



BEAM Kenya is a nonprofit organization that equips children to overcome adversity through education and psychosocial support.

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## Every child has a story

We recently welcomed 10 new students to the BEAM scholarship program. Each individual has a story—and, as we have seen in this line of work, their stories often include trauma.

A friend gently pointed out that children aren't just automatically resilient. Their resilience is typically born out of hardship and difficult experiences. In other words, it's a quality that forms out of necessity, out of a need to survive.

Our social work team works with these incredible, resilient children who have endured far more than any child should: abuse, serious illness, dangerous environments, loss, and so on. To honor these children, preserve their dignity, and protect their identity, most of the details of these stories remain confidential.

As you read what we can share with you with the utmost care, our hope is that you still get a sense for where these children have come from and who they are in the process of becoming. Thank you for being with us along the journey.

Filled with hope,  
Cat Caya  
Communications Manager

## Thank You

The work of BEAM Kenya is sustained by the generous and kind partnership of many. We understand that this uncertain time has brought about significant challenges, and we are grateful for each and every financial gift. Thank you for being alongside us.

If you would like to partner with us, gifts may be made online here or by check. Checks must be made out to BEAM Kenya.

# JOHN'S STORY

John's story is nothing short of a miracle. He grew up in the slums of Turbo, where primary school dropout is common. No one in John's immediate or extended family has ever finished primary school. John fought hard to remain in school despite the challenges of his home environment with poverty, alcohol, drugs, and promiscuity, which sometimes led to teenage pregnancy.

During his senior year of high school, he begged the principal to let him sleep at school so he could use the electricity and light to study late into the evening. John's stellar performance on his high school national exam helped him earn a spot at a university, and his church community fundraised for him to complete his first semester at Eldoret University.

But when it came to his second semester in January 2017, John was back at home due to a lack of funds to pay tuition. The BEAM social work team met John during home visits in the slums that January. After hearing his story, we knew we had to give John a boost. Through the generosity of BEAM sponsors, we were able to support John to finish university. He graduated last month (March) with second honors and holds a degree in geography and business. He has already been employed as a high school teacher.

John shared with us his dreams for the future: "I am planning to change the community around me by advocating for equal education opportunity for every child and fight against any child abuse like child labor, early marriage, and early pregnancy."



## YOUNG LEADERS

We have been so encouraged this year to see many of our BEAM students become leaders at their primary school, Brook of Faith.

Celestine and Brian were appointed as the Head Girl and Head Boy for the school. Stanley is the prefect for clubs and societies. Miriam and Davey are the Scout's prefects. Vale is the prefect for games and athletics. Grace is the prefect for spiritual matters, Davey is the prefect for scouts, and Rebecca is the prefect for the kitchen matters. Jepkoech is the prefect for entertainment, Tabitha is the prefect for cleanliness, Zakayo is the prefect for dining, and Elizabeth is the prefect for the eighth grade class.

The head students and prefects are given certain responsibilities because they are respected by the teachers and their fellow students. To see how much the BEAM kids have grown and taken on leadership roles at their school is a testimony to their character, hard work, and care for others.