's challenges as opportunities for growth, building the mental fortitude to manage stress, reduce anxiety, and approach obstacles with a mindset of learning and perseverance.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & COMMUNICATION

Public speaking is a vital skill for leaders. In this session, Fellows chose topics they were passionate about and practiced delivering them in front of their peers. With constructive feedback and the opportunity to apply improvements, students grew more confident in their ability to communicate effectively, mastering the art of speaking with clarity and purpose.

TEAMWORK & DREAMWORK

Collaboration is key to achieving any vision. This year Scholars were able to work together in a dynamic group experience where they learned essential tools for effective teamwork. By navigating complex scenarios, students gained valuable insights into how to collaborate, resolve conflicts, and leverage collective strengths to achieve common goals.

IMPACTING MY COMMUNITY

True leadership begins with service. This year we taught the the concept of servant leadership, where scholars learned to lead by putting the needs of others first. Scholars developed their own community service plans, which they would carry out throughout the year, reinforcing the importance of giving back and making a tangible impact on the lives of those around them.

ADVOCACY 101

Advocacy is a powerful tool for change. This year scholars explored what it means to be an advocate, how to use their voices effectively, and how to engage in meaningful advocacy for causes they are passionate about. Through real-world examples and current events, they practiced key advocacy skills, learning how to raise their voices in support of social issues and become agents of change.

//03 NYAMWANGE STRENGTHS

By focusing on the toolset, skillset, and mindset of leadership, the Nyamwange Leadership Academy empowers our scholars to lead with integrity, empathy, and courage. These young leaders are equipped not only with practical skills but with a deep sense of purpose that will guide them as they continue to grow and make a difference in their communities and beyond.

“I want to show people that your circumstances don’t have to predict your future,”
said Jakala Davis.



Chloe' Leigh Mays added, “With NLA, I feel like using my voice can impact my community and my culture.”



//04 BIRTHRIGHT AFRIKA TRIP: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY, PRIDE, AND PURPOSE

In July 2024, our scholars embarked on a profound 12-day immersion into Kenya that served as a bridge between their heritage and their aspirations.

This life-changing experience allowed them to explore the rich history, innovation, and natural splendor of Africa, inspiring a renewed sense of pride and leadership. Each component of the trip was thoughtfully designed to create lasting impact and meaningful connections:

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF AFRICA

National Museum of Kenya: Scholars delved into the continent's rich cultural and historical legacy during a guided tour of the museum, gaining insights into Africa's contributions to the world. *exercitation ullamco laboris laborum.*

Lecture by Dr. Erick Aseka: A dedicated session with Dr. Erick Aseka, former Vice Chancellor of Kenyatta University and a Fulbright Scholar, brought history to life. His expertise deepened the scholars' understanding of Africa's past and its enduring influence on the present.

Slave Museum in Mombasa: A visit to the Slave Museum provided an emotional and educational experience, shedding light on the history of Arab slavery in Kenya and the resilience of those who endured it.



//04 BIRTHRIGHT AFRIKA TRIP: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY, PRIDE, AND PURPOSE

ENGAGING WITH AFRICA'S PROMISE

Meeting Jehil Oliver, Founder of Hello

Tractor: Scholars connected with Jehil Oliver, an African American entrepreneur revolutionizing agriculture in Africa. He shared his inspiring journey of building a multimillion-dollar business and the importance of innovative solutions for local farmers.

EXPERIENCING THE NATURAL SPLENDOR OF THE SAVANNAH

Safari Adventure: Scholars were immersed in Kenya's breathtaking savannahs, marveling at the vibrant wildlife and natural beauty. This experience reinforced their connection to the land and a shared legacy of heritage and stewardship.



Each component of the trip contributed to the scholars' personal growth, leadership development, and sense of identity, ensuring they returned home with a deeper understanding of their roots and a bold vision for their future.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS:

This year, we hosted a gala to honor our Birthright Afrika scholars and received a State Proclamation from Senator Angela McKnight and Congressman Barbara McCain, affirming the impact of our mission.

//05 IMPACT METRICS



**110
CHILDREN/
ORPHANS**

were served with a 3-month food supply in Kenya.



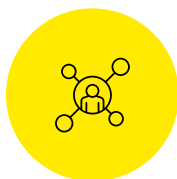
**70+
STUDENTS
ENROLLED**

at Nyamwange Technical College.



**140
HOURS
OF SERVICE**

contributed by 44 volunteers.



**23+
HOURS OF
LEADERSHIP
TRAINING**

provided to scholars.



**100%
OF OUR
SCHOLARS**

graduate High school and enroll in college



**100%
OF OUR
SCHOLARS**

feel more driven to advocate for community change after the Nyamwange Leadership Academy.



