

September 2026

## 2026 Back to School Donor Report

On behalf of the ACCES Society Board, the ACCES Foundation Board, our staff and volunteers in Kenya, and our beneficiaries, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our mission to alleviate poverty through education in western Kenya. This continued growth reflects the generosity of our donors and the tremendous efforts of our staff, alumni and volunteers in Kenya.

### 2026 Scholarship Update

Each year, ACCES advertises and awards scholarships to talented and deserving students from Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega and Vihiga counties in western Kenya - an area of more than 8,300 square kilometers in western Kenya. This year, ACCES received approximately 700 scholarship applications. Following an initial review, approximately 210 applicants were invited to the ACCES office in Kakamega for interviews over three days in June.



*New beneficiaries attending orientation session August 2026*

The interview process provides an important opportunity to learn more about each applicant's circumstances, educational goals, family situation, and financial need. Following the interviews, approximately 140 applicants were shortlisted for home visits.

Home visits allow staff and volunteers to verify information provided in applications and interviews and to better understand the circumstances facing each student and family.

Following this extensive process, 126 students were selected to join the ACCES scholarship program in 2026, bringing the total number of students currently supported by ACCES to 434. As of September 2026, ACCES supports 288 students in university, 90 students in college (mostly healthcare) and 56 students in the trades or other vocational training.

This mix reflects an important part of the ACCES approach. Success does not follow a single pathway. University, college and technical training can each provide young people with the skills and qualifications required to build meaningful careers, support their families, and contribute to their communities.

Our commitment is not simply to help students begin their education, but to support successful beneficiaries in completing their programs.

## Building for the Future

Since 1993, ACCES has helped thousands of young Kenyans pursue post-secondary education. Increasingly, former beneficiaries are playing an important role in the organization's future.



ACCES alumni now contribute to application reviews, interviews, student support and other organizational activities. One former beneficiary, Francis Butichi featured in our May 2026 donor communication, continues to provide office space to ACCES free of charge. [His video can be viewed here.](#) The growth of the **ACCES Scholars Foundation**, established in Kenya by former beneficiaries, represents another important step toward greater Kenyan leadership and long-term sustainability.

This year, former ACCES beneficiaries also led onboarding activities for newly selected scholars at our Kakamega office, sharing practical skills in time management, networking and budgeting as students prepared to begin or return to their studies in September.

In late 2025, the ACCES Scholars Foundation independently purchased property in Kakamega to establish a permanent base for its activities and, over time, provide rent-free space to support the work of the ACCES Society in Kenya.

The increasing involvement of former beneficiaries is one of the most encouraging outcomes of the ACCES program. Students who once received support are now helping create opportunities for the next generation.

## Connecting Donors with ACCES in Kenya

In June, Canadian ACCES supporters once again had an opportunity to travel to western Kenya and experience the work of ACCES firsthand.

Society Director Dr. Elisa Carlson and her sister Eve Martin joined ACCES staff and volunteers during the scholarship interview process, met students and alumni, and learned more about the communities in which ACCES has worked for more than 30 years. We will be sharing highlights of this trip on October 31 at our Donor Appreciation Event in South Surrey, British Columbia at 1:00pm at Kwomais Lodge.

For our supporters, meeting students and hearing directly about their experiences provides an important reminder that behind every scholarship number is a young person working toward a better future for themselves, their family and their community.

## Leaving a Lasting Legacy

As a donor-funded not-for-profit organization, ACCES has always relied on individuals who believe in the power of education to create lasting change. This fall, ACCES is providing supporters with information on charitable legacy giving and the ACCES Foundation's role in helping safeguard the long-term future of ACCES programs. A virtual information session will be held on September 24, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. for supporters interested in learning more about charitable legacy giving. To register for the event, or simply to request a copy of our Charitable Legacy Giving Guide, please email [info@acceskenya.org](mailto:info@acceskenya.org).

## Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. ACCES remains a donor-based organization, and the opportunities provided to our students are made possible through your generosity.

As another group of students begins its post-secondary journey, we hope you share our pride in what they have already accomplished and in the opportunities that lie ahead.

**Kevin Fadum, Executive Director**