



CANOPY LIFE
INTERNATIONAL



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from our Founder	4
2023 Wins	5
2023 Stats	8
2023 Financials	10
Sherlin's Story.....	12
Meet Brian, Our First Graduate	13
U.S. Board Members	15
2023 Kenya Board Members and Incoming 2024 U.S. Board Members	17
U.S. Meets Kenya	19
"A Blessing for a Journey's End"	20
Where We Are Going.....	22
The Future of Canopy Life International.....	23

We give students the heart, home, mindset, and skills to solve problems, start businesses, and create innovative solutions to lead their families and communities out of poverty.



LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Canopy Life friends,

Reflecting on the journey of 2023, one phrase resonates profoundly: “Preparation before Acceleration.” It was a year akin to stretching a rubber band to its fullest extent, poised to unleash its energy, or the quiet hum of engines before a rocket propels into the sky. Every moment was dedicated to strategic groundwork, paving the way for a season of extraordinary productivity and growth in 2024-2025.

Throughout the year, our focus was on intentional, strategic initiatives, laying the foundation for the exponential expansion ahead. From refining reporting systems and setting ambitious goals to making strategic hires in anticipation of our impending growth, every member of our organization was committed to building capacity and fostering growth.

Amidst this whirlwind of activity, we reached a significant milestone: celebrating the graduation of our first high school student, Brian. His journey, spanning nine years of investment, nurturing, and care, symbolizes the essence of our mission—to cultivate Godly, innovative leaders. Brian’s path, though not without its twists and turns, exemplifies resilience, perseverance, and grace. From navigating transitions during the pandemic to embracing unforeseen challenges, Brian embodies the pioneering spirit that defines Canopy Life.

As we honor Brian’s achievement, we also celebrate the collective effort that has brought us to this moment. It is a testament to the faithfulness, generosity, and pioneering spirit of the Canopy Life community. Together, through the unwavering support of donors and sponsors, the dedication of our staff and students, and the guidance of our boards, we are crafting a remarkable narrative of transformation.

To all who have contributed to this journey, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your passionate support fuels our mission and vision to empower vulnerable children to become Godly, innovative leaders in Kenya and beyond.

With boundless joy and gratitude,

Christi Gordy

Christi Gordy



2023 WINS



Renovated our innovation classroom into a chemistry lab for junior high



Wholesale water business: Launched an in-country revenue stream by wholesaling water from our borehole to 100 homes in the surrounding community



Conducted a feasibility study and launched the silent phase of a capital campaign



Raised \$1.14 million in 2023 towards our \$1.48 million capital campaign goal
(As of December 2023)

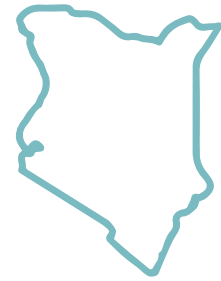


All U.S. staff & U.S. board members were able to visit campus in 2023





2023 STATS



47

travelers visited
Canopy Life Academy



225

Sponsorships



We had our

1st

graduate!



75%

of students sitting for the
junior high entrance exam
scored an A (mean 4/4)
on test



2023 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

(As of Dec. 31, 2023)

REVENUE

\$1,897,459

EXPENSES

\$1,036,545

PROGRAMS

\$554,700

FUNDRAISING

\$245,819

GENERAL & ADMIN

\$202,396

DIRECT COST OF SPECIAL EVENTS

\$33,630

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$860,914

STATEMENT OF POSITION

(As of Dec. 31, 2023)

ASSETS

\$2,045,631

CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS

\$1,128,262

PLEDGES RECEIVABLE

\$629,105

PREPAID EXPENSES

\$21,024

INVESTMENTS

\$267,240

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$2,045,631

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$14,953

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$2,030,678



SHERLIN'S STORY

My name is Sherlin Mueni. I was born in Makueni county a place called Marwa village. I am the second born in a family of 2 and I come from a very humble beginning. Before joining Canopy Life I was in a school called Itumble Primary School. I enjoyed my time there mainly because I was successful in my class and I was very well-liked. In 2019, I was called for an interview which was held in my church and I am the only one from my school who passed.

