

## Special Holiday Edition: 2025 in Review



### Powering Potential: How Our Learning Centre Is Lighting Up Young Minds

What do solar panels, swings, computers, and books have in common? If you guessed that they “are all powered by an external source of energy. Each one remains inactive until it receives a specific type of input,” we would assume that you Googled it because, well, that’s the exact answer *we* received from Google. Although that is technically correct, the answer we are actually looking for is that they were all additions to our community Learning Centre in Tanzania this year.

Along with continuing and strengthening our core Scholarship and Teacher Training programs, we have expanded our reach into the community by offering a safe play area for families on our campus, opening our library and becoming a member of the Tanzania Library Services Board, and offering courses through our new Computer Lab and Technology Centre. The Computer Lab has already successfully hosted several courses, including a five-day TechSpark: Coding Program for teenagers in July. TFFT’s Managing Director, Noah Kayanda, noted that the opening of the Computer Lab “marks a significant milestone for our organization and the community we serve. The centre will play a pivotal role in bridging the digital divide across various age groups within our community.”

Another significant milestone was achieved when TFFT opened the doors of the Lenore Maden Library to host our first ever Reading Party. *Continued on Page Eleven*

### From Scholars to Leaders

*By Melissa Queyquep, Strategic Partnerships & Program Development Lead*

In an effort to strengthen the support of our Scholarship Program alumni, TFFT has launched a new Alumni Enrichment Program (AEP). This is a competitive, application-based initiative designed to support the continued growth of TFFT’s alumni through meaningful training opportunities within the organization, targeted skill development, and job readiness support. *Continued on Page Three*

### Together, We Are a Symphony

*By Maya Bharti, Founder of Melodies of Opportunity*

From June 7th to June 14th, Melodies of Opportunity had the privilege and honor of collaborating with TFFT to facilitate a musical immersion program for 72 TFFT scholars...*Continued on Page Two*

### Editor’s Note: Miller Bianucci

I am excited to introduce The TFFT Times, a fresh new publication that shines a spotlight on the incredible work happening in Tanzania with The Foundation For Tomorrow (TFFT). Guided by our vision of creating equal educational opportunities for Tanzanian youth, this special edition brings you stories from the field, updates from our alumni, creative work from our students, and highlights from the most impactful moments of the year.

Through these stories, we hope to show just how powerful investing in education in Tanzania can be: opening doors, creating opportunities, and empowering strong communities. As we wrap up such a meaningful year, we want to send a big thank you to the remarkable people and communities we work with in Tanzania, and to everyone who supports and believes in this mission.

We’re proud to share these highlights with you and hope you enjoy the first edition of The TFFT Times! It’s been a year of meaningful growth for TFFT and our team is ready to keep the momentum going as we approach our 20th anniversary year.

With gratitude,  
Miller Bianucci  
Executive Director, TFFT



# BY THE NUMBERS

*Almost half the population in Tanzania is under 18, and over 70% are under 30. (UNFPA Tanzania)*

Tanzania’s future depends on how well we prepare its youth today. TFFT invests in children from the most vulnerable backgrounds – not just to educate, but to empower a generation that will drive Tanzania’s workforce, economy, and leadership in the decades to come.

## The Challenge

**3.2 million children** between the ages of 7 and 13 are out of school in Tanzania. (UNICEF)

## What We Do

TFFT sponsors vulnerable students – covering **school fees, uniforms, materials, and emotional support** – ensuring they don’t become part of this statistic. We focus on **keeping children in school**, and helping them thrive there.

## The Challenge

The net high school enrollment rate in Tanzania is just **27%**. (UNICEF)

## What We Do

TFFT supports scholars not just through primary school, but all the way through **secondary and post-secondary education**. We walk alongside students for the long haul, helping them stay in school, pass national exams, & **graduate with purpose**.

## The Challenge

Children from vulnerable and low-income households are **3x less likely** to attend school than wealthier peers. (UNESCO)

## What We Do

TFFT focuses exclusively on **orphans and vulnerable children**, breaking down barriers like poverty, stigma, & instability. Our holistic approach ensures that **a child’s circumstances never define their future**.

## The Challenge

Each additional year of schooling in Tanzania increases earnings on average by **9–11%**. (Annenberg Institute at Brown University)

## What We Do

We invest in **every year** of a child’s education, knowing that each year means greater earning potential, independence, & leadership. TFFT alumni are building lives of dignity & impact.

## The Challenge

Poverty drops from ~35% in households where the head did not complete lower school to just **6%** when they complete even some high school. (ISS African Futures)

## What We Do

By helping children reach & complete **secondary and tertiary education**, TFFT helps uplift families – and eventually communities – out of poverty, creating a ripple effect of opportunity.



