



INSPIRE
SPACES



LIGHTING THE FUTURE

2020



ANNUAL REPORT

LOVE | LEAD | SERVE

Word from the Director



Fred Ndavi
Executive Director

Reflecting on 2020 feels surreal! In some ways it could be described as both Inspire Spaces' best and toughest year. There is so much we had planned for, but the unfolding of Covid-19 pandemic forced us to quickly pivot.

Looking through our 2020 program photos, it is hard not to feel contemplative about a world where hundreds of families and community members benefited from our food relief initiative, or where our students and mentors gathered to create safe spaces for students and help them navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

For millions of young people in Africa, childhood ended too soon. With school systems closed for almost a whole year, many of the young people woke up to the demands of child labor, early teenage pregnancies and for others, child marriage.

During a visit to one of our scholar's (Joseph) home, he told us, "I had to grow up, I needed to put food on the table and care for my siblings and grandmother, we had no other choice." The social and mental health challenges facing many young people, and in particular the most vulnerable in society will have to be addressed on the road to recovery.

Inspire Spaces recognized more than ever it was time to be compassionate and respond quickly to the crisis. The Covid pandemic exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities, pushing the marginalized and the poor more into the shadows and increasing the risk of violence for women and girls. With the outpouring support from many of our supporters, we mobilized a Rapid Response Initiative that provided food relief, educational and devotional materials, and safe spaces through tailored workshops.

Many families would later say, "2020 was a dark year but you brought us some light, you gave us hope to keep going, you brought us food when we needed it most and you stood with us." This report also celebrates our journey from a start-up, all volunteer project with friends providing 10 scholarships in our first year to impacting over 10,000+ young people in Kenya! Today, we have created a holistic programming model that is successfully helping youth to overcome educational, social, economic, and cultural barriers.

Students in our scholarship program continue to return to school year after year, and we maintain a 99% retention rate, far beyond the regional and national averages. We are committed to lighting the future by investing in the young people who will change our world. We believe everyone is born with a purpose and our goal is to help young people to write their own futures so that the Josephs of the future will have better choices to pick from.

We couldn't have achieved so much in a difficult year without your support and love. You inspire our work!

Psalm 18:28; "For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness."

Fred Ndavi

About Inspire Spaces

At Inspire Spaces, we believe all children deserve the chance to follow their dreams, whatever they may be.



These students' paths are shortened not by a lack of ability or willpower, but by a cyclical and unjust lack of resources.

In addition to financial assistance, they need the holistic investment of people who believe in their potential, encourage their dreams, and provide examples of an inspiring future for someone just like them.



Hope Restored



“Apart from Inspire Spaces touching lives, you are changing destinies.”

Esther Kinyua (Jemimah’s mother)

Jemimah is finishing her first year in one of the top girls schools in Kenya, Moi Girls High School Isinya, Kajiado County.

In a recent interview, Jemimah's mother said that; "Despite my child being the top student at her school and the 3rd best in Kajiado County, I was not celebrating, I was in fear and pain. I wondered if my daughter's story would end up the same way it ended for me. I dropped out of school at the age of 14yrs to look for work because my family couldn't afford it.

So you can imagine my excitement when I received the call from Inspire Spaces about Jemimah's scholarship"