I joined Canopy Life in 2020 as a grade 4 learner. I was excited to meet new people and my mother and I were warmly welcomed. I have had a wonderful time in Canopy Life interacting with my teachers and fellow students. I have made wonderful memories here and one that stands out is my birthday. May 10, 2021 is a day I will not forget. I was able to celebrate my first birthday ever. Canopy Life threw me a birthday and I got many wonderful things. I am learning new things every day and I have identified my strengths and abilities like I am a great dancer, I have good leadership skills and I play soccer and volleyball well.

One of the things I love about Canopy Life is that they are focused on teaching us about God. I have gotten to know Jesus and understood his will in my life. I gave my life to Christ on May 17th and I feel unburdened.

Canopy Life has also enabled me to go to places I had never gone before. I was able to visit the Nairobi National Park and the Giraffe Centre. We have also had difficult times here at Canopy Life. In 2021, I got COVID-19 and it was an interesting time. We were together with 3 teachers and we had a wonderful time. We had so many activities to occupy us. I also had my first Christmas celebration in Canopy Life together with all my friends and our house parents.

“I am learning new things every day and I have identified my strengths”

I have met good teachers who have been a great influence in my life. Teacher Levi is one of them. He was a great friend to me. I am a junior high schooler now and I have been longing for this for a long time. I got a new uniform and new teachers whom I love and I am learning every day. I am looking forward to becoming a doctor in the future and also a sponsor to some students just like I have been sponsored. I would like to partner with an organization like Canopy Life or have a children's home. I believe I am an entrepreneur, life changer and an agent of transformation. I am grateful to God for everything.

MEET BRIAN

Our First Graduate

Brian Mwangi's story is one of resilience and hope. Raised in Kahara Village, Kenya, within a nurturing, Christ-centered family, Brian faced significant challenges from an early age. The scarcity of clean water meant daily treks to a distant river, with the water's poor quality often leading to illness. This struggle extended to his education, as the long journey to school was compounded by the need to carry water for basic sanitation needs.

Despite these obstacles, Brian's life took a turn for the better when he joined Canopy Life Academy in the 6th grade. Reflecting on this pivotal moment, Brian said, "I knew that my life was about to change and that my journey to change our community and the surrounding area had begun." True to his words, his experience at Canopy Life was transformative. Reconnecting with his faith, Brian grew in self-confidence and self-control. The academy's focus on innovation and entrepreneurship equipped him with vital skills for the future.

Today, Brian aspires to become a cardiologist, driven by a desire to provide affordable healthcare to his community.

His ambitions also take flight in his pursuit of a Private Pilot License, a dream that symbolizes his commitment to expanding his horizons for the benefit of those he holds dear.

"I knew that my life was about to change and that my journey to change our community and the surrounding area had begun."

Brian's journey from Kahara Village to Canopy Life Academy exemplifies the profound impact of education and opportunity. His determination to build a better future for himself and his community is a source of inspiration and pride.



U.S. BOARD MEMBERS



ALLY MELSON

Term: 2020-2023, Chairperson

Chief Operating Officer at Fab'rik

Professional Skills: retail, sales, account management, direct sales, visual management, team management

Ally's family sponsors Sherlin, Dennis and Leticia.

Ally has been to Kenya 3 times with The 410 Bridge and once with Canopy Life.



ZACHARY BROWN

Term: 2021-2024, Vice Chairman

Director of Individual Giving at Habitat for Humanity

Professional Skills: CFRE certification, fundraising, event planning & management, grant writing, community outreach, arts administration, program development, strategic planning, budgets, media relations, public speaking

Zachary sponsors Grace and Milkah and has been to Kenya in 2022, 2023 and has plans to return in 2025.



