

Educating African Girls THE DUNSTAN WAI FOUNDATION 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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2024 Annual Report design: Sara M. Nderitu

Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation P.O Box 5692 Washington DC 20016-5692 ©www.dwmcf.org

Dunstan & Our Mission

The Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation was founded in memory of Dunstan Wai and his deep-seated commitment to empower the young through education. No one could be a better role model for success through education than Dunstan Wai himself. Born in Kajo Keji County in what is now South Sudan, his family fled to Uganda to escape the prolonged civil war in the Sudan. As a young student and a refugee, Dunstan did not have many options other than to work hard in his studies, gaining scholarships to finance his education. These gave him an opportunity to study at some of the best universities in Africa, Europe and the United States. After attending Makerere University, Kampala, he went on to study at Oxford University. Another scholarship to Harvard helped earn him his Ph.D.



Dunstan Wai (1947-2005)

Dunstan spent the bulk of his professional life at the World Bank where he made lasting contributions across a broad range of development issues, with a particular focus on capacity building. His career reflected his deep knowledge, love and passion for Africa and his wish to improve the lot of his people. Dunstan never forgot that he owed his achievements to all the support and mentoring that he got along the way. Education enabled him to achieve his goals and made him a true inspiration to those who knew

MISSION

The mission of The Dunstan Wai Foundation is to empower African girls through education. Due to culturally held beliefs in African countries, as in many other parts of the developing world, girls' academic progress is too often discouraged or not allowed beyond the primary school level. As such their potential remains unexplored and unrecognized. The Dunstan Wai Foundation provides girls in South Sudan and Uganda with the financial and emotional support to continue to secondary school and beyond. Our work is based on the belief that educating a girl will serve as a critical tool to lift her out of poverty and enable her to realize her full potential.

Letter from the Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2024 Annual Report of The Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation. We are pleased to report that the Foundation continues to fulfill its mission of supporting young women from South Sudan and northern Uganda with educational opportunities they would not otherwise have been able to afford. Now in our eighteenth year, the program is demonstrating the power of education to offer productive and rewarding opportunities for the more than 1,000 students we have supported since inception.

The secondary school program is managed from Moyo, Uganda, by Sister Florence Oryema of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 2024, 137 students are enrolled in five schools in northern Uganda. Two mentors, Rufina Kinyaa and Christine Poni support Sister Florence. The program moved to Moyo following the turmoil in South Sudan that prompted our students and their families to flee to Uganda. The program is now stable and focused on improving the quality of education. Today, 65% of the students are from South Sudan and 35% from northern Uganda. You only need to meet these girls to be inspired. They are determined, dedicated, and optimistic. They can look forward to a future many others can only dream of.

The tertiary program has been managed for the past twelve years in Juba, South Sudan, by the amazing Sister Grace Akedi of the Comboni Missionary Sisters. She serves as an administrator, mentor, and academic counselor for students often facing personal hardships due to unsettled conditions. Currently, we are supporting twenty-six tertiary education students – and another three short-term vocational training students, - pursuing certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Today, fifty-three students have completed tertiary education programs and are self-reliant, serving their communities in health services, teaching, business, government, and community development.



Letter from the Co-Chairs

This program would not be possible without the continued support of more than 150 donors, 63% of whom receive matching grants from the World Bank. This support enables us to provide more than \$100,000 a year to support the Foundation's program. As we look ahead, we are pleased to report that administrative expenses account for less than 10% of our total expenditures – meaning that more than ninety cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to individuals who are enthusiastically pursuing an education, which is crucial for their country's future. Notably, for every \$600 contributed, a girl can receive a year of secondary education.

We encourage you, therefore, to continue supporting their dreams as generously as you can. Your support is critical in shaping the lives of the students we serve.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to get more involved in our work, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of these bright and talented girls.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Dunstan Wai Foundation.

John Nderitu Co-Chair and Treasurer Daniel Ritchie Co-Chair and Secretary



Where we are located







The Dunstan Wai Foundation began operations in 2006 by offering scholarships to girls to attend secondary schools in Dunstan's birthplace, Kajo Keji County, South Sudan, located about two hundred miles south of the capital, Juba, and in northern Uganda.

The Foundation expanded its scholarship funding to include tertiary education in 2011. Our operations in Kajo Keji were suspended in January 2017 when dangerous fighting among factions caused the entire county to flee to northern Uganda.

From then until now, our secondary school scholarship program has been restricted to South Sudanese refugees and Ugandan girls in an area of northern Uganda bordering South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The secondary school program is administered from Moyo, Uganda. The tertiary school scholarship program continues to be administered from Juba, with students attending schools in both South Sudan and Uganda. The tertiary scholarships are available to the secondary school program graduates on a competitive basis. Additionally, short term vocational training courses are available in Moyo.

Update From Our Man in Uganda



The Foundation is very fortunate to have a first-hand account of the situation in Uganda, thanks to Board member Ibrahim Wani, whose work brings him to Uganda for extended periods.