Our Vision

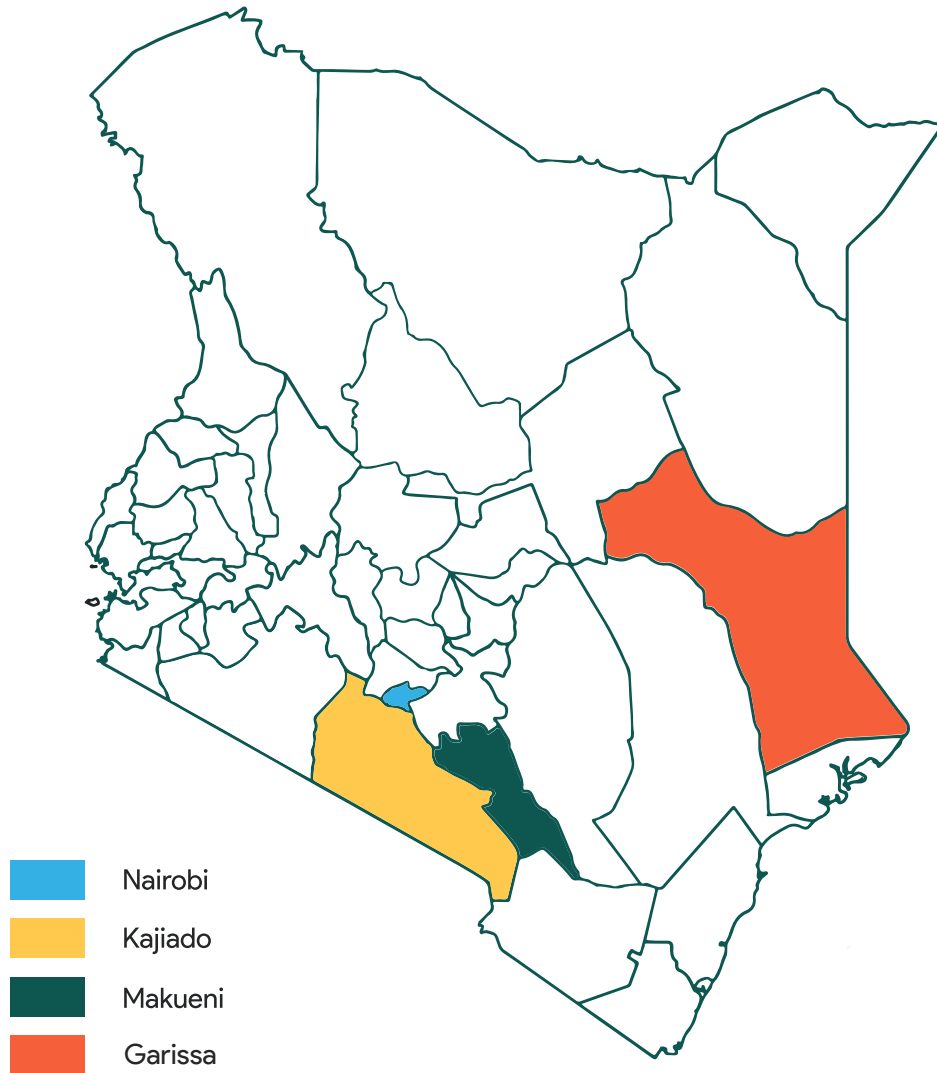
To see every young person in Kenya with access to quality education and opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom, to follow their dreams, and to give back to their community.

Our Mission

To expand educational opportunities for needy students through scholarships, transform education spaces through infrastructure development and to inspire young people through mentorship and leadership development.



Our focus Counties



Nairobi is Kenya's Capital city and home to one of the largest informal settlements in Africa - Kibera. Yet from such challenging learning environments have come some of the best performing Inspire Spaces scholarship beneficiaries.

Kajiado is one of Kenya's larger Counties, also littered with smaller informal settlements from which thousands of families try to make a living. Many of our students come from Ongata Rongai, the largest town in the county.

