reema Gift atal BRING DREAMS TO LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS Provide life's essentials for a young woman Page 1 Equip her through specific services **EMPOWER HER WITH** TAILORING TRAINING Page 3 COMFORT HER WITH COUNSELING Page 5 RESTORE HER THROUGH **SCAN TO SHOP** DISCIPLESHIP Page 8 **DECEMBER 2023**



WHO IS NEEMA?

Neema exists to serve and equip vulnerable young women in Kitale, Kenya through skills training, counseling, and discipleship.

OUR MISSION

We provide an environment where students experience healing that brings transformation to their hearts, families, and communities for the glory of God.

OUR VISION

We see a future where opportunity is unleashed for young women, systems of gender inequality are changed, the cycle of extreme poverty is broken, and hearts are restored and transformed.

neema"

Photo Credit: Tessa Marie Images and Dennis Keyombe Neema Project PO Box 3533 West Chester, PA 19381

Celebrate this season by purchasing a gift that will support our current students and welcome those joining in January 2024.

You can purchase a gift in someone's honor or in addition to a holiday present. These examples show how far your generosity can go to support these young women.



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Find us online!

NEEMAPROJECT.ORG | @NEEMAPROJECT







Residential A Good Night's Sleep

BLANKETS & SHEETS | \$40



Keep her warm and cozy under the covers during those chilly nights as she prepares to work hard each day.



MATTRESS & MOSQUITO NET | \$115



Provide a safe place for her to rest, and help prevent diseases like malaria by providing a treated barrier against bites and stings.



PILLOW | \$5



It's the little things that make all the difference! With the touch of comfort, she'll feel even more at home.



<u>TRUNK</u> | \$20



We all need somewhere under lock and key to keep our belongings. With this trunk you'll give her a sense of ownership.

NURSE'S VISIT | \$50



A local nurse comes to Neema to conduct quarterly health assessments and have a Q&A with the young women who've never had anyone with whom they can ask health questions.

CHILD BATH BUCKETS | \$25



Every kid needs a good scrub. Provide 10 wash buckets for incoming children who don't have access to a bathtub.

HYGIENE ITEMS | \$65



Personal Care Items

Toothbrush, deodorant, fresh panties, sanitary pads... yeah, you wouldn't go far without them either! Support her with the basics.

DIAPERS | \$60



Our students and their children could not do without them. The lack of access to regular hot water makes it impossible to use washable diapers at Neema.

*Monthly cost

TRANSPORTATION TO HEALTH CARE CENTERS | \$50



Every time a young woman (or her child) is sick, we accompany them to one of the local health centers or the public hospital.

*Monthly cost

1. 2.

Tailoring & Dressmaking



SEWING MACHINE | \$200



Provide the gift of opportunity with a Singer sewing machine—a tool she needs to succeed in the future.



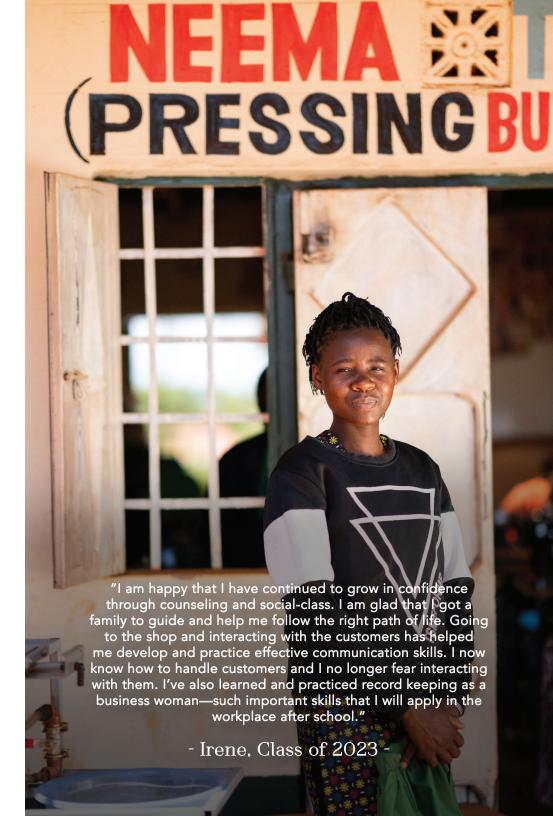
LEATHER PRODUCTS WORKSHOP | \$600



An external designer teaches our students how to integrate used leather with fabric. They learn to create varied products for their future customers.