## Bright Mind, Big Heart

Baraka Lomalini, is in Class 5 at Silverleaf Academy in Arusha and continues to thrive in every aspect of school life. In the classroom, he’s excelling academically and consistently impressing his teachers with his focus and enthusiasm. The passion he shows in his fine art classes shows a growing mastery and bright potential being nurtured. He’s also well-loved by his peers, friendly, kind, and always happy to be surrounded by friends.

# ARTS



## Together, We Are a Symphony – continued from Page One

...none of which had ever before experienced the power of music; in fact, one scholar remarked, “In this camp I have learn[ed] to play with the guitar which I have never ever seen and never held.”

Throughout the program, the students were able to learn how to sing, dance, drum, and play guitar, piano, saxophone, flute, clarinet, violin, and recorder. On the last day, the students came together to demonstrate all they learned in a culminating performance of Blackbird, a traditional African Ngoma, and many smaller performances on specific instruments. While the program may have only been a week, the impact it had on the students is enduring. In fact, one scholar noted, “Today, I loved music [...] My dream is when I grow up I would like to be a musician.”

Not only did this program have a vast impact on the 72 young scholars, but my experience in Arusha was one that I will never forget. As the founder of Melodies of Opportunity, I firmly believe that music, while a small thing, has the power to bring people together regardless of their background, socio-economic status, race, or religion. During my time with the scholars, all of us were able to come together and make something beautiful, and for that, I am forever grateful. Thank you to TFFT for allowing Melodies of Opportunity to partner with you to foster an environment of creativity, education, and self-expression. Together, we were able to create a life-altering, memorable, and meaningful experience for so many wonderful people, which I alone could not have done, for as Brendan Slocumb once said, “Alone, we are a solitary violin, a lonely flute, a trumpet singing in the dark. Together, we are a symphony.”

# SCHOLARS & ALUMNI



## From Scholars to Leaders continued from Page One

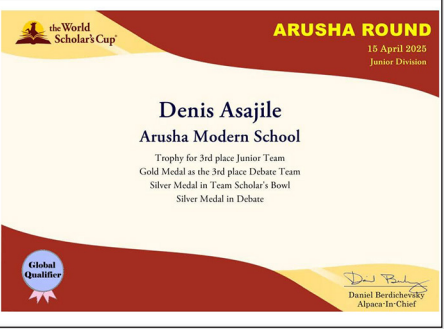
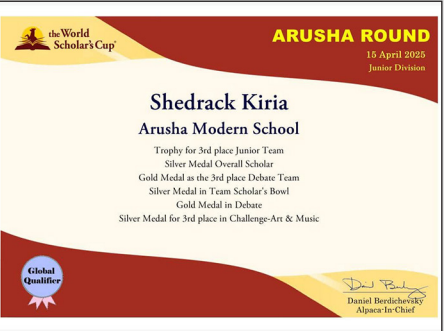
The program aims to bridge the gap between education and the workforce by equipping alumni with the tools, experiences, and networks needed to thrive in their professional journeys. In order to be eligible for this program, the applicant must be a TFFT alumni, must be actively seeking employment, an internship, or further training opportunities, and they must be able to commit time and effort to the program duration.

Each AEP participant will be assigned mentors within the TFFT community to guide them through their program and we expect to see several positive outcomes including increased confidence and competence in the workplace, enhanced employability and professional networks, and greater engagement with the organization and contribution to TFFT’s mission.

We currently have two alumnae participating in the program, Sarah Solomon and Glory Faustine. Sarah recently graduated with a B.A. in Computer Science and is teaching basic computer courses in our new Computer Lab and Glory recently graduated with a B.A. in Library and Information Studies and is working in the new Lenore Madden Library at TFFT’s Learning Centre.

Glory and Sarah are doing very well in their respective roles, and we couldn’t be happier seeing how our alumni have matured and become responsible young ladies. We are excited to offer this opportunity to our alumni and are looking forward to watching them flourish, learning new skills, and gaining confidence as they head into the world beyond the classroom.

## TFFT Scholars on the Global Stage



The World Scholar’s Cup is an international academic competition that inspires students, aged 8 to 18, toward a passion for learning and collaboration by competing in several events including Collaborative Writing, Scholar’s Challenge (a multiple-choice test), and Team Debate. Earlier this year, we received news that three of our scholars who participated in the Collaborative Writing competition received “Global Qualifier” recognition.

The 2025 theme was “Reigniting the Future” and the specific essay prompt for this year was “Do more laws make a society more just?” This topic was meant to encourage students to explore utopian and dystopian perspectives on the future and write a persuasive essay on this topic as part of the competition. Our three Global Qualifiers were Shedrack Kiria, Denis Asajile, and Saitoti Mayka.



