

September 2025

## 2025 Back to School Donor Report

On behalf of the ACCES Society Board, the ACCES Foundation Board, and our beneficiaries, I would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support of our mission to alleviate poverty through education in the western region of Kenya. This communication aims to share some exciting developments as we look forward to a new school year for our beneficiaries.

This September, 391 ACCES-sponsored post-secondary students will be heading to school, including 274 continuing students selected in previous years and 117 new students, thanks to your generosity and the creative efforts of our Kenyan staff and volunteers to maximize the impact of donor funding.

### 2025 Scholarship Update

Each year, ACCES advertises and awards scholarships to talented and deserving students in the four counties that comprise the former Western Province of Kenya. In May 2025, ACCES received 634 scholarship applications, with the budget capacity to award 80 scholarships. The committee in the picture below, of our staff with a voluntary team of beneficiaries representing scholarship recipients from 1993 to present day, provides a deep understanding of our organization and strong commitment to our mission. All applications were carefully reviewed, and 240 students were selected to visit the ACCES office for interviews, which took place over three days in June with the Society President, Dr. Sharon Cohen; Executive Director, Kevin Fadum; and several donors observing the process.



After the interviews, staff and volunteers compiled a list of 180 shortlisted applicants for unannounced home visits. This step helps verify application details as part of the final selection process. This phase is the most time-consuming, as two staff members travelled across 7,400 km<sup>2</sup> of countryside, visiting 90 homes each using public transportation, to confirm applicants' living conditions.

After conducting home visits, the staff and volunteers were left with tough decisions. Almost all of the 180 shortlisted applicants who had been visited qualified for a scholarship according to our established criteria. As ACCES made the final deliberations in late July, the government in Kenya made a surprise announcement, slashing the fees payable by students and their families by 15 to 40% depending on the level of need. Acting quickly, ACCES staff and volunteers developed a variable funding model that considered individual funding needs, accommodating the sponsorship of 117 students resulting in an increase of 37 beneficiaries within the established 2025 budget for new intake. Of the 117 new students selected, 53 are male and 64 are female. Fifty-nine beneficiaries are university students, 30 are college students, and 28 will pursue a trade school education.

## Building a Legacy: New Donated Office Space

On August 1, 2025, ACCES relocated into a new office space donated free of charge by Francis Butichi, a former beneficiary and former ACCES staff member. The office space is spacious and well-suited to our needs. It has three rooms, ample meeting space, a kitchen, washrooms, and a large compound suitable for hosting ACCES events.

Mr. Butichi's generous donation will significantly reduce our operating expenses in Kenya. It is an outstanding example of a beneficiary giving back to ACCES's mission, impacting more lives through the opportunities that education provides.

On August 22nd, ACCES staff and volunteers celebrated the selection of the new cohort of students by hosting an ACCES Orientation Event at the new ACCES office. Pictured below is the 2025 cohort of scholars and volunteer beneficiaries who supported the selection process.



## Upcoming Campaign - Building Your Legacy

We are thrilled to launch our fall campaign focused on building a legacy of hope. We will be reminding donors how Legacy Giving can create a lasting and meaningful impact for them, their loved ones, and the students who will benefit in the future. A gift to future scholarships can be the key that unlocks a student's potential, ensuring they can realize their dreams of a post-secondary education. Leaving a planned gift is a powerful commitment to the future of ACCES. These donations, managed by the ACCES Foundation, are wisely invested so the interest can provide perpetual support for ACCES programs. Your contribution will have a multi-generational impact.

## Save the Date – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in South Surrey

We hope you can join us. Stay tuned for more details.

## Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing support. ACCES is a donor-based organization which relies on the generosity of people like you. If you would like more information or have any questions or ideas you would like to discuss, do not hesitate to contact me directly at [kevin@acceskenya.org](mailto:kevin@acceskenya.org) and we can arrange a telephone or face-to-face meeting.



Kevin Fadum, Executive Director