Scholars gained internships and represented the Foundation externally through **the Nyamwange Emerging Leaders Program.**

COLLEGES OUR STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED AND ATTEND:

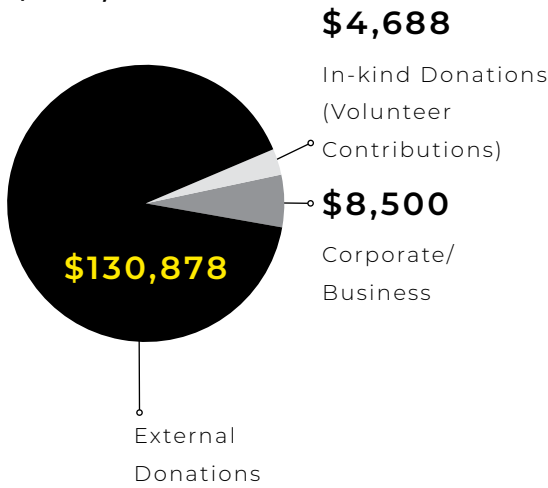


//06 FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

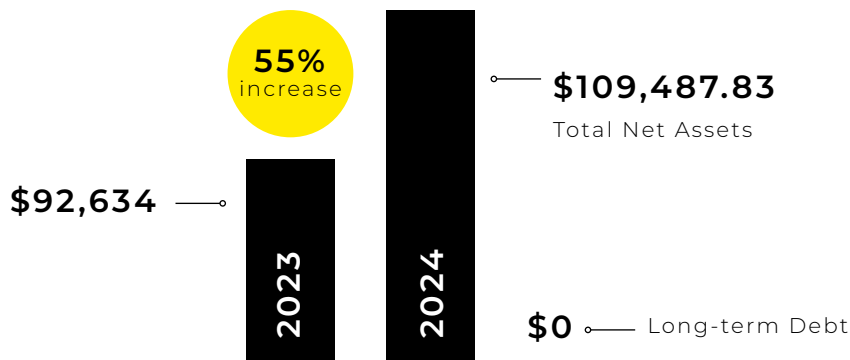
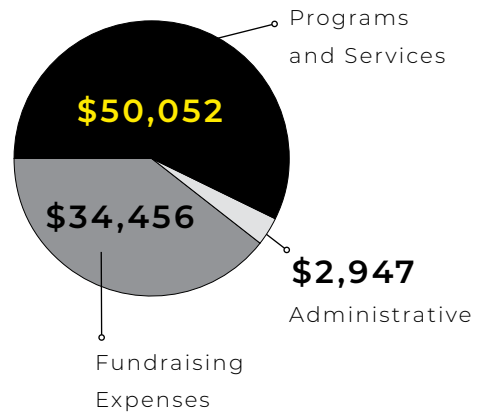
JANUARY—DECEMBER 2024

In 2024, our revenue grew by 55%, reflecting increased external support and continued contributions from the Nyamwange family.

2024 REVENUE:
\$144,066



2024 EXPENSES:
\$87,455



KEY METRICS

//07 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS



This year, 44 volunteers dedicated their time and talents to serve our mission both locally and abroad. Cordelle, one volunteer, shared: “Visiting the children at Motherly Care Children Home is something I’ll never forget—a memory I will always hold dear in my heart.”



NYAMWANGE INTERNATIONAL: EMPOWERING LIVES ACROSS BORDERS

At the Nyamwange Foundation, we believe that opportunity knows no boundaries. Our commitment to fostering equity and empowerment extends far beyond our local communities, reaching across continents to create transformative programs in Africa. Through our international initiatives, we aim to bridge gaps, uplift underserved populations, and build sustainable pathways to education, self-reliance, and hope.

//08 NYAMWANGE INTERNATIONAL: EMPOWERING LIVES ACROSS BORDERS

SERVICE PROJECTS: NOURISHING BODIES, FEEDING MINDS

In partnership with the Motherly Care Children Home in Kenya, we are addressing critical needs for some of the most vulnerable children. This year, we provided a three-month supply of food staples and educational resources, ensuring these young minds are not only nourished but also equipped to learn and grow.



SCHOLARSHIPS: OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Education is the cornerstone of progress. In 2024, the Nyamwange Foundation awarded 250,000 Kenyan Shillings in scholarships, enabling 10 students to pursue higher education. These scholarships are more than financial aid—they are an investment in leaders who will shape the future of their communities and beyond.



//09 NYAMWANGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE: SKILLS FOR LIFE, TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

The Nyamwange Technical College in Kenya embodies our mission of creating access to quality, affordable education.

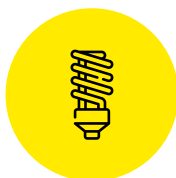
With over 70 students enrolled, the college offers courses designed to empower individuals with practical skills and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Programs include:



PLUMBING

Building foundational skills for sustainable development.



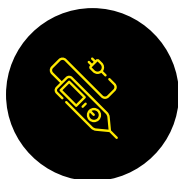
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Empowering students to light up their communities.



HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY THERAPY

Supporting creativity and independence.



ELECTRONICS

Opening doors to technology-driven careers.