"I have learned to be a good listener and I love helping my peers when I see them withdrawn or sad. I always help my peers in class especially when I see them struggle in the area that I have understood which gives me a lot of joy. I also feel happy at heart ever since I went through the process of forgiveness in my life."

- Beverlyne, Class of 2024 -



Counseling

HEART · HOME · COMMUNITY





HOME VISITS TO NEW STUDENTS' GUARDIANS | \$30

Holistic transformation can only happen if a student has a safe home to return to. Home visits with her guardians are a critical step in enabling this restoration.



FATHER HEART OF GOD SEMINAR | \$150

Offer a one-day course of spiritual training for students and their guardians to learn about God's design of love and forgiveness.



ALUMNI COUNSELING SESSION | \$25

Neema continues supporting these young women after they graduate because the holistic transformation that started at Neema is a long journey.



Elizabeth, Sharon, and Dinah (left to right), Class of 2025

"I am so happy and excited for the new me. I am more confident and courageous. I had a lot of fear within me but Neema has helped me build my confidence and I have been able to overcome the fear. Since I've been at Neema, I've been able to accept my daughter and have learned to love her unconditionally. I cannot wait to treat her like a better mother. I have been able to learn that she is innocent and it is not her fault that I was not able to finish school. I have been able to release pain and it made me different."

- Sharon, Class of 2025 -

5. 6

"Learning to pray has brought lots of hope in my heart and my parents have also been able to grow their hope after I introduced them to Christ. They said [that] when they pray, they feel encouraged and get the hope to carry on even when life is hard. I also feel happy that they have a way to relieve their stress and [that] they feel comfort in Christ."

- Ann. Class of 2025 -

Photo on front cover and below.



Discipleship



BIBLE & JOURNAL | \$15



Maybe you can't be there to show her love, but you sure can share the love of a true Father with this long-term gift.



ALPHA DISCIPLESHIP COURSE | \$200



This course, taught by certified Alpha trainers, ensures that our students will begin their year with clear teaching of the foundations of the Christian faith.



CHAPLAIN'S VISIT | \$50



Carol Sudi, a chaplain with Faith Community Church in Kitale, comes twice a month to teach from Scripture, reinforcing what our staff teach.

7. 8.

Sports & Play



ATHLETIC UNIFORM | \$35

With each step she takes in this uniform, she's releasing endorphins and boosting her spirits.

PLAY KIT | \$60



SOCCER BALL

Help her get ready to win the next friendly tournament against another local school.



VOLLEYBALL

Keep her fit and agile so she can stay healthy in body, mind, and spirit.



VOLLEYBALL NET

With this kit, she can take a break from sewing and do what every girl should: play!





Beverlyne, Class of 2024, and Alice, Class of 2025

Sharon, Class of 2025

New Campus



SET OF 15 NEW PLATES | \$30



This September, our students moved into our brand new campus! While the new campus has been constructed, we still need to purchase new plates, cups, and spoons to welcome TWICE as many young women in January 2024!



TABLES & CHAIRS | \$400



For years, our students have had to sit on the ground at the edge of our buildings. This holiday season, we want to provide them with better seating! Each set includes one table, two benches, and two chairs for \$400.



LED LIGHT BULBS | \$20



Turn on the lights this Christmas season for young women in need! While our new campus is completed, we still have some basic needs like purchasing lights for each room. One set of three LED light bulbs is \$20.

9. 10.

What is life like for girls growing up in rural Kenya?

SEVEN FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE VULNERABILITY OF YOUNG WOMEN

READ ONLINE

1. Many families make less than \$2/day.

38% of individuals in rural Kenya live in poverty. Living in rural areas puts young women at a greater disadvantage because of fewer job opportunities. Many resort to selling vegetables on the street or other forms of casual labor, but none of these will sufficiently provide for a family. This is why the cycle of poverty is so difficult to break.



2. Most girls drop out of school by 8th grade.

While public school is technically free, students are required to pay for various supplies, which is often too much for families. Less than 25% of women in rural Kenya who went to school completed high school, crushing their opportunities for a better future.² Lacking school fees, girls drop out of school, leaving them with no real option to further their education.