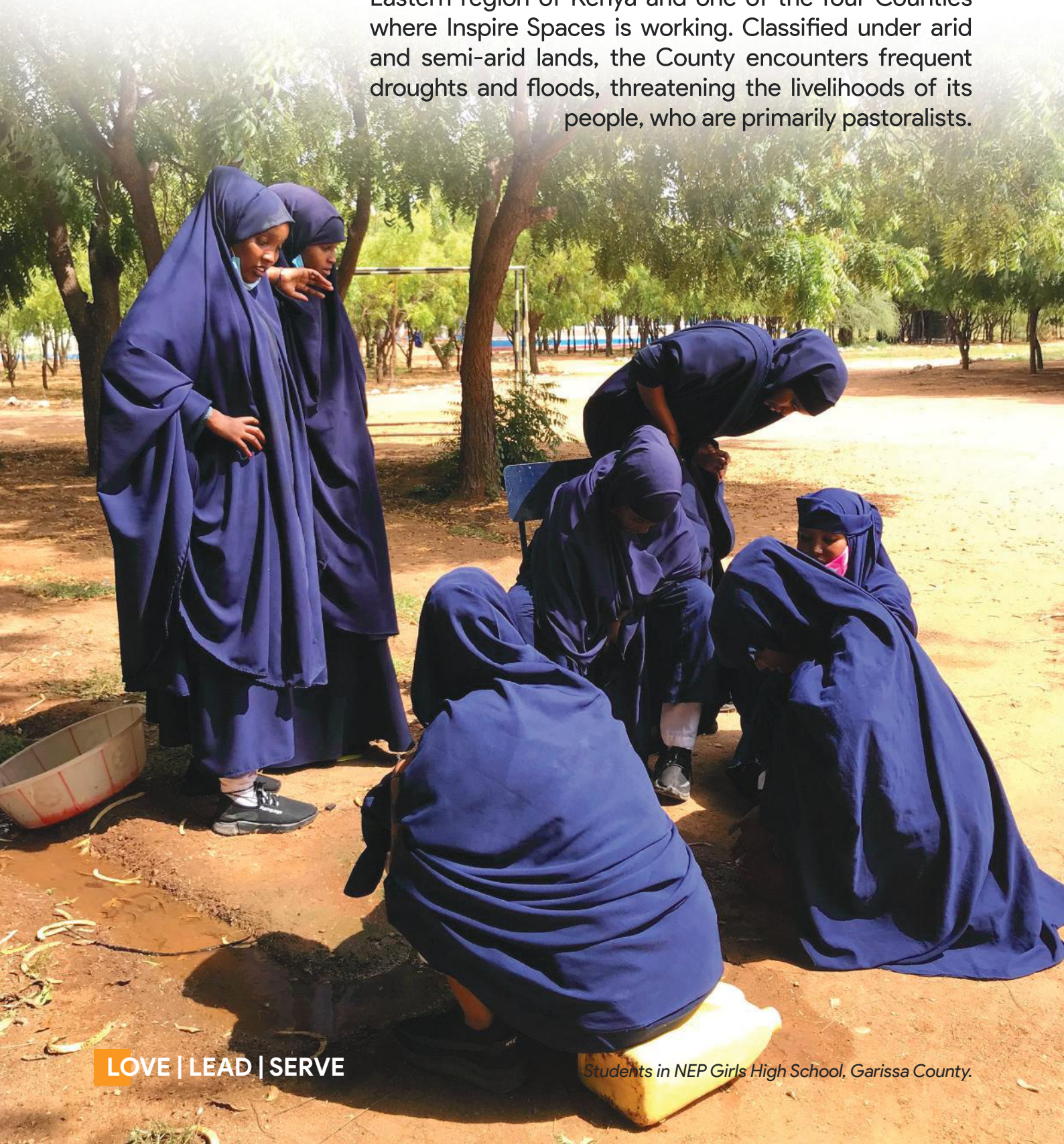
Majority of the Inspire Spaces scholarship beneficiaries come from Makueni County, home to hundreds of vulnerable yet high performing students. The area frequently experiences drought but is one of the most fertile in the country, especially for dry cereal and fruit farming.

Garissa is beautiful and it's culture is rich. Yet in the midst of that beauty are retrogressive cultural practices that negatively impact children, especially girls. It was this need that compelled Inspire Spaces to reach out to our first group of students from this County.



