

Transforming  
and Restoring  
Communities in  
Crisis



## Kutoa Afrika Foundation: 2019 Annual Report



# *Letter from Gracie, CEO*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I hope that your holiday season was Merry and Bright! We want you to know that we are full of gratitude for so many things!

What began as a response to a tragic situation has almost miraculously bloomed into a full fledged non-profit foundation, impacting hundreds of girls in West Point, Monrovia. We have successfully completed THREE trips to the school, started a Safe Space Program, provided salaries for 3 social workers, established a repository for personal care items for the students, visited young girls and women in prison, and supported over 60 graduates of the Academy. We couldn't have done it without your support! Thank you for being part of our Kutoa Family and we will keep providing you with complete and transparent reports on all of our activities. Please consider coming on one of our trips in the future!

With love and gratitude,

Gracie Ann Dinkins,  
CEO, Kutoa Afrika Foundation







## Our Story

What started out as a means to help a few students at a school in West Point, Monrovia, Liberia in 2018 has grown to providing counseling services, mentorship, tuition assistance, and community engagement at four schools.

### ✓ The Safe Space Program

provides education about the need for a protective, secure and supportive environment that students can have access to when they feel unsafe and unprotected. The program provides an opportunity to speak with a trained social worker or counselor about vulnerable situations. This service extends to students' families and friends, and to faculty members as well.



✓ **Yasmine's Closet** provides feminine hygiene and personal care products and school supplies to our girls.

✓ **Mentoring** provides students with emotional and tutoring support in preparing for exams, specifically the West African Examination Council (WAEC). Tuition assistance and field trips are also services that are provided.

✓ **Community Building and Engagement** is reaching the community via the Safe Space program and partnering with parents, teachers and community leaders to provide education and mental support to transform the community our girls live in.

## Our Values



**Independent Thinking**



**Integrity**

**Protection**  
— of the —  
**weak**

**Courage**



**Honesty**

**KINDNESS**

# How Safe Space Has Helped our girls



I was rude to everyone and cussed a lot. The safe space helped with my problem and now, I understand the importance of respecting myself and others. I like the Safe Space and its Social Workers. I go there to do homework and just relax.



I thought that smiling and laughing too much was not good for me. I also believed that being around others was unnecessary, so I kept to myself. I went to the Safe Space Social and the social Worker explained that smiling was good for me and so was laughing. Now I enjoy smiling and laughing, I even enjoy being around others. I realized that being around others help me come up with solutions to problems and challenges that I would normally face alone. So, I am very grateful for the Safe Space and the social workers.



I used to deliberately take my time to perform any task I was asked to perform but the safe Space helped me to turn that around. I enjoys going there now because now I have someone to talk to and I enjoy the way the Social Workers talk to me.



I was painfully shy, and it stressed me out to speak in front of others, but I always wanted to speak in front of others. At church, people will be called up to give their testimonies and I wished I could give her testimony because God has been so God to me. I wanted to tell God and everyone how bless I am to be attending MTMA but because I was shy, I could never do it. A social worker from the Safe Space program helped me with this and now I can speak in front of her classmates. I believe that I can speak outside of school.



# Accomplishments

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January 2019

Partnered  
with  
Hill Top Schools



April 2019

Partnered with Ministry of  
Prisons and Rehabilitation



April 2019

Safe Space Program  
and Yasmine's Closet  
established



November 2019

Safe Space Program  
Expanding to three new  
schools



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# Challenges

There is a real need for more **volunteers** as KAF heads for expansion to three new schools and work with youth in prisons

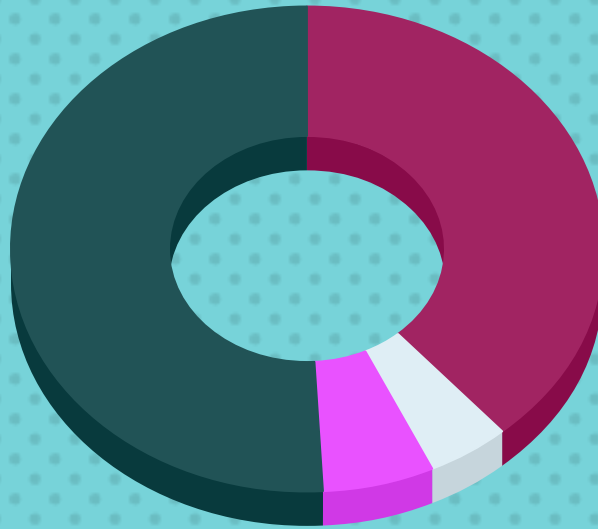
Reliable **transportation** for traveling to rural Liberia

**Medical and School Supplies** for all partner schools

Support to help **fight the practice of** Female Genital Mutilation (**FGM**) that effects our students

# Financials

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Safe Space: \$20,000    Yasmine's Closet: \$2,340  
Scholarship Program: \$3,162    Operation: \$26,397

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## Expense/Revenue

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# Vision for 2020

In 2020, we'll focus on building our community - both in Monrovia and rural Liberia. We'll bring Kutoa Afrika Foundation to every county via our Safe Space program, expanding our footprint across the country. Finally, we'll extend our digital presence and services to link our alumni as they continue their educational journey.

