

# Harambee

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FUTURE IN OUR HANDS-USA | SPRING 2026

## FUTURE MAKERS IN ACTION: The Students Behind This Semester's IMC Masterclass

This semester, the IMC Masterclass at Canisius University is pushing students beyond the traditional classroom experience. Through its partnership with Future in Our Hands USA, students are stepping into real world roles where their ideas, strategies, and creativity contribute to something far greater than a grade.

Instead of working on hypothetical brands, students are helping support initiatives that impact communities in Kenya and Zambia, bringing awareness to education, sustainability, and long term development. That shift transforms the work. It becomes more intentional, more meaningful, and more demanding.

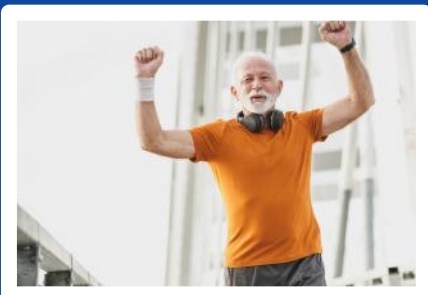
**At the center of this experience is a group of students who each bring their own perspective, energy, and ambition into the Masterclass.**

What connects all of these students is not just their major or their academic standing, it is their willingness to step into something real. The IMC Masterclass challenges them to think beyond assignments and begin operating as professionals. That means taking ownership, working collaboratively, and understanding that their ideas carry weight. Through this partnership with Future in Our Hands USA, students are learning that marketing is more than promotion. It is storytelling with purpose. It is strategy with impact. It is the ability to connect people to something that matters. As the semester continues, the work created by these students has the potential to extend far beyond the classroom. The campaigns, ideas, and strategies they develop contribute to a larger mission, one that is rooted in empowerment, education, and opportunity.

**They are not just students completing a course. They are future marketers learning how to create real impact. They are future makers.**



CANISIUS  
UNIVERSITY



### NEWLY RETIRED WITH NOTHING TO DO?

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS BY VOLUNTEERING AS A BOARD MEMBER OR OFFICER AND/OR AS A SUPPORTER OF OUR FUND RAISING PROJECTS. CONTACT MARY ELLEN DYE BY EMAIL AT [MARYELLENDYE@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:MARYELLENDYE@ICLOUD.COM).

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## Meet The IMC Masterclass



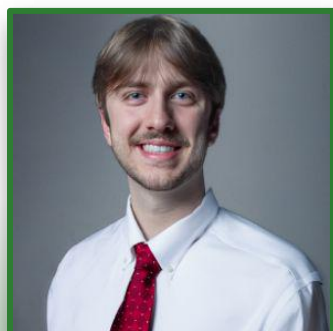
Mary Molloy, a junior Integrated Marketing Communications major, represents the balance between creativity and purpose. Her excitement to combine both in her work with Future in Our Hands USA reflects the core of the Masterclass experience. Whether through collaboration or execution, Mary embodies the mindset of a student who is eager to grow while contributing to something meaningful.

Alana Wilbon stands out in a historic way as the first MBA student to be part of the IMC Masterclass. Bringing a graduate level perspective into an undergraduate driven environment, she adds depth, maturity, and a strong focus on human centered strategy. With a passion for turning insight into meaningful experiences, Alana contributes to storytelling, brand development, and audience engagement at a high level. As the founder of Alana's Essence, she understands the importance of intention and positioning, making her presence in the class both unique and impactful.



Joe Capuzzo, a dual major in Integrated Marketing Communications and Strategic Communications with a minor in Mathematics, approaches the work with both analytical precision and creative intent. As a junior, Joe is focused on elevating the quality of work being done for Future in Our Hands USA, showing a strong commitment to both execution and impact. His ability to balance structure with creativity reflects the kind of mindset this Masterclass is designed to build.

For Griffin Regan, marketing extends beyond the classroom. As an Integrated Marketing Communications major and founder of Revo Supplements, Griffin brings an entrepreneurial mindset into the Masterclass. His focus on storytelling and brand growth aligns directly with the goals of Future in Our Hands USA, allowing him to bridge real business experience with purpose driven work.



John Santor II, a senior Integrated Marketing Communications student, brings a forward thinking and solutions driven approach to the team. His focus is on turning insights into actionable strategies that can create real change. With a clear understanding of the bigger picture, John represents the type of student who sees marketing not just as communication, but as a tool to build a better future.