## Alumni Spotlight

*By Candice Donley, Fundraising & Communications Coordinator*

The 32nd Annual World Travel Awards - Africa and Indian Ocean Gala Ceremony took place on June 28, 2025 in Dar es Salaam and TFFT was honored to have one of our esteemed alumni, Isack Usambara, accept the award for Africa’s Leading Luxury Tented Safari Camp 2025. Isack is the camp manager of Siringit Serengeti Camp and he took to social media to share his gratitude saying, “We are incredibly honored to be recognized once again at the 32nd Annual World Travel Awards. This achievement is a proud moment for all of us at Siringit Serengeti Camp, and it stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication and hard work of our exceptional team.

Winning this award under my leadership has not been an easy journey; it has been made possible by a passionate team that works tirelessly to ensure every guest experiences not only the highest standards of service but also the authentic soul of the Serengeti.

At Siringit Serengeti Camp, we offer more than just luxury; we deliver genuine immersive experiences that connect our guests with the heart of Tanzania.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Siringit Collection Tanzania, our visionary Directors, committed Operations team, cherished guests, and all our loyal supporters. Your continued trust and encouragement mean the world to us.

We warmly welcome you to experience the magic of our properties: Siringit Villa, Siringit Serengeti Camp, and Siringit Migration Camp. Karibu sana!”

Hongera sana, Isack! We are continuously blown away by your achievements!



# STEP BY STEP GRADUATES



## Stepping Into What’s Next: A Celebration of Growth

*By Janeth Evaristi, Finance & Administration Manager*

TFFT scholars Hans and Imran, both living with cerebral palsy, attend Step by Step Learning Centre (SSLC) in Tanzania, a remarkable school dedicated to supporting children with special needs. SSLC provides a nurturing, inclusive environment where students aged 4 to 17 receive foundational literacy and life skills education. Through child-centered teaching methods and innovative, evidence-based interventions, each child is encouraged to grow, learn, and thrive to their fullest potential. This forms the foundation of SSLC’s Junior Program.

On September 18th, Hans and Imran proudly graduated from the Junior Program and transitioned into SSLC’s Adult Program. This celebration represents more than a shift in learning; it marks an important step forward in their journey toward adulthood.

The Adult Program is designed for young adults aged 18 and older, many of whom are graduates of the Junior Program. These students live with a range of disabilities including autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, learning delays, albinism, and Pfeiffer’s type I syndrome. The program focuses on developing vocational skills through hands-on training in income-generating activities such as livestock keeping with sheep, chickens, fish, bees, and ducks, as well as fruit and vegetable farming and bead-based jewelry making.

The program is hosted within the school grounds to provide a safe and familiar environment where adult students can continue learning and contributing with confidence.

This graduation is not about academic achievement. It is a celebration of growth, maturity, and readiness for the next phase of life. Turning 18 marks a significant milestone, and SSLC ensures that students like Hans and Imran are supported as they move into a vocational track that is carefully tailored to their individual needs.

At Step by Step, every achievement is honored and every student is seen for their unique strengths. The Adult Program helps reduce stigma by fostering independence, self-worth, and meaningful contribution to families and communities.

This transition is about creating a space where students continue to feel safe, loved, respected, and supported as they grow at their own pace.

## Spotlight on Our Scholars: Growth, Grit, & Greatness

*By Robin Mwanga, Scholarship Program Manager*

At The Foundation For Tomorrow, every scholar’s journey tells a story of resilience, determination, and transformation. We are thrilled to shine a light on a few of our remarkable students who continue to inspire us with their achievements and spirit.

**Saitoti, Denis and Shedrack: Essay Champions**  
Representing Arusha Modern School, Saitoti, Denis and Shedrack proudly participated in the National Essay Competition hosted by St. Jude’s. Each of them brought home multiple medals, and we could not be prouder.

Their success is a powerful reflection of their perseverance and dedication. When they first joined The Foundation For Tomorrow, English was not their strongest language as Kiswahili was their primary means of communication. Today, they are not only participating in English writing competitions but excelling in them. Their growth is extraordinary.

**Asimwe: A Dream in the Making**  
Now in A-Levels at Magnificat School, Asimwe has been part of The Foundation For Tomorrow almost since the beginning. Watching her grow from a curious young girl into a confident and driven young woman has been a true privilege.

A brilliant student with a passion for engineering, Asimwe has faced personal challenges with courage and determination. With support from TFFT, her sponsors and mentors, she continues to thrive both academically and personally. We are excited to see her take steps toward achieving her dream.

**Amani: A Bright Spark in Kindergarten**  
Amani, in kindergarten at Shepherds Primary School, is already showing strong academic potential. He is curious, attentive and always eager to participate, consistently impressing his teachers.

Outside of class, Amani is cheerful and sociable, especially when playing football with his friends. He shares a close bond with his mother and is deeply motivated to make her proud. Amani is a thoughtful and promising young boy, and your support continues to make a meaningful impact on his journey.