His recent report from there describes the overall learning environment that impacts on our scholarship program. Ibrahim reports:

- The school calendar is now back to the pre-Covid position, which has restored much-needed stability for students as well as their parents;
- The costs of education remain high and are unlikely to decline;
- A new competency-based curriculum for secondary schools emphasizes the sciences, increases teacher salaries, and requires teachers at all levels, including nursery and primary schools, to possess at a minimum a Bachelor's degree.

Ibrahim reports that because the situation in South Sudan will continue to be unstable until elections are held there in 2027, most refugees in the Ugandan camps are taking a "wait and see" approach as to when they might return. That means that for the foreseeable future, the Foundation's current approach to funding scholarships for both South Sudanese and Ugandan students in Uganda will continue.

Secondary School Program

In 2024, the Dunstan Wai Foundation awarded scholarships to 137 girls to attend five secondary schools in northern Uganda. Of these, eighty-six are South Sudanese refugees, and forty-nine are Ugandan. Among the students, forty-six are preparing for their final exams in November 2024, with forty-three in their fourth year of secondary education, (Senior-4), and three in their sixth year, (Senior-6). Despite facing many challenges, these girls have shown unwavering dedication to their education, as evidenced by their consistent academic progress. The scholarship program continues to register year-after-year improvement in academic performance, student participation in extracurricular activities, and in the overall commitment to the program.

To foster the girls' motivation, mental well-being, and academic achievement, the Dunstan Wai Foundation holds annual mentoring workshops led by invited guest speakers. These sessions aim to improve the students' psychosocial well-being by teaching them life skills that enable them to solve their problems in a healthy way, while keeping their academic focus with self-discipline and teamwork. This year's workshop was led by Ms Gertrude Obatiru, a Psychosocial Officer with CEFORD, Arua, in a collaborative effort organized by our program administrators, headed by Sister Florence Oryema.



Juru Hellen Modi

Juru Hellen Modi (pictured second from the right) does not let her special needs stop her from enjoying a leisurely walk with her friends. Among the workshop participants was Juru Hellen Modi, a Senior-2 student at St Andrew's College, and a refugee from South Sudan's civil war. Despite developing a severe physical disability from untreated skeletal tuberculosis at three months old. Juru maintains a cheerful outlook with a high academic performance. To cater for her special needs in the classroom, the school provided her with a customized desk. She enjoys support from her friends and takes part in as many activities as she can, either directly or as an observer. Although her writing speed during exams is slower than other students, she ranks among the top in her class. Juru aspires to be a doctor, intending to help combat diseases like the one she endures.

Secondary School Program

This year, the Dunstan Wai Foundation supported five girls to take part in a DC student-led 'BranchOut Explorer Program,' which promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - (STEM knowledge), civic engagement, and crosscultural understanding. The program helped students to develop a global perspective and find motivation through the powerful narratives they shared. Among the Wai scholars was Nuela Juan Ben, a 19year-old from South Sudan who is a senior-5 student at St. Andrew's College, Moyo, studying Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science with plans to graduate next year. Orphaned at age 14, Nuela sees the Dunstan Wai Foundation scholarship as crucial to her ambition of becoming an engineer and supporting orphans and girls in similar situations. She aspires to reduce school dropout rates and increase women's workforce participation to transform the lives of girls in Uganda and elsewhere. The Dunstan Wai Foundation leadership also shared insights with the 'BranchOut' team on the remarkable transformation the girls have been able to make educated under challenging contexts with limited employment opportunities. they are now empowered and contributing to their communities.



Nuela Juan Ben

Nuela Juan Ben aspires to study Engineering and hopes to motivate other girls to join the workforce with non-traditional skills that empower their lives.

Tertiary Program

The Wai Foundation continues its commitment to higher education by providing support to young women to study at tertiary level Institutions in South Sudan and Uganda. Currently, the Tertiary Scholarship Program supports twenty-six students, thirteen of whom are continuing students and thirteen new students joining the scholarship program in July.

This year, a larger number of the students are studying in Ugandan institutions: six of the continuing students are in their final year. Ten of the students are studying for Degree level courses, seven in Diploma level and the rest in Certificate level courses. The tertiary students prefer to study for qualifications in areas which are in high demand for employment. Health sciences continued to be by far the most popular area of study. These courses include nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, public health, and nutrition. Other choices include education, business studies, law, and environmental studies. Sister Lily of the Comboni Missionary Sisters (pictured below on the left) continues to coordinate our tertiary program, providing support and encouragement to the airls.

In addition to assisting with the education- related issues of enrollment and academics, she is a critical presence in the girls' lives as they often face challenges involving such basics as accommodation and adequate nutrition.Our students continue to face challenges related to the issues of living in South Sudan and Northern Uganda. These include the prohibitive costs of transportation and food and the challenging situation in the hostels. Our scholarship program provides resources to support the students with transportation costs and in supplementing an allowance for their food at the hostels. The Wai Foundation Tertiary Scholarship funding has made it possible for our voung women to obtain critical skills that empower the graduates to contribute to the development of their communities. As Sister Lily describes the graduates, they are "giving back to their communities" while also helping their families. often by educating their siblings.



