



# Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation

Rescuing Girls for a Better Tomorrow

and

## Friends of AIC Kajiado School, Kenya

*Celebrating 25 years of  
supporting education for  
disadvantaged Kenyan girls.*

### Mission

The Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation, through education and support, provides disadvantaged Kenyan girls and young women with opportunities for a better tomorrow.



Two of our beauties celebrating their culture

### Vision

Our vision is to provide a pathway through education for girls and young women, to pursue their personal life goals, thereby creating a brighter and more equitable future which leads to stronger families and communities.

### Values

**Education** – Equal access to educational opportunities ensures girls and young women can achieve their career and personal goals.

**Personal safety** – Girls have the fundamental right to freedom from gender-based violence.

**Equality** – Opportunity for girls and young women allows them to live their lives with choice and dignity.

**Community Strength** – Gender equality strengthens communities

The newly renovated dining hall  
put to good use!



**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS IN CALGARY & VANCOUVER!**

May 15 – Marda Loop Community Centre, Calgary

Get Calgary Tickets Here <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/calgary-25-year-celebration-of-beyond-bride-rescue-kajiado-school-kenya-tickets-781760636107?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

May 22 - Alan Emmott Centre, Burnaby

Get Vancouver Tickets Here <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/vancouver-25-yr-celebration-of-beyond-bride-rescue-kajiado-school-kenya-tickets-783191977287?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

## Expanding and Refocusing our Efforts – A Revised Vision

We have recently completed an intense review of our purpose, what we have accomplished over the past number of years and how we want to move forward within the scope and limitations of our fundraising capacity. This led us to a revitalized, mission, vision, and value statement as reported above. It is difficult to manage our emotional attachment towards helping as many girls as possible while recognizing our financial constraints. To this end, the board has decided to focus on supporting the girls in obtaining a grade 12 education and as funds permit, we will support as many as we can in their post-secondary endeavors. We will maintain a focus on supporting girls at AIC Kajiado School as we have done for 25 years, however, we have expanded our reach to other disadvantaged girls attending in other schools in Kenya. You will see the amalgamation of Friends of AIC Kajiado Society into Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation to reflect our support for girls in many areas of Kenya, not just Kajiado. Please know we haven't changed a thing in what we are doing, just simplifying and focusing... thank you for coming along with us!



*Jackline Koin is pursuing a certificate course in fashion and design. Like most all girls in the Maasai ethnic group, Jackline was threatened with early forced marriage. She spent most of her high school life with relatives who would hide her. Her mother sold milk to secretly keep her in school. She recently joined college for training as a tailor and has since reconciled with her father. Samson & Hellen our Kenya BBRF team presented Jacklin the sewing machine for her course. She is very grateful for your love and care.*

## A Glimpse into the Impact You Have Made!

The Bride Rescue Program works closely with several schools, in particular AIC Kajiado Girls School, a boarding school south of Nairobi, which accommodates 700 students mostly from the Maasai community. This unique program rescues young girls from harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (circumcision) and early forced marriage which is quite common. The fathers, uncles or brothers marry the girls off in exchange for a dowry of cows and money. With the help of the Bride Rescue Program the girls come on their own accord to the school to receive an education which empowers them for a better life and lifts up their village or community... very powerful!

*Your partnership is key in helping Kenyan girls and young women to secure an education. Here is a snapshot of how your gifts have made an impact.*

### Girls Supported

	2022	2023
<b>Grades 1 - 8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>High school 9-12</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Post-Secondary</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Supported</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>115</b>

### Your Donations Impact

Your donation pays for • educational fees, • boarding – year-round accommodation as these girls cannot go back home for fear of being married off, abused or circumcised • food, • clothing – uniforms, clothes for holiday times • Personal hygiene products • Training in skills such as cooking, embroidery, and beadwork, (allows them to earn a little money for their personal needs) • Trauma Counselling • An awareness of the lasting effects of early marriage on other girls in their community.

### Average Costs to support a girl in 2023

Support Costs by Grade	School Fees	Shelter	Supplies	Other	Total
Grades 1 - 7	\$300	Inc.	\$225	-	\$525
Grade 8	\$450	Inc.	\$550	-	\$1,000
High school 9-12	\$500	Inc.	\$600	-	\$1,100
Post-Secondary	\$1,200	\$1,350	\$600	\$1,350	\$4,500

### Projected Expenses for 2024

Administration	\$ 10,330
Programming	\$157,745
Holiday Food Provision	\$ 8,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$176,575</b>

Administrative expenses include 1.5 Kenyan "on the ground" team to ensure the girls get what they need, bank fees, website and CRA Reporting. BBRF is blessed with volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise that allows your donation to support the girls educational programs directly.

