



BEACON OF HOPE MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER



Empower. Transform



BEACON OF HOPE PARTNERS WITH HELB TO OFFER STUDENTS LOANS

Beacon of Hope (BOH) has partnered with the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) to create the Beacon of Hope Training Revolving Fund, which will provide loans to Beacon Technical Training Institute (BTTI) students to sponsor their tuition and upkeep at BTTI.

Jane Wathome, the Founder and Executive Director of Beacon of Hope, asserted that the revolving fund will bridge the financial gap to accessing higher education for students seeking technical skills. The loans will be repaid by the students when they start working – and these funds will then be used to support other deserving students.

“The fund will ensure that all students get a fair chance at technical training, enabling them to develop their potential, learn skills, and access opportunities for career development,” she noted.

BTTI is building a world-class TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institution.

Sponsored by BOH trust, BTTI provides a stimulating learning environment through an innovative, student-centred, quality-driven approach to teaching and learning. The institution ensures that students receive a highly interactive and tailored experience – including personalized linkages to industries for internship and job placements – that will aid them in reaching their full potential.

Since its inception, BTTI has trained over 10,000 students, who now work all over the world.

During the launch event, BOH officially opened BTTI’s new kitchen-restaurant for students pursuing a course in Catering and Accommodation. The new facility, dubbed School of Hospitality & Bethuel Cafeteria, will provide a more conducive environment for learning, allowing lecturers to train even more students.

This revolving fund is part of a bigger story – every year the government sets aside Ksh 4 billion for TVET programs. HELB’s CEO Charles Ringera – the chief guest at the launch event – said that technical colleges are important in creating jobs for youths who do not make it to university.

“The National Government is focused on having more TVET institutions in the country. Currently, it has more than 200 TVET institutions, up from 48 in 2013,” he opined. In 2013, the country had 3,000 TVET students who were on scholarship. But now, 125,000 students will benefit from the loan program – giving them a chance at high-quality employment opportunities.

BTTI & HELB EVENT -PHOTO GALLERY



Founder and Executive Director of BOH, Jane Wathome shows HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera a model of BOH Centre



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera interacts with pupils at Beacon Academy



BTTI Electrical Engineering trainer Samson Asimeto engages HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera on how students do practical sessions at the institute



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera interacts with students at the BTTI School of Hairdressing & Beauty



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera cuts a ribbon to officially open School of Hospitality & Bethuel Cafeteria



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera and BOH Founder & Executive Director, Jane Wathome show the partnership documents



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera and BOH Founder & Executive Director, Jane Wathome pose with BOH Board and HELB staff



HELB C.E.O Charles Ringera and BOH Founder & Executive Director, Jane Wathome pose with BTTI School of Hospitality students

BEACON HEALTH CENTRE'S BID TO HELP ERADICATE CERVICAL CANCER



Worldwide, cervical cancer ranks as the fourth most frequently diagnosed cancer and the fourth leading cause of cancer death in women. Cervical cancer is a major public health concern in Kenya. According to WHO 2018, 33 per 100,000 women in Kenya have cervical cancer and 22 per 100,000 die from the disease.

Every January, the world marks Cervical Cancer Awareness month to raise awareness about screening, treatment, and vaccination against HPV – the virus that most often causes cervical cancer. Although screening is an effective prevention method, uptake is very low among eligible women. To improve uptake, Beacon Health Centre conducts yearly outreach program to screen women for cervical cancer and to facilitate access to further treatment if needed.

Cervical cancer presents as the growth of abnormal cells in the lining of the cervix. To detect these cells, screening is done through visual inspection with acetic Acid (VIA) or Lugols iodine (VILI). Nurse Jane Nderitu, who has conducted hundreds of cervical cancer screenings at Beacon Health Centre, notes that the procedure is only slightly uncomfortable.

She advises that it is the work of the healthcare worker to put the patient at ease, explain the importance of the procedure on their health, and ensure that they are comfortable and ready for the process. She notes that the risk of the disease outweighs any minor discomfort of the screening exercise.

Lorna Sereti, a 58-year-old Maasai woman from Bisil in Kajiado County made her way Beacon Health Centre for two reasons in March 2021. One was to get her HIV medication and two was to get screened for cervical cancer – a critical requirement for all HIV patients.