LOREN HILDEBRANDT

Term: 2022-2024, Secretary

Director of Outreach at 12Stone Church

Professional Skills: Master of Divinity from New Orleans Theological Seminary, pastoral care, travel logistics, team building, discipleship, fundraising, leadership

Loren sponsors Joy and has been to Kenya numerous times supporting various ministries in his leadership role. He's been to Canopy Life twice.



SHANE MONCRIEF

Term: 2021-2023, Treasurer

Principal (owner) at RYAN

Professional Skills: property tax, due diligence, commercial real estate, financial analysis, valuation, tax advisory, mergers & acquisitions, appraisals, accounting, financial modeling, budgets, asset management, business analysis, negotiation

Shane and his wife Beth sponsor Madeline and Daniel, and have been to Kenya many times, supporting a ministry in Nakuru and visiting Canopy Life numerous times.



KHARI MANUEL

Term: 2020- 2023, NGO Ambassador

KE NGO Ambassador Board Term: 2021-2024

Healthcare Sales Director at Thermo Fischer Scientific

Professional Skills: healthcare sales director, sales management, motivational leadership, teambuilding, cross functional team work, product launch, mentoring, customer service

Khari and his family sponsor: Pharis, Esther, Hope Kamene, Alvin, Hope, Japheth and Delight . Khari has been to Kenya many times.



MCCLURE KING

Term: 2023-2025

President at Bankers Fidelity Life Insurance

Professional Skills: underwriting, insurance, brokers, employee benefits, management, sales, leadership, customer satisfaction, risk management, employee engagement, workers comp, employee benefits design

McClure and his family sponsor Daniel. All 3 traveled to meet him in Summer 2022 with the YPO organization, and plan to return summer of 2024.



JD GETTMANN

Term: 2023-2025

Head of Lender Finance & Managing Director at MidCap Financial, Co-Owner IronTribe Fitness

Professional Skills: securitization, banking, capital markets, investment banking, asset based lending, financial modeling, portfolio management, finance, credit analysis

JD and his family sponsor Chris and traveled to Canopy Life summer of 2023.

2023 KENYA BOARD MEMBERS



CHRISTI GORDY



KHARI MANUEL



KALELI MULI



FRED WAMBIA

INCOMING 2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Stacy Williams
(MissionSAFE)
U.S. Board

Sandy Smith
(Habitat for Humanity)
U.S. Board

Melissa Hoggatt
(First Federal Insurance)
U.S. Board

Joseph Choge
(UNGA Ltd)
KE Board

Mwongera Mutiga
(RedBrick Africa)
KE Board

Rachel Nduta
(Educational expert/consultant)
KE Board



U.S. MEETS KENYA

By Sarah Ray a *RelationTrip* participant

Reflecting on our family's journey within the Canopy Life community has been a profound experience, one that transcends border and cultures. From the moment we became a part of this remarkable family a few years ago, we felt a deep connection to the students and staff before we ever set foot on Kenyan soil. It was a sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves, a purpose that resonated deeply within our souls and it created a desire to witness firsthand the transformative power of Jesus at work halfway around the world.

We were honored to visit the Canopy Life campus in June of 2023 and it was an experience that remains one of the greatest joys of our lives. Meeting, playing with, and praying over our sponsor student was a privilege beyond measure. And to have the opportunity to expand our sponsor family through the handpicked event was a blessing we hold very dear! Our hearts overflowed with joy as we spent time with these beautiful souls, learning about their families, their passions, and their dreams.

Watching our three young children forge connections with their peers in a world vastly different from their own was a profound privilege. It was a moment that left a lasting imprint on my heart when our son expressed, "Now I know what it feels like to have brothers." For Jared and myself,

not only were we overjoyed to spend time with the students, but we also thoroughly relished connecting with the staff and interns. These dedicated adults love the impact they are bringing to the young ones in their care, and their selflessness and servant hearts were beautiful to behold. As our time on campus drew to a close, Jared blessed our team with a poem as a testament to our gratitude for the opportunity to visit Kenya and be embraced by the warmth and love of the Kenyan Canopy Life family. May it bless you all wherever you may be!