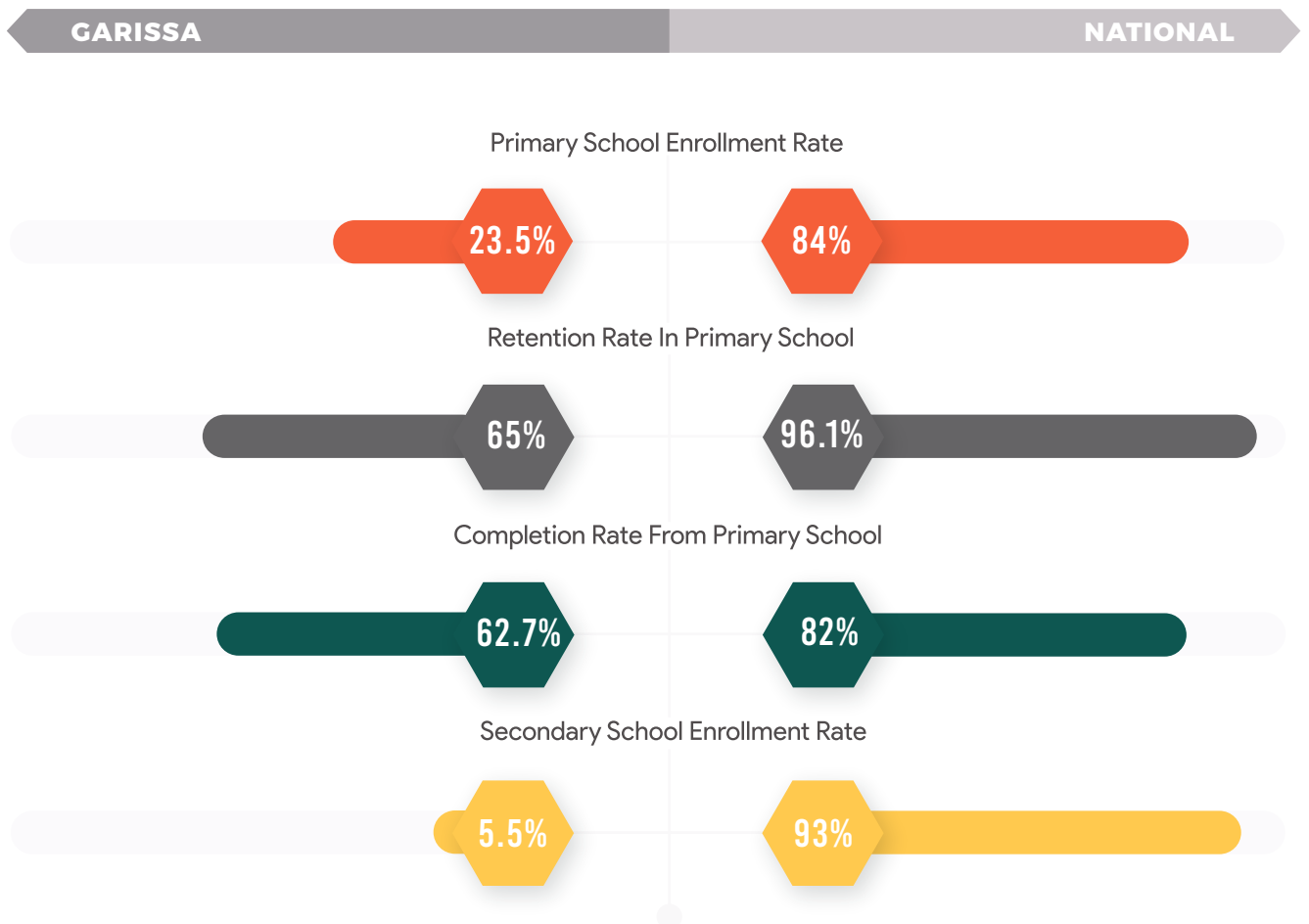
Our feature **County**

Garissa County is one of the three counties in the North Eastern region of Kenya and one of the four Counties where Inspire Spaces is working. Classified under arid and semi-arid lands, the County encounters frequent droughts and floods, threatening the livelihoods of its people, who are primarily pastoralists.



The community’s social and cultural norms promote female genital mutilation and early marriage, adversely affecting the lives of thousands of girls every year. Even though it has made great strides in the enrollment of girls into schools, Garissa County still reports low overall enrollment rates (23.5% for Primary School and 5.5% for Secondary School) and relatively low transition rates (58.3%) from Primary to High School, compared to other Counties. This is attributed to the nomadic lifestyle, insecurity, as well as early marriage of girls.

While it is challenging, this has presented an opportunity for Inspire Spaces to partner with Silver Lining in promoting the education of vulnerable children in Garissa County. In 2018, we began our journey with four students from Garissa County.



