



Harambee



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FUTURE IN OUR HANDS-USA | Spring 2025

Working With the Canisius Masterclass!

This spring FIOH-USA is partnering up with Canisius University for the third year in a row to raise funds for Kenya and Zambia. The Canisius University Masterclass, led by Professor and FIOH-USA board member, Mary Owusu, is filled with nine students with various majors including Integrated Marketing Communication, Digital Media Arts, and Marketing. These students are dedicated to raising funds for FIOH-USA using skills learned over the course of their learning careers. This semester they are launching a brand new campaign called "Spring Into Action" aimed at gathering donations through the months of March, April and May. Their main goal for this semester is to raise \$15,000 for our organization! The students are planning a fundraiser called Future In Our Hands Dinner Party. The fundraiser will include dinner, dessert, and keynote speaker Mekhi Edwards-Canisius '25 at The Terrace of Delaware Park!



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL
OF \$15,000 TODAY!

BUY YOUR TICKET!

OR DONATE STRAIGHT TO
FIOH-USA!

DONATE ONLINE!



NEWLY RETIRED WITH NOTHING TO DO?

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS BY VOLUNTEERING TO BE A TREASURER BOARD MEMBER FOR FIOH-USA CONTACT MARY ELLEN DYE BY EMAIL AT MARYELLENDYE@ICLOUD.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!

DONATE ONLINE NOW

Click here and receive the joy of helping others! It's safe and secure.

The “Wedding Cake” Project

This past year, Linett from FIOH-Angelic Ark In Kisii, Kenya sent a request for donations in order to start a new project. Linett requested \$9000 in funding to build layered conical gardens to benefit families living in Kisii. Now called the “Wedding Cake” project due to the appearance of the garden, each garden, with TLC from the families, can produce a year’s worth of herbs and vegetables! In order to create the layers, chicken wire and fertilized soil is used. Due to the fact that the gardens are perpendicular and 10 feet in diameter, they take up less than 100 square feet of land.

However there is one problem we have run into! We were only able to partially fund the project due to limited funds. As a result the number of gardens built is less than planned. Please consider helping us reach our goal of \$9,000 by donating today! Your donation of any amount will help to support this self-sustaining garden project.

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Rebuilding Hope: How Your Generosity Restored the Orphanage After the Storm

Last spring high winds brought down the water tower right onto the orphanage dormitory wing. Luckily no one was hurt, but the roof, gutters and rafters were damaged as well as the ceiling, walls and floors of the dorm. Thanks to donors like you we were able to send part of the money needed to build a new water tower and make outside repairs.

A second wire was sent to make the inside repairs. Your donations to general funds help to fund unexpected needs for our partners in Africa. Thank you all for donating to Future In Our Hands USA!



Exciting Graduation Milestones & New Sponsorship Opportunities

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news from our partners at FIOH-Angelic Ark and FIOH-Kenya. Louise Heubusch, Student Program Coordinator, reports a significant milestone for our students.

In June 2024, three Zambian students, who have been supported throughout their four years of university education, graduated successfully. Congratulations to these hardworking students!

Additionally, FIOH-Angelic Ark celebrated the graduation of three university students and one high school student. Over in Kenya, FIOH-Kenya marked the achievement of eight university graduates. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our students and the continued support of our sponsors. In January 2025, three university students and nine high school students began their educational journey. We are proud to announce that we've already secured sponsorship for 45 students this year, but we still need your help!

A full year of study for both high school and university students in Kenya costs just \$450. Could your book club, prayer group, choir, or social club come together to sponsor a student? Your contribution will make a world of difference in the life of a young scholar.

We will be seeking new sponsors in August and September 2025. If you're interested in supporting a student's education, please contact Louise Heubusch at googMerrimac151@gmail.com to sign up.

Thank you for your continued support in making education accessible for these deserving students. Together, we are creating opportunities that will last a lifetime.



DONATE ONLINE NOW



Little Hands, Big Impact: A Child's Perspective on Helping Others



Karen, a school teacher for low-income students here in Buffalo and friend of president of FIOH-USA, Michele, once asked Michele to come in and speak to a club at the school called the K-Kids Club. She requested to have her speak on her experience in Kenya with the students in the club. Michele shared stories of her experience with underprivileged kids in Kenya and the challenges they face—high pollution, the lack of clean water, and even children sleeping under cars. Michele recounted how there are no toilets, only one spigot to go around, and so much plastic bag waste that kids play soccer with balls made from bundled up plastic bags.