**Thank you for everything you do for Future In Our Hands-USA**

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# FUTURE MAKERS DINNER PARTY

CELEBRATING  OF IMPACT  
THANKS TO YOU

20 YEARS OF FUTURE IN OUR HANDS-USA SUPPORTING THE  
LESS FORTUNATE, POWERED BY THE WNY COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, APRIL 23 • 6PM–9PM

SENECA ONE BUILDING, 1 SENECA ST, BUFFALO, NY 14203



## BUY YOUR TICKETS

VISIT [FIOHUSA.ORG/MAKERS](https://fiohusa.org/makers) OR  
SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$85

STUDENT ADMISSION: \$40

**THIS EVENT BENEFITS FUTURE IN OUR HANDS-USA: A BUFFALO-BASED  
NONPROFIT THAT FUNDS LIFE-GIVING PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITIES IN KENYA  
AND ZAMBIA TO HELP THEM BECOME MORE SUSTAINABLE.**

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION FEATURING AN EXQUISITE DINNER, LIVE MUSIC,  
RAFFLE BASKETS GALORE, THE PREMIERE OF THE FIOH-USA DOCUMENTARY, AND  
A FUN PHOTO BOOTH TO CAPTURE THE MEMORIES  
—ALL TO BENEFIT THOSE IN NEED IN KENYA & ZAMBIA.

PRESENTED BY THE IMC MASTERCLASS OF CANISIUS UNIVERSITY  
SPONSORED BY M&T BANK



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## News From the Student Program



For the 2026 School Year starting this January, FIOH-USA sponsors are providing tuition for 56 students – a record high. We have 24 Kisii students, 29 Kisumu students and 3 Zambian students who are attending high school or college because of our donors.

5 applicants for January 2026 did not get sponsors and are unable to go to high school this year. In Fall 2025 we had 6 high school graduates and 7 university graduates. Of the high school graduates 5 have passed their national examinations and are awaiting placement. They also need sponsors to pay their \$450 tuition this May, or they will not be able to attend school. You may be unaware that Grade 8 students take a national examination that must be passed to be placed in high schools (usually boarding schools). Grade 12 students (seniors in high school) must also pass a national examination to be placed in universities in majors determined by the government for at least one year. Students who wish to change major areas of study must apply for new placement. We had one student who was placed in international studies and was able to re-apply successfully for nursing. Sadly, we had one long time sponsor die, 1 sponsor had a stroke, and 2 sponsors now have dementia. 3 sponsors are no longer able to afford to support tuition on either a full or part-time basis. These sponsors supported 8 students in the past.

Our goals for 2026 are to find more full or partial tuition sponsors, to develop a tuition payment system through monthly donations rather than a lump sum, and to develop a free-standing Student Program Committee.

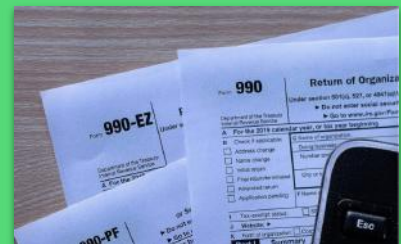


**Interested in becoming a student sponsor? Contact Louise Heubusch at [googmerrimac151@gmail.com](mailto:googmerrimac151@gmail.com)**



### Form 990 EZ Submitted to IRS

Anyone wishing to see a copy of the report submitted to the IRS can contact Mary Ellen Dye, of FIOH-USA, [maryellendye@icloud.com](mailto:maryellendye@icloud.com).



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# Gosese Villiage Is Electrified

Sponsors provided funding for tapping into electrical lines that used to pass by an entire village. Thanks to our donors and our partner's convincing power, the Best Practices Farm compound and the nearby village of Gosese are now electrified. This provides improved security, safety and the ability to work and study after sunset (7pm in equatorial Africa). Farm equipment like shuckers and grinders can now use electricity rather than polluting diesel fuel. Electrified farm equipment is also much quieter.

Gosese Man shucking corn electrically



## Improvements in Awasi Preschool

Another successful project financed by donors this year has been major renovations at the preschool outside of Kisumu. It's amazing what so little money in our eyes can make a huge difference in the lives of young students.

Thanks to our donors, almost 30 toddlers now receive food at midday. Their classrooms have been transformed into brightly colored spaces, desk tables and chairs and new educational materials. Additionally, we were able to raise the meager salaries of 3 preschool teachers who basically volunteer their services.

It is hoped that the feeding program will bring in more students from this poor rural community improving the lives and health of all.