A BLESSING FOR A JOURNEY'S END

A poem by Jared Ray

Upon this journey's end
May the memory of this place
Be with us always
May we remember
The coolness of dawn
And warmth of sun;
Of gingered air,
And the sweetness of tea.
Remember too the wild;
The wind playing through
golden grasses,
The painted hills of Masai Mara
And abundant life cascading
Throughout the land
But above all, oh God,
May we remember
— the souls of those

We were with for a time;
For in little they have
Much more than you or I
We pray that in nights ahead
Behind lidded eyes,
May their faces once again
Grace our vision;
There may we feel
The coolness of their hands,
The pureness of their embrace,
The music of their laughter;
And with them
May we sing, dance
And play once more.
Here, Lord God, in the midst of
this vision

May we see, what hearts already
know; Your very hands —
Rest upon their beloved faces.
May the memory of the place
Be with us always;
And as we return;
May we kick not the dust from
our boots,
But may we tread always
With this Kenyan clay;
Before us,
Behind us;
And may it too -
Forever dwell within.



WHERE WE ARE GOING

We're Building Brave

At Canopy Life, our vision is a campus of 200 residential students in grades 4-12, including a thriving residential life, beautiful and peaceful grounds, and engaging, interactive spaces for learning, worship, emotional growth, and social connection.

However, Canopy Life is currently facing a critical need. Our school's growth and programs are restricted due to lack of residential, instructional, and administrative spaces. A unique challenge we face as a boarding school is that growth must occur in both the academic and residential areas simultaneously. Classroom space must increase at the same rate as the residential space to house these students.

Additionally, our 4th-9th grade students are educated on-property by Canopy Life faculty, while high school students (10th-12th) attend

local private schools. This is not ideal. Our immediate goal is to expand our high school offerings on-campus in time for our current 7th grade students to attend Canopy Life when they reach high school (10th grade). In order to register as a high school, we must first have the appropriate facilities available.

We currently operate in 2 buildings (1 residential facility and 1 academic facility) on 4 acres in Koma Hill, Kenya. This year, Canopy Life will acquire an additional 2 acres of land, bringing our campus property to 6 acres, and we are now considering a \$1.48 million dollar capital campaign to fund additional residential and academic buildings.



THE FUTURE OF CANOPY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

PHASE 1

2 Residential Buildings: \$650,000 (16,475 sq. ft./ \$39 per sq. ft.)

These two buildings will have the capacity to house 60 students, 8 college interns, several support staff and a 2 bedroom apartment in each home. One of these residential buildings includes an additional story with apartments (1,340 sq. ft. each) for our Home Life Director, Campus Pastor, and their families. This staff housing will meet a critical need for them to be on campus late into the evening and on weekends, when a majority of home life and spiritual guidance take place.

1 Academic Building: \$170,000 (4,700 sq. ft./ \$36 per sq. ft.)

This building will provide an additional 6 classrooms including spaces for teacher resource rooms, library, innovation space, and home economics practicals. While immediately necessary to serve additional students, this facility will also have the capacity to serve our primary school at full enrollment.

Property Asset Maintenance and Program Fund: \$120,000

These funds will be reserved for the maintenance and establishment of the programs that will use these facilities (replacement and repair fund, initial staff, and furniture costs, etc.).

Campus Site Development and External Works: \$490,000

There is extensive site development required for these projects. These developments will be proactively completed to serve all future campus expansion. This includes: an additional septic system, new power connections, water storage and tanks, waste water management, rain water mitigation, site preparation, walkways and driveways, etc.

In addition, the campaign will cover renovations to our current campus. We will expand the kitchen, remodel for a Counseling and Spiritual Center, and create a soccer pitch for students.



JOIN US ON
THE JOURNEY AS
AS WE BUILD A
BRAVE FUTURE

 Canopylife.org/buildingbrave

 www.facebook.com/canopylife

 www.instagram.com/canopylife

 www.linkedin.com/company/canopy-life-international