Each of these scholars reminds us of the power of education and the importance of opportunity. Their stories are full of hope and determination, and we are honored to support them every step of the way. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

# SPORTS



## Two best friends. One challenge. One purpose.

Michele Stack and Mariel Arru took on the Kilimanjaro Marathon not just for the challenge, but for the chance to witness firsthand the transformative work The Foundation For Tomorrow has accomplished. From their arrival at JRO airport to the finish line on race day, their journey celebrates friendship, endurance, and the life-changing impact of education.

**Hear from Michele:** *I knew that one day I wanted to run for TFFT from the moment I heard about the opportunity while attending my very first gala several years ago. The mission, to support equal access to education in a part of the world I’ve always felt drawn to, deeply resonated with me. Pairing that purpose with the chance to participate in running a marathon felt like the perfect win-win. Little did I know just how impactful the experience would be. Mariel and I have been friends who have been training and running marathons together for nearly 20 years. When I proposed the idea of running the Kilimanjaro Marathon, it added a whole new level of meaning to the journey.*

*After prayerful consideration, meeting the incredible TFFT team in Africa, and witnessing firsthand the life-changing work being done through the Learning Centre, I knew I wanted to deepen my involvement. This led me to become a scholar sponsor. I’m now sponsoring Jesca James, who is currently in kindergarten. I truly hope to return one day—not only to run the half or full Kilimanjaro Marathon again, but also to meet Jesca in person and put a face to the name.*

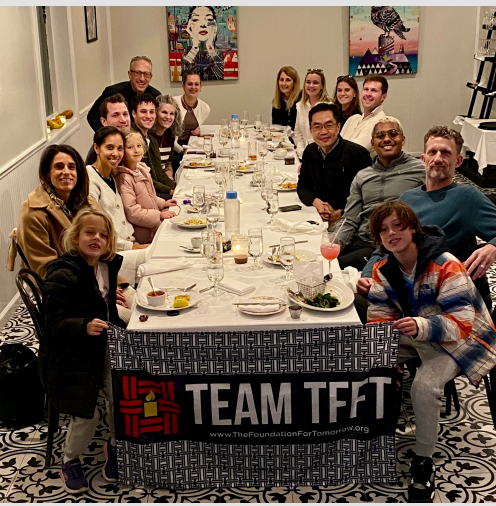
**Hear from Mariel:** *I’ve enjoyed a satisfying running career full of many marathons. I’ve seen running as a connection to friends, physical and mental health, fun, and adventure. Michele and*

*I have trained and raced together for close to 20 years. When her involvement with TFFT started showing up in our conversations, I got interested. This organization felt important and worthy of support. She pitched the race to me on a training run one day when it was only several months away. After some thought and prayer, I started feeling more and more excited about using my running and efforts to train for someone besides myself. I signed up and we started making plans! My heart grew warmer and warmer thinking of using what I have in running to help someone other than myself. I’ve been a helping professional all my life. This trip was special for me, because I got to join my passions of running and loving people where they are... as they are. Getting to do it with my bestie was just icing on the cake! It was a life changing experience to meet these wonderful people and experience and support the incredible work of TFFT.*

We are so fortunate to have supporters like these two incredible women. It is because of their commitment, and the commitment of supporters like them, that we are able to continue our meaningful and impactful work in Tanzania. Michele and Mariel were joined by 13 other runners from the US who participated in the Kilimanjaro Half Marathon, the 5K Fun Run, and a trail run up Mt. Meru. This dedicated group raised an impressive \$41,775 that helped launch our new Computer Lab and strengthen our mission.

## Breaking Records, Building Futures

This past February, Team TFFT’s own Molly Belk set a new record as the fastest known woman to summit and descend Mt. Meru in Arusha, Tanzania, all while raising vital funds in support of The Foundation For Tomorrow. Her inspiration to run came in the most unexpected way when she told us, “my mom had a dream that I ran up Mt. Meru and set a record so I decided to make that dream a reality. Throughout the years of working with TFFT in Arusha, it has been impossible to ignore the presence of Mt. Meru, which towers over you. Now it sits in full view of the new Learning Centre, and I love the symbolism of that - aiming high, pushing limits, and chasing possibility. *Continued on Page Six*



## Team TFFT Updates

*By Samantha Filcik, Development & Operations Manager*

This year, Team TFFT achieved significant growth, broadening our reach and surpassing our goals. With new marathons, more runners, and an incredible show of support, we turned miles into meaningful impact. This year we sent runners all around the world with teams participating in five different marathons on four different continents. We had 15 runners from the US participate in the Kilimanjaro Marathon, along with several TFFT staff members, scholars, and alumni, and they raised an impressive \$41,775 to help kick off our Team TFFT fundraising for the year. In August we had two runners represent TFFT at the TCS Sydney Marathon for the first time, raising \$9,745. Our six BMW Berlin Marathon runners kept the momentum going by raising \$31,140 before heading over to Germany in September. October saw our largest team of the year with 20 runners participating in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon and raising \$42,500, a new event record for our team. The year wrapped up with a team of 11 running in the TSC New York City Marathon at the beginning of November. They raised \$45,330 as a team and helped us surpass our annual goal for Team TFFT, bringing us to \$170,490 for the year.

