



BEAM Kenya

Boost | Educate | Advocate | Mend

July 2018 Issue



BEAM Kenya's mission is to advocate for the emotional, spiritual, and educational needs of impoverished children in Kenya.

We proudly partner with Vertical Love Ministries, a 501(c)3 organization.

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It's been over a year now since Vertical Love has partnered with BEAM Kenya and its mission. This partnership was born out of our family's trip to Kenya in January 2017 and witnessing the work of BEAM during our travels. What we saw in the slums of Kenya caused our hearts to ache. Yet while we saw inhumanity and so many injustices, **we also saw resilience and faith.**

These last months, I have been privileged to witness the support that you have given BEAM Kenya. Together, we raised over \$80,000 in less than one year's time! And together, we have come alongside so many who desperately long for and truly appreciate the hope of Jesus you have offered. Together, we have changed lives and will continue to.



Your generosity means so many things to this ministry. For children in the slums of Turbo, it means hope for a better future. For the students currently being afforded a scholarship, it means security, something they've likely never known. For parents whose children are now being educated, it means answered prayer, a prayer that the cycle of poverty might end. For many families, your financial support means they will have the opportunity to work toward mental and emotional health. For Colleen, your support means the assurance that she has the means to place her focus where it is desperately needed: on the children and families of BEAM Kenya.

Stephanie Hall, Vertical Love Ministries

Partnership Update: Finding Healing

As part of the mission of BEAM, we have a responsibility to let the voices of people on Black Street be heard in a way that makes them feel worthy of love and healing. A few months ago, we began working with an addiction counselor to offer another level of expertise for our clients who are struggling with alcohol and drug abuse.

One of our regular visitors, Martha (name changed to protect her identity) was a 39-year-old widow and mother of three. She was born in the slum, orphaned at age 10, and never finished elementary school. She was HIV positive and although taking medication, had been wrestling with drug and alcohol abuse for over nine years. Her health was poor, and she was unable to do any work to provide food for herself or her family.

We decided to assist one of her daughters to attend the local government school as a way to provide temporary financial relief to the family. Martha attended a group counseling session in April with the parents of our BEAM scholarship students. In that session, the parents were asked what they are thankful for. She said she was thankful that her daughter was back in school, for the counseling, and for friends who were helping to support her. She was working hard to get sober and desired to be free of addiction so she could be a better parent.



The Kambi Mawe slum

One week after that group session, Martha died suddenly in her home in the slums. The exact cause of her death is unknown.

Our social worker saw Martha two days before she died. She was sober and going to weed in a farm as a way to earn income for her family.

There was a new light and hope within her as she was working towards her desire to become a better mother for her children.

I came across this quote recently that said, "People start to heal the moment they feel heard." We have faith that healing was happening for Martha in the last few months of her life.

Featured Student: Velvin



Velvin (seated right) receiving treatment for jiggers

extreme poverty. They can cause painful infections as well as impact self-esteem and school performance.

I met Velvin Jepkoech in 2012 during a jigger removal clinic. Jiggers are one of the many challenges children face while living in the slum. They are tiny parasites that burrow into feet and lay eggs, and they are usually found in areas of poor sanitation and

Not only did Velvin have jiggers, but she also was undernourished and fending for herself. She was not in school and had no idea how to read or write. Her single mom, who never attended school herself, struggled with alcoholism and joblessness. Velvin was used to the hustle of the slum life: cooking for herself, fetching water, and acting as the head of the household. When I returned to Kenya in 2013, I found Velvin in the same condition.

In July 2016, after years of visiting the slums and trying to discern direction for the ministry, we were able to extend a scholarship for Velvin to attend boarding school at Brook of Faith Academy. Her determined and



Velvin with her mother at Brook of Faith Academy

resilient spirit has paid off over the last two years. She is currently in third grade and is making great strides in school. She can now read and write and is even catching up with her classmates. Through counseling, Velvin is bravely working through past trauma and neglect as well as ongoing challenges with her family.

Velvin is joy to have around Brook of Faith with her positive, humble, and hard working spirit. Beyond school, she loves to dance, sing, and run. We are hopeful that her education and talents will lead her toward God's purpose for her life and that she will be able to help break the cycle of poverty in her family.

**Please consider becoming
a BEAM Kenya financial partner!**

**For more information, visit
our website at
www.beamkenya.org.**