Our Core Pillars



SCHOLARSHIPS



MENTORSHIP



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**



**ENHANCING
EDUCATION SPACES**

Our Numbers



187

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS

87

PARTNERSHIPS WITH
SCHOOLS



165

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



22

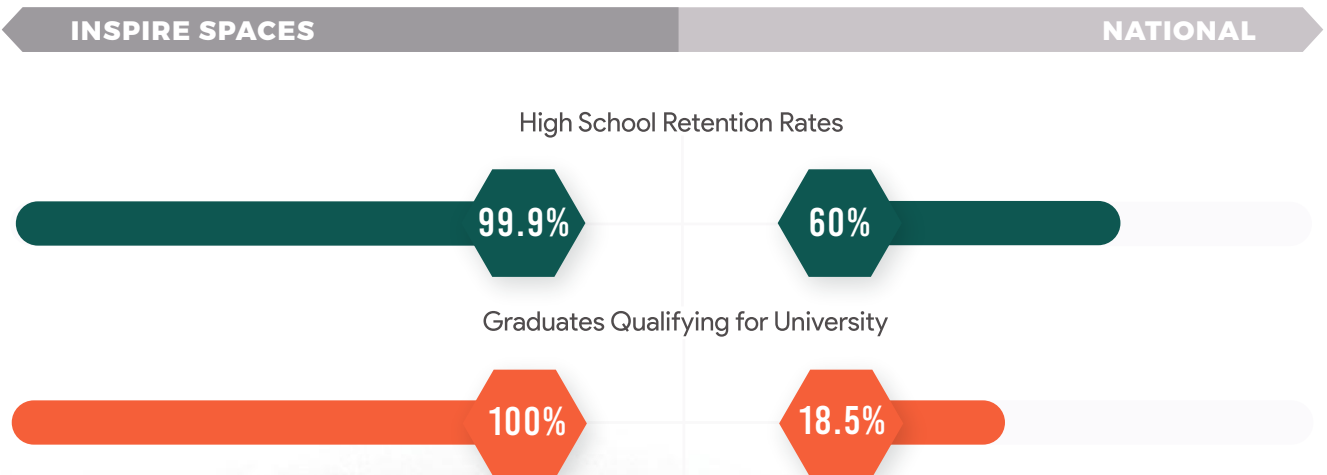
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Our Impact

Our success is measured not just by the number of scholars served but, also by the impact and transformation in scholars's lives and communities. Transformation happens by building values, establishing personal dignity, developing agency, and renewing dreams.

This is reflected in Inspire Spaces Scholars:

- Scoring higher in exams than their peers.
- Staying in school at a higher rate than their peers.
- Getting appointed and elected as leaders.
- Qualifying for colleges and universities at a higher rate than their peers.





Mary, Faustina and Festus are some of the Inspire Spaces scholars who excelled in high school and are studying (Community Health & Development, Industrial Chemistry) at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, one of the best universities in the country.

Covid Report

The first Covid-19 case was reported in Kenya in March 2020. Over the months that followed, the government announced several containment measures, including the indefinite closure of all learning institutions, limitation of movement in and out of hot-spot Counties, and dusk to dawn curfews.



As the closure of schools affected the students around the country, the education-focused Inspire Spaces programs were not spared. However, we made the effort to adjust our strategies in order to remain relevant to our scholarship beneficiaries.

The following were the main highlights of the 2020 programs:



Post-high school Program

The annual Post-high School program was carried out in March 2020 at the Beacon of Hope Center.

The 7 day program saw ten 2019 high school graduates participate in a Microsoft Office certified course run by the Beacon of Hope Technical Training Institute, as well as an Inspire Spaces program to prepare the students for the transition to Colleges and Universities.

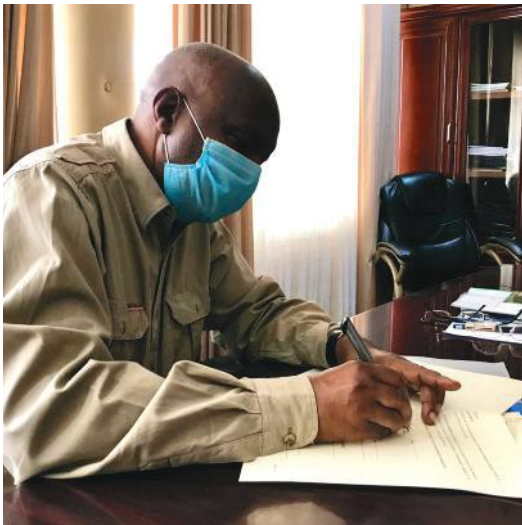
At the end of the program, students are college ready after intensive basic training in financial literacy, university life, healthy relationships, career assesment, communication and presentation skills.



2019 Inspire Spaces high school graduates.

Makueni County Partnership

Inspire Spaces signed a memorandum of understanding with the Makueni County Government to collaborate and deliver high impact youth-focused interventions in the county.