We’re so proud of all of our runners in 2025 and are looking forward to another successful race season next year. We are excited to announce an addition of two teams in 2026 with the Tokyo Marathon in March and Cape Town Marathon in May. Please reach out to Samantha Filcik at [samantha@thefoundationfortomorrow.org](mailto:samantha@thefoundationfortomorrow.org) if you would like to be added to any of our 2026 waitlists.





Breaking Records, Building Futures – continued from Page Five

The timing aligned perfectly with our trip to Tanzania with TFFT, and I was thrilled to turn the run into a fundraiser for the scholars and the new Computer Lab at the Learning Centre.”

We are in awe of Molly’s determination, strength, and heart. Her achievement is not only inspiring but also a powerful reminder of what’s possible when passion meets purpose. “Running has empowered me over the years, on the trails and in day to day life, reminding me time and again that we are capable of far more than we often believe. I hope this FKT (Fastest Known Time) inspires many scholars, especially young women, to challenge the record and, more importantly, to dream big and see past their obstacles and limits. I’ve been deeply inspired by the women who’ve shown the world what’s possible when given opportunity and support. That’s exactly what TFFT provides and why I’m proud to support their work.”

From breaking records on the mountain to breaking barriers in education, we are extremely grateful for Molly’s commitment and her unwavering love for TFFT.

2025 TFFT Runners

American Runners

Kilimanjaro Marathon  
Michele Stack  
Mariel Arru

Kilimanjaro Half Marathon  
Meghann Sehorn  
Kait Schappert  
Allie Welsh  
Hannah Christian  
Andy Misiaveg  
Shelley Misiaveg  
Candice Donley  
Scott Donley

Kilimanjaro 5k  
Denise McFadden  
Jeff Filcik  
Karen Filcik  
Sarah Belk

Mt. Meru Challenge  
Molly Belk

Sydney Marathon  
Carey Socol  
Rosa Lagombra

Berlin Marathon  
Dionne Swayze Schmidt  
Kate McVay  
Hunter McVay  
Lindsay Schall  
Tommy Chan  
Didi Tyree

Chicago Marathon  
Tally Williams-Gurian  
Carlos Inguanzo  
Leyland Ramsey  
Samantha White Loveluck

Heng Sok  
Richard McKeever  
Nicole Nancy Tejeda  
Reneé Langford  
Zoe Womark  
Nicole Greene  
Kinnick King  
Ashley Pinsonneault Seguin  
Althea Holford  
Jakub Wojnarowski  
Kate Sexton  
Olu Okoya  
Will Willis  
Kevin Keneally  
Erika Ramirez  
Noel Girmay

NYC Marathon  
Matt Kramer  
Jayson Badal  
Meredith Metzger  
Andree Klein  
Devin Wilson  
Sean Sullivan  
Nate Siekierki  
Caroline Gainey  
Tommy Chan  
Josh Barde  
Oksana Borishkevich

Tanzanian Runners

Kilimanjaro Marathon  
Kennedy Lomboi

Kilimanjaro Half Marathon  
Robin Mwanga  
Haruni John Kidungu  
Adrian Maganga  
Ombeni Mgwilanga  
Tom Tarimo  
Mathew Ngowi  
Lomnyaki Lendimi  
Abednego Augustino Raphael  
Dickson Simon  
Baraka Lomalini Labikie  
Shedrack Kiria  
Denis Asajile  
Saitoti Penet Mayka

Kilimanjaro 5k  
Noah Kayanda  
Janeth Evaristi  
Joyce Undili  
Apaifura Augustino  
Mary Japheth  
Magdalena Japheth  
Sirili Robert  
Janeth Ishmael  
Neema Zacharia  
Steven Samson Lazaro

OUR PEOPLE

From Meghann, Our Founder

By Meghann Sehorn, TFFT’s Founder & Board Member

Many of you know the origins of TFFT, but for those new to our community, I’d like to share a bit of background to help you understand who we are and why we do what we do.

Helena. Yusufu. Mathayo. These triplets, who were orphaned shortly after their birth with the death of their mother, were the beginning of TFFT. I first met the triplets in 2004 while volunteering at the Nkoaranga Orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania and my heart was captured by these three children. During my time there, I was struck by the orphanage’s struggle to care not only for them, but for all the children in its care. With millions of orphaned and vulnerable children in Tanzania and the limited resources at the orphanage to care for children over the age of five, I was driven to find solutions.