FASHION AND DESIGN

Fostering innovation in artistry.



CATERING AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Promoting self-reliance and community enrichment.

These courses equip students with marketable skills while fostering a sense of pride and purpose. Each graduate represents a ripple of change, contributing to a more resilient and empowered society.

//10 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

While we celebrate our progress, we recognize the need to diversify our funding sources.

Currently, we heavily rely on family contributions, limiting the scale of our initiatives. Expanding donor engagement and partnerships is critical to reaching more scholars and fully funding programs like Birthright Afrika. Transparency remains a cornerstone of our approach. We understand the importance of showcasing the tangible impact of your support to earn trust and deepen our collective commitment.

GOALS FOR 2025

ENROLL 25 NEW SCHOLARS IN THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY.

AWARD 4 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS.

EXPAND OUR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SCHOLARS BEYOND COLLEGE.

LAUNCH THE BLACK HERITAGE EXPERIENCE IMMERSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C. FOCUSED ON ADVOCACY.

FUNDRAISE \$100,000 TO FUND 25 STUDENT'S BIRTHRIGHT AFRIKA TRIP.

//11 CHARITABLE DONATIONS: DONORS THAT TRANSFORM + INSPIRE

The work of the Nyamwange Foundation is made possible through the generosity, belief, and commitment of our incredible supporters. Each contribution, no matter the size, represents a step toward equity, opportunity, and transformation for Black and Brown children.

CHANGE MAKERS (\$10,000+):



MEET EDWARD O'CONNOR

Ed is currently the principal partner of Princeton Financial Consultants, LLC which provides strategic advice to first-tier financial services firms. And, he is the Vice-Chair of the NJCU, Foundation Board. Previously Ed held senior management positions within Morgan Stanley, UBS, JPMorgan as well as Merrill Lynch. In addition, Ed has an MBA in Finance, is a Certified Public Accountant, holds various securities licenses and is a registered inventor within the US Patent office for a college savings financial product. He is married to RoseAnne O'Connor, has three sons and a grandchild.



MEET HORANE HENRY

Horane is a seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in the media and entertainment industry, specializing in technology. Horane serves as Executive Director of Software Engineering at The Walt Disney Company, where he is responsible for overseeing Engineering teams that develop operator tooling and workflow orchestration systems for Disney's streaming platforms. One of Horane's significant accomplishments is the co-founding of the Black Employee Resource Group at Disney, a testament to his commitment to advancing diversity within a leading global entertainment company. He has been named as part of *Media Play News 40 Under 40, Class of 2024*, which is a diverse roster of young stars who are shaping the future of the entertainment business.

//11 CHARITABLE DONATIONS: DONORS THAT TRANSFORM + INSPIRE

LEGACY BUILDERS (\$5,000–\$9,999):

NYAMWANGE INVESTMENTS, WALT DISNEY

EMPOWERMENT CHAMPIONS (\$2,000–\$4,999):

ALBERTO PORTOVEDO, JOSEPH THURMAN, MICROSOFT, RICK ZAHN, SETH YELORDA

HOPE AMBASSADORS (\$1,000–\$1,999):

ERMA PERCIVAL, JADE PRYCE, KEISHA HUSSEY, KERTIS HUSSEY, KYMONE HINDS, LARA MORRIS, LOVE LISA (CHILLTOWN COLLECTIVE), MYRON EDMONDS, PETER HERNANDEZ, RASHIEM DONALDSON, RONALD GRECO, WILLIAM NYAMWANGE

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES (\$500–\$999):

ALEX BARD, ISAAC ACHOKAH, TINA AMO-KRAH, KESHIA AUSTIN, CHARLENE CAPUTO, CONRAD HOWELL, ELIZABETH KING, ISAAC HEBRON, JAMILA MATHEWS, MICHAEL MCHENRY, LENA MWANGI, ADAM SAN MIGUEL, THOMAS BROOKS, TORRELL HUTCHENSON

CHANGE AGENTS (\$50–\$499):

OVER 100 INDIVIDUALS CONTRIBUTED AT THIS LEVEL, FUELING THE MOVEMENT WITH THEIR GENEROSITY AND PASSION FOR CHANGE.

We are profoundly grateful for every gift, every hour of volunteerism, and every act of solidarity. Together, you are the foundation of this movement, and your contributions continue to inspire and empower the lives we touch. Thank you for believing in the mission and making this impact possible.



GROW WITH US.

We are profoundly grateful for every gift, every hour of volunteerism, and every act of solidarity. Together, you are the foundation of this movement, and your contributions continue to inspire and empower the lives we touch. Thank you for believing in the mission and making this impact possible.



The Nyamwange Foundation is a testament to the power of community and collective action. To continue this transformative work, we need your support. Visit www.nyamwange.org to make a contribution, volunteer, or learn more about our programs.

TOGETHER, LET'S ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS THE CHANCE TO RISE, THRIVE, AND LEAD.

[DONATE TODAY. CLICK THIS LINK.](#)