After the talk, a fourth-grade girl approached Michele with wide eyes and said, *"I didn't know there were people in the world poorer than us."* It was a moment of realization for her. *"That means I can help someone,"* she added, feeling empowered. Even though she herself was not in the best situation she still had a big enough heart to care for those who are even less fortunate.

This moment highlighted an important lesson: No matter our circumstances, we all can make a difference. Whether it's raising awareness, donating, or simply caring, even the smallest actions can create change.

Nelson's Journey

When Michelle met Nelson, he was just two years old, living in a slum with limited resources and no opportunity for an education. He was blind—one eye had been removed, and the other was severely infected. His parents, struggling to make ends meet, couldn't afford to send him to a school for the blind. Determined to help, Michelle connected them with an American sponsor—someone who, remarkably, was also blind. That sponsorship changed Nelson's life. He not only received an education, but he thrived. Michelle brought with her a braille typewriter to further help Nelson on his journey. Today, Nelson works at the very school for the blind that once gave him hope, mentoring children just like him. Every time Michelle returns to Kenya, she visits Nelson, which is a powerful reminder that a single act of kindness can shape an entire future.



Nelson's mother with the braille typewriter.

Future On Our Feet: A Step Toward Fundraising Success

How hard could it be to plan a simple foot race around Delaware Park? That was the question the students started with—before discovering just how much goes into pulling off a community event.

From securing the park and wrangling city permits to renting porta-potties and coordinating first aid, the students dove headfirst into the world of event planning. They arranged security, organized snack and water stations, hunted down basket raffle donations, and even created informative displays about FIOH-USA. Promotion took off with posters, social media buzz, and even a TV interview.

Then came race day—along with cold winds and relentless rain. Turnout was low and proceeds dipped, but the experience was anything but a loss.

What began as a simple idea became a crash course in logistics, teamwork, and resilience. While the weather may have dampened the crowds, it didn't dampen the students' spirits—or the valuable lessons they'll carry forward.

In a powerful display of purpose and collaboration, IMC students rallied together in December 2023 and into 2024 to raise an incredible \$12,000 through an online fundraising campaign. Their efforts went far beyond simply sharing links—they inspired action.

The students recruited matching fund donors, shared heartfelt stories, and spotlighted urgent needs for projects approved by the FIOH-USA Board of Directors. Their passion paid off—literally.

Thanks to their work, critical funds were sent overseas:



- **In Zambia**, donations supported the growth of a local business center, empowering entrepreneurship.
- **At FIOH-Angelic Ark**, a vital security fence moved closer to completion, ensuring safety for those who need it most.
- **In Kenya**, a new community building will soon be furnished and ready to serve thanks to the students' dedication.

This campaign proved that with creativity, compassion, and commitment, even students can make waves across continents!



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**GOT CANS? Drop
them off at XTRA
Dime Back!**

**XTRA DIME BACK
1041 ENGLEWOOD AVE.
KENMORE, NEW YORK
TELL THEM THE CANS ARE
FOR #67 FUTURE IN OUR HANDS**

Western New York locals can bring redeemable cans and bottles to 1041 Englewood Avenue, Kenmore, New York to Xtra Dime Back and donate your returns to #67, Future in Our Hands - USA. This charitable-oriented company supports many organizations in their efforts to obtain monies for their organization. Bring your cans and bottles in now and designate #67 Future in Our Hands - USA as your donation of choice. Thank you!



In Memory Of:

Nancy Corcoran

Richard Heubusch

We received sponsorship money for TWO students attending high school in Kisii, Kenya in honor of deceased parents. What a wonderful way to memorialize and honor loved ones.

Donating to FIOH-USA has never been easier

You can donate from anywhere, any time, with these 3 secure and simple options:

Donate online: Visit futureinourhandsusa.org
> click donate > that's it!

Donate by text: Text the word Give to
844-930-2628

Donate by mail: Mail donations to:
FIOH-USA
c/o Sandra Warner
5200 Bank Street
Clarence, NY 14031

*100% of your donation goes to our projects.
Thank you for your generosity.*

Let's get social >>>



Do you know the best place to get updates, stories and pictures of the impact your donation is making? Our Facebook and Instagram pages! If you're not already following us on Facebook and Instagram,

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