Compelled into action and grounded in the belief that education unlocks opportunity and agency, I transitioned from volunteer to advocate. Not long after, I made the life-changing decision to leave my position at Barclays Capital to see how I could add value in Tanzania. Determined to improve the lives of orphaned and vulnerable children, I began working to raise funds among family and friends to help...Continued on Page Seven



From Meghann, Our Founder continued from Page Six ...provide educational scholarships for Helena, Yusufu, and Mathayo.

What began as this spark of desire to support the triplets has grown into the steady flame that is The Foundation For Tomorrow, an organization passionately committed to investing in children through the power of education. TFFT registered as a 501(c)(3) in the United States in 2006 and a national NGO in Tanzania in 2007. In 2022, TFFT was registered as an international NGO. We have been able to continue to grow as an organization because of the steadfast supporters we’ve had since the beginning, alongside the new faces that have joined our TFFT Family over the past 19 years. We are honored that you are a part of TFFT’s story!

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to ensuring every child has access to the quality education they deserve. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we’re providing the tools for a generation that will build a brighter tomorrow.

Strengthening NGO Contribution to National Development: Key Takeaways from 2025’s Annual NGO Conference

By Robin Mwanga, TFFT Scholarship Program Manager

On behalf of TFFT, I attended the Annual NGO Conference in August. This event provided a unique platform for government officials, private sector representatives, development partners, and NGOs to reflect on how the sector can drive sustainable national development. Continued on Page Eight



eLearning Africa Conference

Returning to Tanzania for the first time since 2011, eLearning Africa is the continent’s largest and most influential event on digital education, training, and skills development. This year’s gathering in May was opened by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, and brought together over 1,000 participants from more than 80 countries, including ministers of educational and ICT, tech innovators, development partners, investors, and senior policymakers.

Noah Kayanda, TFFT’s Managing Director, was able to participate in the conference and expressed how honored he was to attend saying, “It was an incredible opportunity to network and gain valuable insights from the impactful and innovative projects being implemented around the world, particularly in the African continent.”

Held at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, the conference theme, ‘Rethinking Education and Human Capital Development for Africa’s Prosperity,’ reflects a growing emphasis on equipping African learners with the digital skills and tools required to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy. Kayanda was able to meet and talk to a variety of stakeholders who are doing similar work as us and noted, “this conference was particularly timely as we work on operating The Learning Centre. It has reinforced the importance of ensuring that our offerings at The Learning Centre embrace digital and eLearning solutions.”

Meet Our New Staff Members

Melissa Queyquep (Tanzania), Strategic Partnerships & Program Development Lead  
Melissa will be instrumental in building and strengthening strategic partnerships and developing impactful programs that align with TFFT’s mission. Working closely with the Managing Director and the rest of the team, she will play a key role in operationalizing The Learning Centre, supporting program teams in design and implementation, and fostering relationships that enhance TFFT’s visibility and impact. She previously worked at TFFT as the Teacher Training Manager and later as the Country Director of the Organization and we’re very excited to have her back on the team.

Amani Nicolas (Tanzania), Teacher Training Program Manager  
Amani brings with him an impressive background in education development, with a strong passion for empowering teachers and transforming learning environments. His experience, energy, and visionary thinking make him a perfect fit for leading our Teacher Training Program into its next exciting chapter. Nicolas is a professional teacher with proven teaching, mentoring, and leadership skills. He has multiple years of experience in monitoring and evaluation working with the Joshua Foundation in Arusha, Tanzania. He also has a background in science and mathematics. Nicolas has both a bachelor of science in education and a master’s degree in monitoring and evaluation.

Candice Donley (USA) Fundraising & Communications Coordinator  
Candice’s journey with TFFT began in 2006 when she first volunteered at the Nkoaranga Orphanage - the same place where our founder, Meghann Sehorn, was first introduced to Tanzania and the crisis facing out-of-school children. She has fundraised for and run the Kilimanjaro Half Marathon with us multiple times, received the Kiongozi Award in recognition of her outstanding advocacy, participated in RIDETZ, and has been an incredible ambassador for TFFT over the years. She brings a deep understanding of our work to this role, which will be invaluable as she develops strategic partnerships and expands both individual and corporate support.





**Strengthening NGO Contribution to National Development: Key Takeaways from the Annual NGO Conference 2025 – continued from Page Seven**

The sessions focused on coordination, innovation, and accountability, emphasizing the importance of aligning NGO work with Tanzania’s development priorities.

The discussions highlighted funding and sustainability strategies. The General Secretary of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups urged NGOs to design models that do not depend solely on development partners, but rather focus on sustainability through income-generating activities and partnerships. Similarly, members were encouraged to explore matching fund strategies with private sector institutions such as banks and mobile networks to leverage corporate social responsibility and environmental, social, and governance practices.