Prof. Kivutha Kibwana
(Governor Makueni County)

Rapid relief **Response**

Rapid Response 1 - was done in April 2020 and included distribution of Food packages to 78 of the most vulnerable Inspire Spaces families.

The relief packages included food, study material with a focus on the graduating class who would have been taking their end of high school examinations that year.



Rapid Response 2 - It was done in June 2020 for 266 families from three regions Kibwezi, Emali and Rongai.

The Care Packs included food and face masks for all the households, as well as daily schedule and revision books for Math and Sciences for all Inspire Spaces students. Care calls were also made by Inspire Spaces leaders to all our students.



Rapid Response 3 – was done in October 2020 and was a combination of food packs and back-to-school care packs (done in readiness for the anticipated October school re-opening, which was later moved to January 2021). Inspire Spaces also held student workshop meetings in October and November.

Student Workshops

These meetings were carried out in Kibwezi, Emali, Kibera and Rongai from September to December 2020. The meetings centred around worship, counselling, peer-led conversations around challenges and lessons learned during the extended home stay due to the Covid pandemic. December workshops focused on how to build emotional resilience for 2021 onwards.



Student Peer- led conversations in Emali - Makueni County.

Leaders Retreat

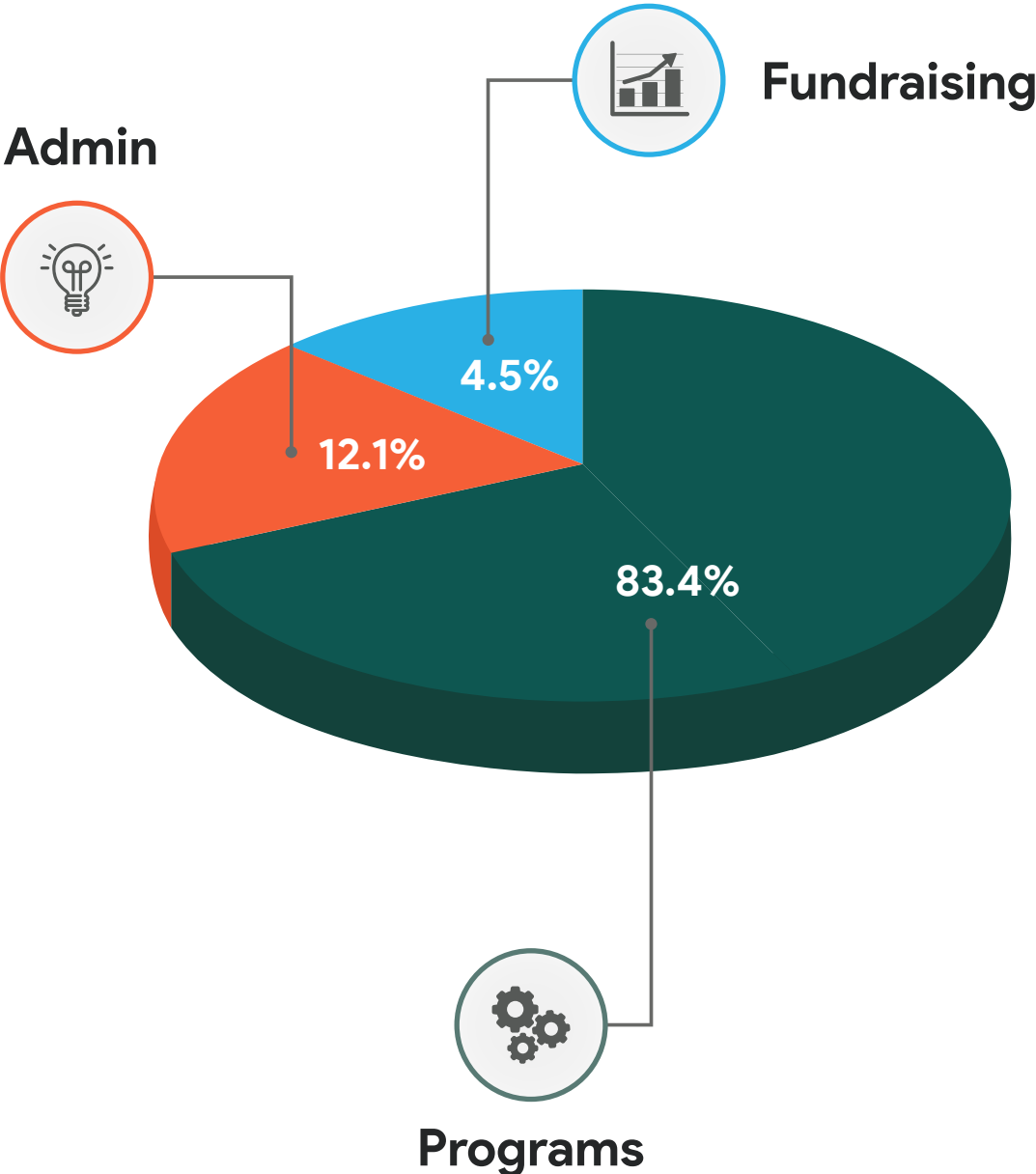
The Inspire Spaces annual leaders' retreat was held at the Patch of Heaven Center on February 2020.

