

# MID YEAR IMPACT 2022



Milele International

Rescuing youth living on the streets in Kenya, restoring them physically, spiritually, and emotionally, holistically empowering them to become change-agents in their communities, and reconnecting them with their families.

# On July 27th, Milele will celebrate 5 years of ministry!

What started out as a group of college students pooling resources to send 7 boys to school has evolved into intentional, evidence-based programming and family-based care. At Milele, we have dedicated ourselves to excellence because we believe our God has the power to transform and we believe in the dreams and potential of street youth.

We are constantly growing and refining to meet them exactly where they are. Because of this, we are seeing powerful results.

**As we celebrate five years, we want to share our hopes for the next five.**

We are fundraising to purchase our very own land so that we can sustainably and reliably bring hope to youth in Kitale. We will build three homes, classrooms, and counseling offices. There will be plenty of space for recreational activities and agricultural projects. With agricultural and poultry projects we plan to sustain our own programs and eventually be able to sell produce to others.

**“Milele is the best program bringing about real change.”**

**-Law enforcement officer working in Kitale for 20 years**

Another strategic priority is to holistically support our students' families. We believe if we invest in the family unit, our students' are more likely to thrive and break the cycle of street youth in upcoming generations. We plan to support families through regular Family Strengthening Conferences and a Microfinance Program. The Family Strengthening Conference will give the families tools and space to work through relational issues at home. The Microfinance Program will enable us to invest in families to bring more economic stability to their homes.

Lastly, we believe our proven three-phase model (Rescue, Restore, Empower) with a focus on family reintegration can be replicated in other organizations that currently do not have the tools or bandwidth to support teenage boys. We would like to train and equip organizations to fill that gap in their local communities.

**Wherever you joined us on this journey, we are so glad you are here.**



*-Cassie Furnari*

# Rescue

By the time Matthew joined Milele, he was about 19 and had lived on the streets for almost ten years. Due to his family's severe poverty he was never given the opportunity to go to school. Kids who don't go to school often find themselves on the streets during the day. **Days turn to nights, then weeks, months, and even years.**

While living on the streets, youth often begin sniffing glue to numb the pain from their physical and emotional ailments. Since Matthew began sniffing glue at such a young age and for such a long duration, **he was one of the most serious cases of addiction we had ever seen at Milele.**

He had gone to many other local programs attempting to overcome his situation but ultimately was unsuccessful—until he went through the Milele program. Since joining Milele over a year ago, **he has not relapsed and is no longer addicted to drugs!**

At Milele, we have nearly 30 chickens that the boys are responsible for tending to. Matthew has found his passion for poultry. He loves taking care of the chickens and teaches new Milele boys the responsibilities around poultry care.

Matthew is currently in our adult education program and is taking his primary school exam in October. Then he plans to become a truck driver! Since being at Milele he has reconnected with his mom who believed he had died years earlier. Matthew is jovial, hard working, and kind.

We praise God for Matthew's transformation and his future!



"I don't know if I would have made it off the streets alive if it weren't for Milele."



# 11 boys

Graduated from the Transitional Program

# July 25

The next Transitional Program begins



# Restore

The Transitional Program is our residential program that provides a safe and healthy place for youth to detox from drugs, receive counseling from loving adults, and enjoy healthy food and a warm bed. **Once these basic survival needs are met, we begin helping them uncover their potential and untangle their dreams.**

While the Transitional Program provides the boys with discipleship, life skills, and actionable steps for their future, this year we have solidified an extra component to the success of this program: **A support network.**

We are collaborating with law enforcement, the child welfare department, the adult education department, and street leaders to ensure we create a meaningful network of support for our graduates and youth still living on the streets. **We are raising awareness for the work Milele is doing and shifting mindsets around teenage boys living on the streets.**

These community partners attended a recent Transitional Program graduation ceremony in May to celebrate with and encourage the former street youth. The adult education coordinator said:

**‘When I entered the gates I said, “Are these really former street boys? They don’t look like it.”**

We are seeing meaningful transformation in the lives of these boys. Further, we want to remind all these departments that are quick to label that these boys are in fact, just boys. Not criminals. Not statistics. **Boys with potential and dreams.** Boys who need support.





3

Our third cohort graduated from the Transitional Program

320

Hours spent counseling the boys.

9

New primary school students



# Empower

For many of the boys who complete the Transitional Program, the next step on their journey is school. However, Milele supports an **adaptable Empowerment Phase** as we tailor to the unique needs and talents of the boys.

We assist the boys in not only deciding what they want to do, but developing a plan to bring that to fruition. One of the ways we do that is through connecting them with apprenticeships.

In the first six months of this year, we have learned it is essential for us to develop a more concerted apprenticeship network. This will enable us to build relationships with other community partners and pave paths more efficiently.

## 21

New students started school this year

## 3

Future Mechanics

## 1

Future Business Owner



# Reintegrate

## **Our staff is steadfast in their efforts to reunite families.**

Our social workers conduct comprehensive home tracing, advocate on behalf of the boys, and provide ongoing counseling and support. They facilitate reconnection and healing through this patient and intentional process. The work of reunification is messy and difficult, but so important and powerful.

Originally from Uganda, Caleb was living on the streets of Kitale for almost ten years. After his parents separated, he lived with his father who then married a woman who began to abuse Caleb. He had no way of connecting with his mother and he felt safer out of his home. **For him, the streets felt like the only option.**

His father never clearly communicated to Caleb's mother why he left or where he went. He never checked up on Caleb. Years passed and no one ever knew where he was. His mother grieved believing her only son had died.

Through an extensive home trace, Milele staff found his mother, grandmother, and aunt! **He has reunited with his family for the first time in a decade.** He was welcomed with open arms and hearts by the women. They continue to have family counseling and support to rebuild their family. **His mom traveled over 10 hours to attend Milele's first Family Strengthening Conference.**





# 109

Families received emergency food relief

# 24

Families attended the Family Strengthening Conference



# Bulletin Board

## Quick Updates

### **New staff member**

Peninah is our House Assistant who is helping with cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the transitional boys.

### **Employee acknowledgement**

We instituted Employee of the Month to celebrate the incredible dedication of our staff. So far Elkana, Joel, and Margaret have been chosen by their colleagues.

### **Food relief**

We were given \$5,000 worth of food supplies to ensure the boys' families have access to food during election season.

### **Family Strengthening Conference**

We held our first conference for families to worship and learn alongside their boys. They receive tools and guidance along with a growing community of support.





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