Development partners, including the European Union, stressed the importance of capacity building. NGOs were urged to invest in program management, business development, organizational infrastructure, and systems that enhance credibility and transparency. Networking and partnership-building were underscored as critical for ensuring resources reach more beneficiaries.

Finally, participants were reminded that collaboration should be prioritized over competition. By working together (locally and internationally), NGOs can maximize their impact, reach underserved communities, and contribute meaningfully to Tanzania’s sustainable development agenda.

**Contributors to TFFT**

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Amani Nicolas, Teacher Training Program Manager

**COMMUNITY**

**TFFT Scholar Home Visits**

*By Evelyn Kaijage, TFFT Training & Skills Development Coordinator*

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work with the Scholarship Program has been conducting home visits. Each visit is an opportunity to connect with scholars and their families, witness their resilience and see firsthand the positive impact of the program. While the visits can be physically demanding, navigating long walks, language barriers, and remote areas the insights and experiences gained are invaluable.

Home visits are an essential part of the Scholarship Program and the Whole Child Approach. They allow us to understand the reality of each scholar’s life, the challenges their families face and how the program has supported them. *Continued on Page Nine*

**Building Resilience in the Digital Age: Navigating Behavior & Social Media in Parenting**

In an ever-evolving digital world, the need to equip children with a strong emotional and ethical foundation is more urgent than ever. As screens become more present in their lives, so does the responsibility of parents to guide, support, and protect them. Recognizing this, TFFT hosted a dynamic Parent Training Workshop in August at The Learning Centre, centered on the timely theme, “Building Resilience in the Digital Age: Navigating Behavior & Social Media in Parenting.” *Continued on Page Nine*



**TFFT Scholar Home Visits continued from Page Eight**

For instance, during a recent visit with Mama Emma, the mother of a TFFT scholar, she shared that the program has helped her value education, herself and her family. She revealed that the parents’ trainings encouraged her to recognize that her previous drinking habits were harmful and she is now striving to live a sober life. We had never had a clear or sober conversation with her before, so seeing her intelligence, vitality, and determination was both surprising and uplifting. Moments like these highlight the transformative power of our work.

Personally, home visits have deepened my empathy for families and strengthened my connection with our scholars. They offer a rich perspective on the sacrifices and dedication involved in supporting a child’s education and allow me to witness the broader impact on the community. Each visit uncovers new lessons, reinforcing why the Scholarship Program matters and motivating me to continue contributing to the growth and well-being of the children and families we serve.

**Building Resilience in the Digital Age: Navigating Behavior & Social Media in Parenting continued from Page Eight**

Held in collaboration with Mwangaza Centre, the session sparked deep and honest conversations about the real-life challenges parents face today raising resilient, grounded children in today’s hyper-connected world. Together, we unpacked the pressures of modern parenting, the influence of social media on young minds, and the behavioral changes that often come with it. Through shared stories, practical tools, and open dialogue, we cultivated a stronger network of informed, confident, and connected parents.



**Lifelong Learning Youth Camps**

*By Evelyn Kaijage, TFFT Training & Skills Development Coordinator*

TFFT is dedicated to serving scholars from the very start of their educational journey through their graduation from secondary school. As we have proudly watched scholars complete their education and enter the workforce, we’ve seen the profound benefit of the wraparound services that support them along the way.

One program our scholars eagerly anticipate each year is the Lifelong Learning Youth Camp. The camp provides age-appropriate interactive workshops, experiential learning, and personal development sessions. Through practical skills training, health and wellness sessions, financial literacy education, and community engagement activities, scholars gain essential abilities to achieve self-sustainability. This training strengthens their educational journey and encourages them to think critically about their future.

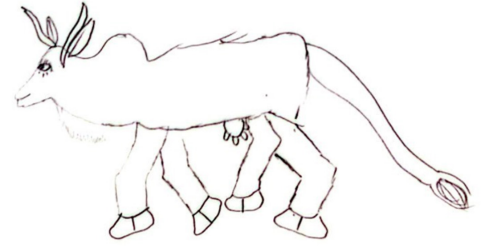
The team successfully hosted two four-day Youth Camps at Sariko Garden earlier this year. Our secondary scholars attended June 24–27, with 34 students (17 girls and 17 boys). Our primary scholars joined from September 2–5 with 39 students (20 girls and 19 boys).

All sessions were not only informative and engaging but also enjoyable and, more importantly, transformative.

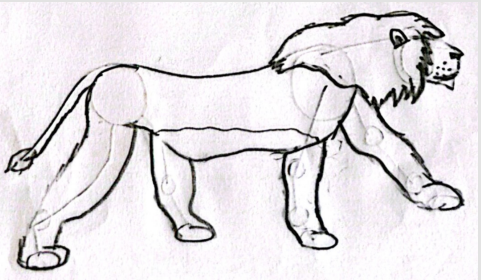
The camp covered key topics including behavioral management, effective learning strategies, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), etiquette, budgeting and money management, effective study methods, and essential soft skills.