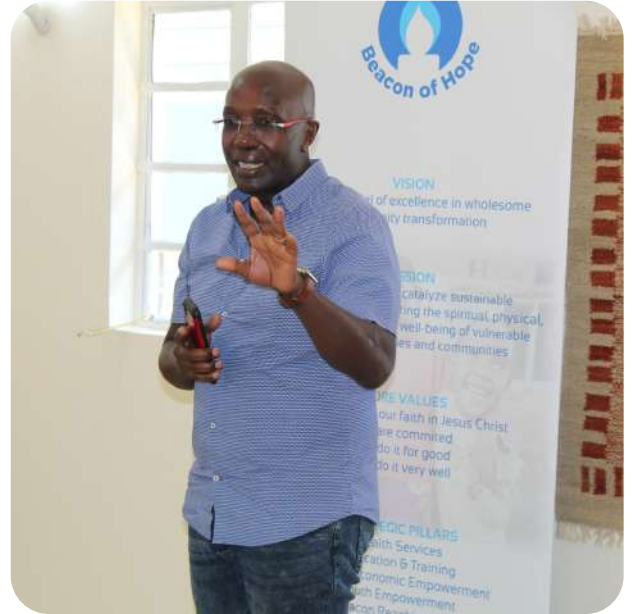
“When my doctor sent me for the cervical cancer screening test results, I was excited about the opportunity that presented itself at a very affordable cost of Ksh 100. Women in my community are scared about cervical cancer because of the deaths it has caused,” she opines.

“I would ask all women especially those in their reproductive age to go to any health facility near them offering the screening at subsidized rates. Prevention is definitely better than cure,” she concludes.

BEACON OF HOPE ACADEMY'S CLASS 8 PRAYER DAY - PHOTO GALLERY



BOH Founder & Executive Director, Jane Wathome shares a word of encouragement with Beacon Academy pupils



BOH Trustee Mr. Ken Wathome shares a word of encouragement with Beacon Academy pupils