3. A high rate of teen pregnancies.

40% of women aged 15-19 who have no education have been pregnant, compared to 5% of women who have more than secondary education. Adolescent pregnancies are more likely in poor areas: 21% of women aged 15-19 in the lowest wealth quintile reported to have been pregnant, compared to 8% in the highest.³ Teenage moms face a societal stigma that threatens their chances of further education or career opportunities, making them even more vulnerable.

4. Families prioritize their sons' education.

Reportedly, when families have limited resources, boys are given educational priority since they are considered the future caregivers for the family.⁴ Girls however, despite equal access to education, face barriers such as heavy domestic workloads and adolescent marriage and pregnancies and are, therefore, unable to develop advanced literacy skills or other skills that could lift them out of poverty.

5. Parents marry away daughters for a dowry.

23% of married women age 20-24 were married before they were 18 (the legal age), 4% before they were 15.5 Parents perceive their daughters as an investment. While there is no standard process, the tribe's culture will dictate the terms of the dowry. It is generally equivalent to five years of the groom's salary, paid in monetary or in kind (livestock), often in installments.

6. Many women experience violence.

41% of women and girls age 15-49 in the county Neema is in have experienced physical violence since the age of 15.6 "Kenya continues to witness social tolerance for violence against women, with 42% of women and 36% of men believing a man can be justified for beating his wife under certain circumstances."



7. Women aren't empowered.

Despite recent measures advancing gender equality, only 29% of women in Kenya are considered "empowered" as of 2020.8 To be empowered, a woman has to have viable options to choose—the ability to decide how she will live her life. Rural Kenya is a patriarchal society where cultural attitudes around gender roles and norms exacerbate gender inequalities. It's also twice as likely for women in urban areas to be empowered in comparison to those in rural Kenya.9

Meet Susan, Class of 2020



At the age of sixteen, Susan had to drop out of school because living in extreme material poverty left her parents unable to pay for the necessary school supplies and uniform. Her father is polygamous and lives with his first wife and children. He does not financially support Susan's mother who sells vegetables and sugarcane in an effort to earn income to support her eight children. Although Susan scored high marks on her exams, she was left vulnerable without a complete education.

When Susan joined Neema, she was happy to be where she had a dry bed to sleep in, unlike her home which would frequently flood. Since graduating, Susan got married and opened her own dressmaking shop.

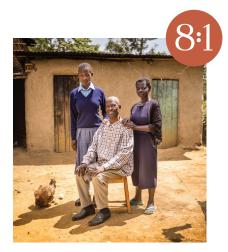
Loitanit, Neema's staff member who follows up with our alumni, shares that Susan is excelling: her shop is well stocked and she also runs a hair salon. She's expanded her shop to sell fabric, and with her income, she now also supports her mother.

Susan's dream is to open a fabric wholesale store. She wants to be traveling to Kampala, Uganda to buy fabric and sell it here in Kitale, Kenya to other tailors.

THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERS:



At Neema we believe that every young woman is valuable and worthy of love and grace. So we focus on empowering vulnerable young women in rural Kenya to build a life out of extreme poverty and provide them with healing and hope that extends to their families and communities.



For every young woman who graduates from Neema, an average of eight other individuals are impacted across four generations (her grandparents, her parents, her siblings, and her children).

13.

Get Involved

DONATE TODAY

Your donation makes it possible for us to offer skills training, counseling, discipleship, medical care, and so much more to the young women in our care. Extend love and see lives transformed by donating at neemaproject.org/give.

VOLUNTEER & FUNDRAISE

Volunteer your time through events, prayer, research, and more. You can also do anything to raise funds for Neema! Run a race, shave your head, celebrate your birthday, hula hoop! Start your own Neema fundraising campaign today.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

Through prayer, service, event hosting, donations, and more, your church can partner with Neema! Join our prayer gatherings and/or become a church ambassador.







THE GRACE

PARTNERS

EST. (P) 2015

This is your personal connection to restore and empower a young woman in Kenya. By giving \$40, \$80, or \$120 per month, you can provide for and get to know a Neema student. Availability is limited, so for more info, please contact info@neemaproject.org.

THE GRACE

COLLECTIVE

The Grace Collective, our monthly giving community, is faithfully committed to seeing systemic change occur in the lives of young women in Kenya. You can make an incredible impact over the course of

your support, and you'll get to see how your donation is being put to work with real-time updates from Kitale, Kenya. Visit neemaproject.org/give-monthly to join today.



Brenda, Class of 2024

15. 16.



To purchase any of these gifts, please visit neemaproject.org/gifts



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