## Straight from the girls ....



**Glady's in Grade 8 writes:** *We are many in the home and all the cows died and I fear my father might force me to marry so that he can get cows because the drought finished all the livestock we had. I would like to be a teacher so that I can teach little children in my village.*

**Yolanda in Grade 6 writes:** *I fear to be married off because in our home we have no cows or goats. My parents are poor. I hope to reconcile with my family because sometimes I miss them.*

**Stephany in Grade 3 writes:** *I need help because my parents do not support education for girls, so they wanted to marry me off. I wanted to be rescued so I can get educated and go back to my community and teach them the importance of education. After I would like to be reconciled with my family.*

**Margaret in Grade 7 writes:** *My father refused to let me get educated. He wanted me and my sisters to be married so he can get money and cows. We ran to AIC Kajiado last year.*

**Grace in grade 4 writes:** *I was about to be circumcised, I refused but they still tried to force me. My aunt brought a lady (Hellen) from the school. She was a beautiful as the sunset and she brought me to the AIC rescue centre. I want to be a lawyer so that I can fight for the rights for Kenyan citizens.*



*New students receiving supplies & some other necessities for the school year from our Program Administrator- Hellen*



### Dealing with Trauma

AIC Kajiado Girls School, among other schools that we support, is a boarding school. When the rescued girls come to the school, they are traumatized and must undergo serious counseling. Once at the school, the girls join the 'speak out club', whereby they compose poems, songs and plays that are geared towards creating awareness on early marriage and girl child education to the community. This program is invaluable to their mental and physical health.

### Food Security

BBRF provides an important element with ongoing food and shelter. When school is not in session, the girls cannot return home for fear of being married off or circumcised. The girls stay at the school where they have a home and food in their tummys. This was a critical area of our support during the pandemic and continues as a result of dramatic food inflation and shortages. Many studies that show the importance of a nutritious meals towards learning outcomes. Our **annual food support program budget is \$8,500 CDN**. This provides beans, rice and ugali (corn meal) and cabbage. Meat, fruit and milk are an occasional luxury.

### How Can You Help...

**Yes, we have charitable status through the umbrella of The Great Commission Foundation so you will receive a Canadian Tax Receipt! CRA Registration #85992 8483 RR0001**

#### ✓ Donate by Cheque

- 1) Make cheques payable to **The Great Commission Foundation**
- 2) Place **"Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation #1137"** in the memo so it gets to the right place!

**Mail to:** The Great Commission Foundation, PO Box 14006, Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 0B4

#### ✓ Donate by Credit Card at our website: <http://beyondbriderescue.com/donate/>

*Thank You!  
Asante Sana!*

## A Message from Carol

It is hard to believe that 2024 will represent 25<sup>th</sup> years of supporting rescued girls at AIC Kajiado Girls School, Kenya. I will never forget getting a hug from the then Head Mistress Priscilla Nguri and being welcomed into their hearts. Over the years, many of you have visited the girls and have spread the word about their situation. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this support as we could not do it without you. To those that have not met the girls but trust us to care for these young ladies... thank you too. You have no idea what a difference all of you have made in changing these girls' lives and in turn, their communities. I have seen girls arrive with no shoes, such sad eyes, emotionally and physically exhausted. They are immediately loved, and it isn't long before they begin to shine – singing... playing games... working hard at their studies. It's pretty incredible what an impact love makes.

As we recover from the impact of the pandemic, we are most grateful for your significant gifts – one in particular which funded major improvements to Kajiado School with a new dining hall including benches and tables as well as renovations to 2 dorms to increase the student capacity. We also recognize the Rotary Clubs of Calgary and Nairobi who continue to give generously in support including dormitory improvements, showers and toilets. The support of our revised mission could not be accomplished without all your gifts and donations. No matter the size of your gift it does make a positive impact on the lives of girls and young women being supported. I personally take your support very seriously and with our devoted board, we work hard to ensure every penny is going where it should be by regular visits and assistance from our Kenyan team on the ground. Thank you on behalf of all the girls and young women whom you have benefited!



*Founding Director and owner of Nature Encounters Tours & Travel of which so many guests have been a huge support to Friends of Kajiado Society and Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation.*

### **Our Team**

*Victoria Buhler – First visit to the girls in 2014 with her lovely mother that immediately provided water for the girls.*

*Dianne Cully – Our amazing policy “writer” and organizer of our Calgary functions with her equally amazing team!*

*Chris Nicolls – A financial guru and spreadsheet wizard (yay!) who immediately fell for the girls in 2018*

*Sheri MacMillan – New to the board this year, her huge heart was impacted by a visit in 2022.*

*Deb Mitchell – Also new to the board, she has not met the girls but knows the difference she can make.*

*Hellen Inoti – Our Kenya Program Administrator (ex-Kajiado School Teacher) who works tirelessly to place these girls and make sure they have everything they need to succeed.*

*Samson Muriethi – Hellen's right-hand man who assists her with all the Kenyan projects and is an amazing male role model to the girls that they have never had.*



\*\*\* We so appreciate the support from Liz Froese who has now left the board. She was tremendous with her Vancouver Team in our fundraisers! Thank you, Liz!

\*\*\*We are sad to say good-bye to our dear friend Jim Bodi, one of our original board members who passed away this year. We will dearly miss him.

A tree is planted in his memory at the school.



**Contact Us! Beyond Bride Rescue Foundation & Friends of AIC Kajiado Kenya**

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