Beacon Academy pupils entertain guests during the prayer day



Beacon Academy teachers entertain guests during the prayer day

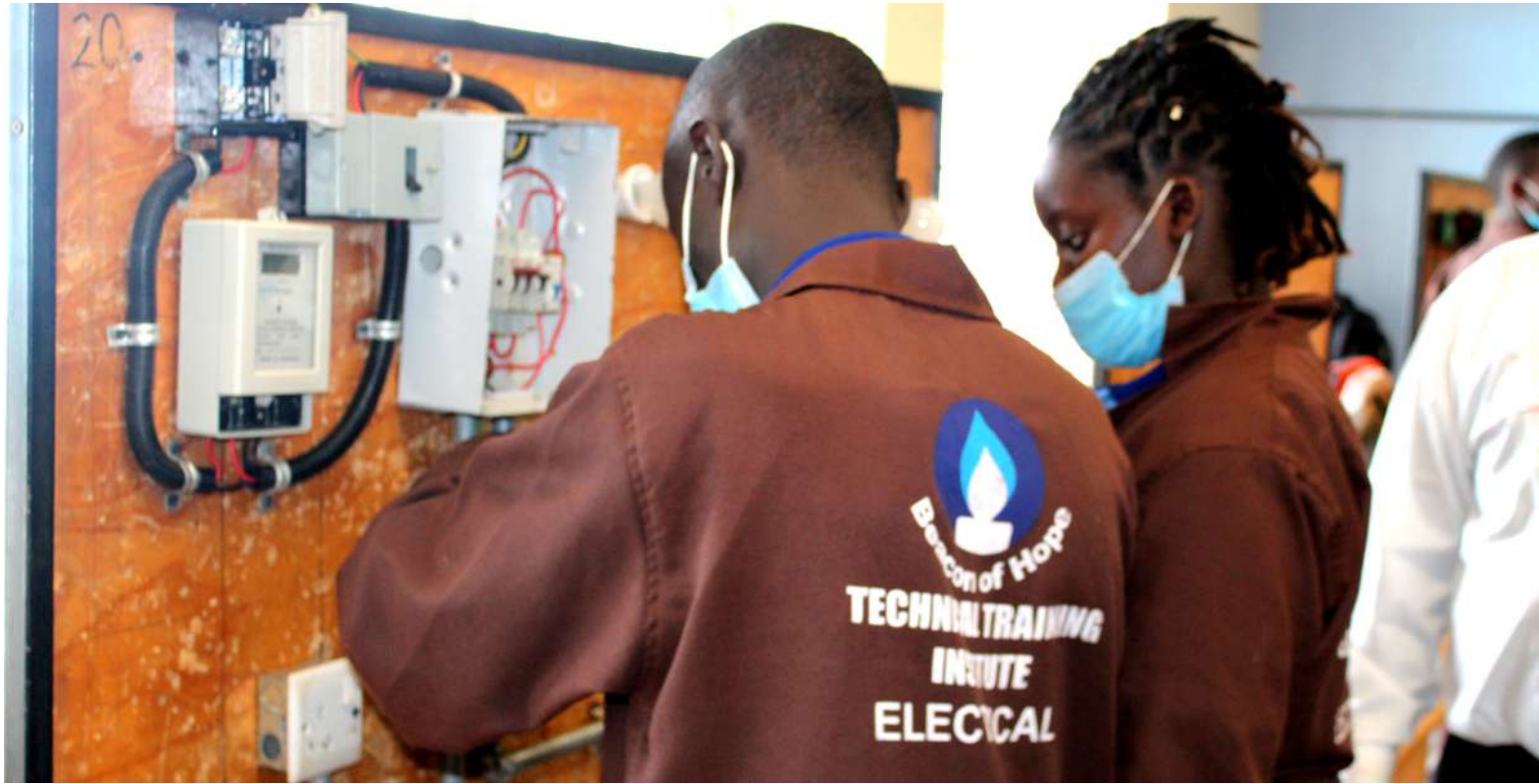


BOH Chaplain Rev. Steven Mwaniki shares the word of God with the pupils and guests



BOH Chaplain Rev. Steve Mwaniki leads communal prayers for the pupils

POWERING MY FUTURE IN A MALE DOMINATED FIELD



While the country still battles gender inequality within the engineering sector, 19-year-old Margaret Nyambura believes she has what it takes: an unquenchable drive and will to become the best electrical engineer in Ngong town, her hometown.

Inspired by a deep desire to become an electrical engineer and knowing all too well that it is a male-dominated field, Margaret embarked on a search for a college close to home that had the facilities she needed for training.

"I was drawn to BTTI when I saw an advert on their Facebook page which had a photograph of a female electrical engineer working and surrounded by male students. Not only did the institute have state-of-the-art facilities, but I also knew that BTTI would be the college that would understand the desire I have of making it in this field because they have trained other young women before me," she explains.

In Kenya, 30-35% of girls pursue courses based in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) after high school, and even fewer seek STEM-related careers. In the cases where girls do choose a STEM-related career, they are often held back from advancement to senior position by pressures in the home or the workplace.

As a result, women are substantially under-represented in the energy sector internationally, as well as in most utilities and the infrastructure sector. Initially Margaret's mother was not excited about the idea and worked really hard to push her into other courses, such as Hairdressing and Beauty or Catering and Accommodation.

“It was a battle that I was willing to fight and win. It took an entire month of showing my parents pictures of BTTI on Facebook and women who have succeeded in Electrical Engineering for them to agree to enroll me for the artisan level,” she remembers.

Margaret feels empowered when she wears her overalls whenever they go for practical lessons. She stands out from the crowd of 20 – mostly male – students. Her plans are to finish the artisan course in a year, proceed to self-employment to gain meaningful skills, and later upgrade her course to the certificate, then diploma, level within 3 years. Margaret imagines a future with endless possibilities and describes the world as her oyster.



PRAY WITH US

- Thank God for a successful partnership with the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). Under the Partnership, HELB will administer the Beacon of Hope Training Revolving Fund to assist students at BTTI to access financial support in the form of loans to cater for their tuition and upkeep.
- Thank God for the completion and launch of our new kitchen and restaurant which provides a more conducive and effective environment for learning and allows us to offer quality training to more students in the School of Hospitality.
- Thank God that we have been able to turn the COVID-19 pandemic learning challenge into an opportunity as we recently kicked-off virtual classes at BTTI. Pray that BTTI will train more students in Kenya and beyond our borders.
- Pray that God will grant Beacon Academy an opportunity to impact more lives with our virtual learning program.
- Thank God that our class 8 pupils sat for their national examinations in March 2021. Pray that God will grant them excellent outcomes.



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