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## **The Inspiring Journey of St. Charles ECDE & Primary School**

Charles Ponge Primary School was established in honor of the late Charles Obuya, whose legacy continues to inspire the community. What began as a humble church eventually transformed into a beacon of hope and learning for children in the village.

In the late 1990s, the nearest primary school was located approximately 15 kilometers away from the village. This long distance made it extremely difficult, especially for nursery school children and orphans, to access basic education. Recognizing this challenge, a group of determined women from the community convened in 1998 to find a solution. Their vision was simple yet powerful: convert the church premises into a school to serve the children who had no access to education.

With unwavering commitment, these women volunteered their time and resources. They contributed essential learning materials such as chalk, books, pencils, erasers, and study boards. To sustain the school, they raised funds through the sale of traditional artifacts. Many of the women were skilled artisans who crafted table mats and baskets, using their talents to support the educational needs of the children.

Beyond financial contributions, the women also played an active role in nurturing young minds. They volunteered as tutors, offering foundational education and sharing traditional knowledge through oral storytelling and songs. Their efforts laid a strong cultural and educational foundation for the school's early learners.



**Graduate Students**



**School Washrooms**

A significant milestone was achieved when Future in Our Hands (FIOH) Kenya stepped in to sponsor the school. At the time, the organization was managed by Romulus Wandera, with the help of Michelle Sprada and Sister Sr. Linda Glaeser. Through this partnership, the school was able to hire two professional teachers, Mrs. Ebrine Atieno Ochieng and Mrs. Janet Achieng, marking a new chapter of structured and formal education.

FIOH Kenya further strengthened the school by providing educational materials including storybooks, erasers, manila papers, and play equipment such as jumping ropes, balls, and LEGO sets. These resources enriched both the academic and recreational experiences of the learners. Recently, the community has expressed immense gratitude for additional financial assistance and donations from FIOH-USA through FIOH-Kenya. The funds were used to purchase textbooks, manila papers, a water tank to improve access to clean water, and to provide a balanced diet for the students. These improvements have significantly enhanced the learning environment and overall well-being of the children.

Today, St. Charles Ponge Primary School stands as a testament to the power of community initiative, women's leadership, and meaningful partnerships. From its modest beginnings in a church building to its status as a thriving educational institution, the school remains a symbol of resilience, unity, and hope for future generations.

**Sally Wandera Kisii, Kenya**



**Students in Class**



**Students Enjoying Snacks**

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## SPONSORS DESPERATELY NEEDED

The following Fall 2025 high school graduates have successfully passed the National Exams in Kenya and are awaiting placement in a college or university program based on their scores.

Christine Adhiambo	Public High School
Cynthia Adhiambo	Bishop Oketh School
Kennedy Odhiambo	Our Lady of Mercy - Rangu
Brayan Ochieng Omandi	Lions High School
Marcy Akinyi	

Tuition for a full year of schooling is only \$450 (comparable to about 15 dinners at restaurants without drinks). Also, consider recruiting family members or friends to co-sponsor a student with you.

Ask your book club members, fellow choir members, or garden club friends to pool their donations and support one of these worthy students.

## Corporate Sponsors Needed

One of FIOH-USA's wish list items is to find corporate sponsors who will donate toward fund raising events or projects in Africa. Many of you have family members who are part of a business or who own a business and might consider becoming a corporate sponsor – a tax-deductible contribution. Corporate sponsors will be recognized at all events and will be published in our Harambee Newsletter. Monies donated by corporate sponsors will be used to provide funds for future events like renting space or paying for catering. Monies may also be used to provide funding for specific projects that have been proposed, reviewed, modified and finally approved by the Board of Directors. Past large donors have helped to buy farmland in Kisii, Kenya and paid for a building of an orphanage. This same orphanage is being converted to a pre-school through Grade 1 and will need funds to bring it up to code for the Kenyan government.

**Contact President Michele Sprada to learn more at [msprada@gmail.com](mailto:msprada@gmail.com)**

## Donations in Memory of and in Honor of

**In memory of Sr. Linda Glaeser by Ryan Ricigliano**

**In honor of Terri Ricigliano by Louise Wright**

**In honor of Terri Ricigliano by Ryan Ricigliano**

**In honor of Sally Tower by Gerry Neff**

**In honor of Louise Heubusch by Gerry Neff**



*Please consider a donation to FIOH-USA in honor of or in memory of your loved ones.*

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