Tertiary Student Highlights



Irene Gire Sakor Duwe

Irene Gire Sakor Duwe is a Secondary and Tertiary scholarship beneficiary, currently in her third year pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resource management at Nkumba University, Entebbe.

"Growing up in a humble background, the prospect of attending university seemed like an unattainable dream for me. The impact of the Dunstan Wai Scholarships on my life cannot be overstated. The scholarships have been a consistent source of support, covering my tuition fees, my academic supplies, food, and lodging, from senior one all the way through university, empowering me to break free from the cycle of poverty that once seemed inevitable. I am proud to be a beneficiary of this remarkable program, and I am committed to paying forward the kindness and generosity it has bestowed upon me."

Evaline Endreo

Evaline Endreo graduated from secondary school last year and enrolled in 2024 for a two-year tertiary course to train as an Early Childhood Development teacher. The ECD program is training two others of our students. The two are expecting to graduate at the end of the year. Committed to achieving her dreams of becoming a teacher, Evaline is eager to train as an ECD teacher. She is determined to contribute to the improvement of foundational standards of education in her community. She looks forward to discovering more effective teaching methods of stimulating the minds of the youngest children.



Tertiary Student Highlights: Empowerment through Education



Puru Betty Taban

"I am dedicated to contributing meaningfully to society and to strive for personal and professional excellence. After graduating from the tertiary program, I worked with Danish Demining Group for 3 years. Currently I am working with Safe Lane Global, in Wau, South Sudan. In addition to paying school fees for my siblings, I have been able to acquire a piece of land and have built a three-room house. Your support has made a profound difference in my life."

Gloria Poni Peter

Gloria Poni Peter graduated from Bakalasa Agricultural College, Uganda, with a First-Class certificate in Home Economics and Nutrition. Gloria is a South Sudanese young woman who gives back to her community by volunteering with an NGO at Palorinya Refugee Camp. With her knowledge of food science, she teaches the residents of the camp how to sustain their health through crop cultivation and food production.

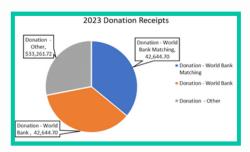


Over the Years in Pictures



Financial Report

2023 Donations



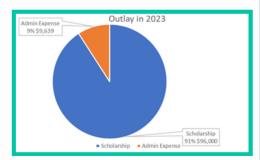
2023 Donation Receipts: Analysis

2023, the Wai Foundation received a total of \$118,552 in donations from 158 individual donors. Notably, 63% (100) of the donors had their contributions generously matched at 100% by the World Bank Group. This total amount represents an increase of 3% (\$4,098) compared to the 2022 donations of \$114,453. The number of individual donors increased by 12% to 158 from last year's total of 141. The average donation size was approximately \$750 per donor. While we have observed a slight increase in the number of donors, we continue to see a reduction in the average size of donations.

Notes From The Treasurer

Overall. our assessment indicates that the Wai Foundation's program is performing well financially despite a rapidly changing economic situation. The 2023 financials were audited by PT CPAs, PLLC, a reputable firm based in Raleigh, NC. They provided an unqualified opinion, stating that our financials were "free of any misrepresentations." Additionally, they confirmed that our financial records were maintained in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Financial Report



Our overall 2023 expenditures amounted to \$105,639, which is about 6% lower than the 2022 expenditures of \$112,448. Some of the drop off is due to a few students dropping out school. . This reduction in expenses occurred despite significant inflation in tuition, especially at the tertiary level, and increased support costs. To improve our transparency and tracking of student expenses, we have implemented a student ID for all students on scholarship, that has resulted in improved expense tracking and accountability. Schools in Uganda, where most of our students have relocated over the past seven years due to the ongoing crisis in South Sudan, remained open throughout the entire year. Administrative expenses related to accounting, auditing, and supplies totalled \$9,639, accounting for 9% of our total expenses. These results are largely due to our reliance on a hard-working volunteer Board of Directors and the invaluable contributions from the Comboni Sisters in South Sudan and the Sacred Heart of Jesus Sisters in Uganda.

Commitment to Welfare & Education

We continue to be committed to the education and welfare of African women in South Sudan and Uganda. Our goal for 2024 is to continue supporting approximately 140 girls in secondary school and 20 girls in postsecondary school. We are working on expanding our scholarships for postsecondary programs, which will result in increased program expenses. Given the increasing cost of supporting the girls in a constantly challenging environment, we continue to need your help in carrying out this mission and hope you will donate generously.

John Nderitu, Treasurer The Wai Foundation

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If you are able to support us, your donation
will improve the lives of girls in South Sudan
and northern Uganda and empower them to

Yes, I v	would like to contribute:
\$250 fc	or school supplies for five secondary school girls
\$650 fc	or tuition for one girl one year of secondary school
\$1,600	for one girl for one year tertiary education
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THANK YOU

The Dunstan Wai Foundation

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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