



## See How Far Sewing has taken Her!

Janet joined Elimu Sewing Project before Elimu was even official! Life threw challenges her way including a divorce that left her a single Mum of two children. Her sewing business has kept her kids in school and helped her support parents, aunts and uncles in times of need. She built two traditional mud and tin roofed houses and owns a variety of livestock. She recently purchased a plot of land where she grows crops for the family and for additional income.

Since 2016, when Elimu opened the first Elimu Resource Centre, she joined us at every opportunity she could to gain digital literacy. In 2021, when we opened the Artisan Maker Space, Janet was amongst the first to join the specialized fashion and textile workshops we offered.

Over time, Janet has learned patterning for modern dress designs, sewing bags of all kinds, beadwork and how to transform cheap used clothing into recycled eco-fashion garments. She can create home decor products and was part of our Pendo Artisan Ragdoll production team. Earlier this year, Janet was hired as the sewing instructor at Pamoja Heart Education Centre. We visited her there and were thrilled at all we saw.

## Claudia is Living Her Dream!

The wonderful thing about Janet's new job, is the fact that she was hired by Claudia, the centre manager and founder of the community based organisation, Pamoja Girls. Claudia joined Elimu in 2019 as a youth intern after completing a degree in Information Science at Technical University of Kenya.

She was one of the interns to co-create our popular Youth Info Forum, a one day event of valuable information and connections for youth after high school as we also encourage them to join our Cisco Networking Academy to gain digital skills and exposure to careers in technology. Many of the youth in our area complete high school without ever having touched a computer!

Claudia grew up in Leamwana Children's Home with her two siblings after losing both parents early in life. But, she has never let life's hard knocks keep her down. She had a big dream and she's living it now. The Austrian embassy stepped in with support and since then Pamoja Girls has been empowering girls through skills and psycho-social support.

Pamoja Heart Education Centre is a collaboration of Pamoja Girls and New Heart Foundation. Similar to Elimu, they sponsor children to stay in school, run a library where students can improve their literacy, offer digital skills through their computer lab and now, with Janet, are training girls in tailoring so they can generate income for their families. It was so gratifying to see how her experience at Elimu Resource Centre has motivated Claudia in her new role!



## Investing in Youth! Will you join us in 2025?

How does Elimu achieve these results in the lives of young people? By investing in their educational journey, mentoring them through the journey and giving them access to resources and experiences that help them to find their strengths and reach their full potential.

Will you help us to do it again this year? With your support Elimu will continue to invest in children and youth in Kenya as we set them on pathways to brighter futures!

What does investment in youth look like? Here are some examples:

One Year of High School for one teenager:

School fees alone –\$850 (boarding school)  
\$300 (day school)

Boarding requirements – \$200

Stationery and textbooks – \$130

Uniforms, gym kit, shoes – \$100

After High School:

One girl trained to start her own sewing business –\$2,000 (2 years)

Digitech Tech Training course for one youth – \$800 total (6 months)

Or a single Digitech unit (eg. graphic design or cybersecurity)–\$175 to \$235

Ad hoc support for one college, university or vocational student –\$240 to \$500

Putting one high school graduate through Cisco Essentials course –\$140 (4 months)

Whether you donate to cover all costs, or make a contribution towards the total, every amount is gathered to one purpose, brighter futures. Will you consider a donation today?

We are raising \$11,000 to keep at least 20 youth studying in 2025. Will you help us make this happen?

Visit our website to make a contribution at [Elimu.ca](https://Elimu.ca).



# A Canadian Shares Her Talents



Elimu has periodically been blessed with people who join us for a period to share their skills and experience.



Tanya Buelow is a Canadian living in Toronto, who works in the insurance industry for her day job and a skilled tailor and wedding planner in her free time. Last year, she was selected by her company, The Cigna Group, to embark on a volunteering experience through their Community Ambassador Fellowship Program.



She chose Elimu to give 2 months of her time, talent and energy in Malindi this February. Thanks to her initiative, we now have a new industrial embroidery machine and heat press printer at our Artisan Maker Space which we are using to train our students and alumni on new income generating skills. These resources are not available anywhere in Malindi and will give Elimu an edge in our goal towards self-sustainability in Kenya.

During her stay, Tanya worked side-by-side with our team leading training sessions for our beneficiaries and staff. She helped design a survey of our sewing alumni, having the unique opportunity to visit them in their rural homes and to interview them on their progress since graduation.

She is currently back in Canada but still assisting us with a final evaluation of the data. This alumni review is a project that is important to us and we are so grateful to Tanya, and The Cigna Group, for making it possible. With the information we glean, we will be developing a program to support our sewing alumni with their businesses.

## Elimu at UNESCO Conference in China

Elimu was selected last year as UNESCO's representative to their Lifelong Learning Initiative for Kilifi County. Program Manager, Anthony, joined their benchmarking mission to Shanghai, where he participated in the Lifelong Learning and Learning Cities International Conference. Representatives from Georgia, Singapore, China, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Australia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom were brought together to address global challenges in education.

The opportunity opened doors to collaboration, as we continue to champion lifelong learning at Elimu, and will help us develop new partnerships to guide our efforts in fostering inclusive and sustainable education.





# Elimu's Early Childhood Program

We held the official community launch for our new early childhood program, Elimu Familia Stawi (Thriving Families in Swahili) this March. My trip to Kenya coincided with that and it was a great pleasure to also have our Canadian board member Greg Yost and his wife, Jackie with us. We were also graced with the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Kilifi County government and various education and social services stakeholders.

We were especially blessed to have with us our program partner, Mireille Lingg, of Makly Child and Parent Centre in Switzerland, as she continues to mentor our project lead, Quinter and her team.

Although still in the pilot phase, the program has already engaged 129 children (aged 1-8) and 61 parents with the benefits of play-based learning and other important skills related to early childhood care and development. We are proud to have already assisted a 5-year-old child with special needs to achieve remarkable improvement in motor coordination; a 1-year-old girl suffering from severe malnutrition to regain full health and activity levels; five children previously not enrolled in school to be enrolled and be attending classes regularly; and, fifteen children with language difficulties communicating more confidently in the local Giriama and English languages.



## Elimu Board Member on the Ground in Kenya

One key highlight during March was welcoming Canadian board member, Greg Yost and his wife, Jackie, to Kenya and Elimu Resource Centre for their very first visit! During their stay, they had the opportunity to engage with our dedicated Elimu team and learn more about the impactful work they have been helping us to do in Malindi.

They had a unique visit to the local prison where we make education accessible for inmates through our Digital Reading Program. Their trip was filled with meaningful connections, inspiring moments, and a deeper understanding of the impact we're making together. We're so grateful for their support and commitment to Elimu's vision!

