



Theme for the Year: Stepping Out

“...Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” Mathew 14:29



Junior Secondary School Opening



The opening of the newly built Beacon of Hope Junior Secondary School was celebrated on the morning of Monday, 23 January 2023, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by the executive director, staff, teachers, parents, community, and special guests Dr. Robert and Myrna of Focus Africa. The ceremony marked the official opening of the school's new facilities and the beginning of a new chapter in the student's educational journey.

"The completion of this building has been a six-month journey, and it was made possible by the hard work and dedication of our team," said Jane Wathome, Executive Director of Beacon of Hope. "It is with God's grace that we are able to open the Beacon of Hope Junior Secondary School which will serve as a hub for learning in the community. I am grateful for this opportunity to provide quality education to our students."

The new school offers various facilities for students to gain various skills in Junior Secondary School. The school is equipped with a science laboratory, computer laboratory, smart room with an interactive board, library as a learning resource center, music room, and a Creative Expression Centre for art activities. These resources aim to enhance the student's learning experience and support the development of their various talents.

"You are making a difference and changing lives in Kenya, and we are grateful for the work you do," said Myrna of Focus Africa. "We are thrilled to be part of the grand opening of the Beacon of Hope Junior Secondary School. As part of Focus Africa, we have supported this project and it's heartening to see the results of our donations. Thank you for making a positive impact in the community."

"We give thanks to God for the opportunity to participate in the grand opening of the Beacon of Hope Junior Secondary School," said Rev Steve. "This school will empower students to succeed for God's glory. Every teacher, student, and staff member in this building will experience God's glory in their daily endeavors. We are a blessed community." The ceremony ended with a dedication of the school by Rev. Steve, the chaplain of Beacon of Hope.





In 2017, the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC) was introduced in Kenya as a replacement for the traditional 8-4-4 system of education that was introduced in 1985. The CBC is designed to be more practical, skill-based, and relevant to the needs of the Kenyan workforce. The curriculum presents a shift in focus from rote memorization to hands-on, experiential learning and to better align the education system with the country's workforce needs. The goal is to produce a generation with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the modern workforce.

At Beacon of Hope Junior Secondary, we have a supportive learning environment with modern facilities and dedicated teachers. These are factors, we believe, that will have a positive impact on the academic and personal growth of students. Encouraging our students to pursue their interests fosters their passion and builds a strong foundation for their future.

The new education system is organized into three levels: Early Years Education (2 years), Middle School Education (6 years), and Senior School (3 years for lower secondary and 3 years for upper secondary). It is designed to provide learners with a more comprehensive education and ensure that they have essential skills for the next stage of their education. The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) has indicated that the new curriculum will include 14 subjects.

These subjects include English, Kiswahili, Mathematics, Integrated Science, Health Education, Business Studies, Agriculture, Life skills education, Physical Education/Sports, and foreign languages. The curriculum provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of content in a variety of ways, which helps to promote a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Beacon of Hope is excited to be implementing the new education system because it aims to develop well-rounded individuals with not only technical knowledge and skills but also the right attitudes and values. By focusing on learning outcomes and assessments, CBC ensures that learners have a clear understanding of what they are expected to know and be able to do and provides opportunities for them to demonstrate their mastery of these skills. This approach promotes active and practical learning, helping the students apply what they have learned in real-life situations.

Learning has been made more relevant and meaningful for students by bridging the gap between the classroom and the real world. This approach not only makes learning more engaging but also helps in developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills that are essential for success in the 21st century.



Transformation Story



"I have dreams bigger than the ocean because Beacon of Hope has given me an opportunity to a better life." Christine Njoki is a brilliant girl who has been at the Beacon Academy for the past three years.

"My parents were introduced to Beacon of Hope through a relative who heard of a sponsorship program that was being given for children to study at the Academy. At the time, the work my father was doing was affected and got worse due to the Covid-19 pandemic. I was enrolled in public school because my family was struggling to make ends meet. We were depending on my mother's earnings from a saloon she was running but unfortunately, it closed down during Covid-19. Hearing of what Beacon could do for us was such a blessing and a hope restored for going back to school."

The Beacon of Hope sponsorship program has focused on offering quality education to bright and vulnerable children from the community.

"As a beneficiary for the last 3 years, I have loved every experience being at Beacon of Hope. It is more than just work for the teachers because they go over and beyond to see that you grasp the concepts taught in class. The students are cared for, it reflects on how disciplined they are and their motivation to work hard."

Christine Njoki wants to be the Chief Justice of Kenya, "I have an older cousin who is a lawyer and that's how I became curious about a career in law. Now that I am joining Limuru Girls Secondary school, I hope to take on humanity subjects that align with the kind of life I envision impacting my community positively."

"Beacon of Hope has laid a great foundation for my life. I have been given a chance to dream of endless possibilities and I hope that I can come back and provide the same for another child."



Transformation Story



Barack Obama Odhiambo, named after the 44th president of the United States, is a quiet but outstanding boy who comes from a big family of five children, "I like the size of my family, and being that I am the second last born I get away with a few things," he smiles shyly.

Barack has been a beneficiary of the Beacon of Hope school sponsorship program from the day he joined the kindergarten, "My mother was part of the Beacon initiative that supported women with skills that could enable them to provide for their families. When she heard of an opening, she thought it would be good for me to study in an institution that is centered on God and seeks to bring out the very best of the children who are part of it."

"I have enjoyed being a student at the Academy for the past 10 years. I have gained wholesome friendships that challenge me to be better and want more for my life. The environment I have grown up in can be very misleading. There's a lot of negative community influence, especially for young people like me, and even the pressure of wanting to fit in. I am glad that Beacon has been walking alongside me and holding my hand all those years."

"This has been an opportunity of a lifetime. I didn't ever have to worry about missing school because of the lack of fees, all I had to do was focus on my education. I scored good grades and I will be joining Oloolaiser High School which is a national school in Kajjado County. I am excited to be joining high school because I'll get to choose subjects such as science which is my favorite and it will enable me to achieve my career goals,"

Barack's dream is to become a neurologist, "I want to help people understand the human mind and behavior because it may lead to new treatments for mental health disorders and other conditions, making a positive impact on society."

"Who knows where I would have been if Beacon of Hope didn't take me in. It has been the light at the end of the tunnel for many children who have to grow up in an environment that is so dark and misleading, wondering if anything good could be of their lives. Beacon has shown us that we can dream and work hard towards a better life despite where we come from."



Activity Highlights



Beacon Technical Training Institute Student Council Swearing In

The new student council was sworn in for duty at the SIFA hall on 25th January 2023. During the ceremony, they recited the oath of office making a commitment to serve the student population with integrity and dedication.



Productive asset distribution to students enrolled at the Beacon Technical Training Institute under the Jenga Kijana program.





Pray With Us

Praise God for He has brought us into a new year 2023 in good health, safety and renewed spirit for the work that we do.

Praise God with us for our class 8 who did well in their national examination and will be proceeding on with their high school education.

As we begin a new year, pray with us that God will continue to provide resources for the thousands of lives He gave us the opportunity to touch in the community through our various programs.

Continue praying for our staff, beneficiaries and partners that God will bless them and they may remain committed even as we serve the community which the Lord has given to us.