The retreat provides the Kenya leaders /mentors/advisory group an opportunity to reflect, discuss program outcomes and advice on the strategic direction of the organization. It also provides great bonding opportunities that remind us why we do what we do.



"I'm grateful for the selfless commitment and passion These leaders bring to Inspire Spaces. The demonstration of their love and sacrifice has left an indelible mark on the lives of the students and families!"

Our Finances



Our Funders

The Reese Jones Foundation
Mr & Mrs. Thornton Hardie III
Dirk Nowitzki Foundation
The Foundation at Highland Park Presbyterian Church
The Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF)
The Dallas Foundation
The Pauline & Austin Neuhoff Foundation
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Highland Park Presbyterian Church
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Vanessa Onguti
Impossible Possibilities
Rachel Bennet
Terese Stevenson
Grace Ngobia
Cindy Kimotho
Chris Munson

Kevin Lane
Adrian Cook
Richard Nassar
Kerry Kreighbaum
Amy Rembert
Jessica Chausiku
Mark Makori
Edwin Njiru

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CPA at NjiruCPA, PLLC



Ashley Smith
Elder at Highland Park
Presbyterian Church
& community volunteer



Allison Dunagan
Nurse Practitioner,
Dallas



TOGETHER POVERTY SERVICE ACCESS ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE GLOBAL CLASSROOMS LOCAL IMPACT
CHANGE EDUCATION PROVIDE
INFRASTRUCTURE GLOBAL LOCAL MENTORING CHARITABLE DISCOVERING NUMERACY OPPORTUNITY COURAGE LITERACY ON A MISSION 100% IMPACT OUTCOMES



BOOKS MOTIVATED LIFETIME YES POTENTIAL FAITH TWENDE NATURE EQUIPPED LOVE ORPHANS TRANSFORMATION SCARCITY HOPE STORIES ACTIVE PROMISE BACKGROUND JOURNEY NEW CYCLES YOUNG PEOPLE BASIC RESOURCES HOPE GIVE CAMPS

SUPPORT DELIVER PRIMARY EDUCATION ASPIRATIONS DARE TO TO DREAM FULLY FUNDED ORGANIZATION
GROWTH VULNERABLE STUDENTS DREAMS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS DONORS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PARTICIPATION
GIVE BACK AUGUST HEROES GO BEYOND ACROSS BORDERS INTENTIONAL EMPOWERMENT NEW SKILLS LEADERS

BUILDING GENEROSITY KIBWEZI/EMALI NON-POLITICAL SCHOLARSHIPS CONSTRUCTION PROSPERITY YES CLASSROOMS
10 MILLION STUDENTS UNIVERSITY

GOVERNMENT COLLABORATIONS LEAD EMPOWER KENYA THEM SERVE DIVERSITY INNOVATIVE
HERS FAMILIES BRIGHT MINDS THRIVE VISIT

GIRLS TEACHING DEVELOPMENT STUDENT CENTERED AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION RENOVATION

INSPIRE SPACES CENTER CLASSROOMS PARTNERSHIPS CREATIVITY COUNTIES
DECEMBER DEEPEN TECHNOLOGY MENTORSHIP

VOLUNTEERS DEEPEN TUITION DESKS DISCOVER SHARE ONLY 1 IN 4 CHANGE ELEVATE TODAY

KNOWLEDGE



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Enquiries, partnership opportunities & fundraising

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