In addition to the learning sessions, students enjoyed interactive activities such as a spelling bee, debate, talent show, various sports and games, and a movie night.

**Student Artwork**



*By Amani Joseph*



*By Huruma John Lukumai*



# EDUCATORS & IMPACT



## Reflection on the 5th International Quality Education Conference

By Noah Kayanda, TFFT Managing Director

This September, I traveled to Dar es Salaam with fellow TFFT staff, Melissa Qu-eyquep, Amani Nicolas, and Robin Mwanga to attend the 5th International Quality Education Conference (IQEC 2025). Held under the theme “Strengthening Systems and Investments: Advancing Domestic Resource Mobilization for Inclusive, Quality and Sustainable Education in Africa,” IQEC 2025 provided a premier platform for Pan-African dialogue on advancing inclusive and equitable education.

Our participation underscored our role as educational leaders committed to strengthening systems that ensure quality learning for all children in Tanzania. We actively engaged in panel discussions, keynote sessions, and collaborative exchanges that not only showcased innovative solutions but also affirmed the relevance of our work in Tanzania within the broader African context.

The conference was also a powerful networking opportunity, allowing us to connect with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government representatives, researchers, practitioners, and like-minded organizations. These engagements opened doors for future partnerships and highlighted the value of TFFT’s contributions in shaping conversations around sustainable investments in education.

Overall, IQEC 2025 reinforced that TFFT’s strategies and programs are both timely and impactful. The insights gained will guide us as we continue to strengthen our implementation, while our visibility at such a premier Pan-African convening further positions TFFT as a thought leader in the education sector.

## Teacher Training Program Accreditation

The TFFT Training Manual on Student-Centred Learning Techniques has been officially accredited by the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) for use as a guide in Teacher Training Programs beyond our partner schools.

This recognition marks a significant milestone for TFFT, placing us as a leader and influencer in the national education landscape. It affirms the quality and relevance of our work, and more importantly, it means our impact will now extend far beyond our direct partner schools, reaching teachers and students across Tanzania.

## Meru District NGO Forum

TFFT was honored to participate in the Meru District NGO Forum in August as an active member of the National Council of NGOs. Engaging with local partners in this space

is vital to advancing our mission: ensuring vulnerable children in Tanzania have access to quality education and holistic support.

By connecting with other grassroots and national organizations, we’re strengthening our

## Educators Gather to Shape Tanzania’s Future

By Amani Nicolas, Teacher Training Program Manager

In early October, the TFFT Learning Center came alive with energy and purpose as teachers from across Tanzania gathered to share ideas that could transform classrooms. The 3rd National Teachers’ Convention, held on 7 and 8 October 2025, brought together over 200 participants including teachers, researchers, policymakers, and education leaders from across the country.

Centered on the theme “21st Century Learning and Curriculum Reform: Bridging Policy, Purpose, and Practice for Tanzania’s Classrooms,” the convention became a strong example of collaboration in action.

Over two days of workshops, research presentations, and policy discussions, participants explored how curriculum reforms can lead to meaningful learning for all students. For the Tanzania Institute of Education, the event highlighted key challenges such as the limited reach of Competency-Based Curriculum training and limited awareness of available online resources. These insights provided clear direction for future professional development.

Teachers described the experience as eye-opening and empowering. Many said the sessions helped them better understand the Competency-Based Curriculum and gave them the confidence to apply it more effectively. They left with practical tools to support ongoing learning in their schools.

Researchers added depth to the conversation with a framework for assessing 21st-century skills that encouraged new ways of thinking about student learning. Representatives from the education ministry and partner organizations praised the event for creating a rare space where teachers, policymakers, and academics could work together to strengthen the education system.

By the end of the convention, one message stood out: change begins with empowered teachers. Participants returned to their communities inspired and connected, ready to build more inclusive, engaging, and competency-based classrooms.

collective ability to drive policy change, align efforts, and share locally driven solutions that work. Collaboration like this fuels smarter programming, sustainable impact, and stronger systems for children across Tanzania.

# MILESTONES & HONORS

## Teacher of Distinction Award

Teachers are at the core of the success of any school and have a direct impact on the ability of their students to thrive in their education. However, few incentives are provided for those who have chosen a career in teaching. For many professionals to continue to strive for excellence in their field, there must be an understanding that their efforts will be recognized and, in some way, rewarded. Such recognition shifts the attitudes of professionals away from complacency, motivating them to try new things and develop their skill set further. This is where the concept for TFFT’s Teacher of Distinction Award originated and we have continued to see the importance of this recognition year after year.

This year’s award ceremony was held in April at Arusha Modern School where 16 teachers from TFFT-supported schools were recognized. These educators were awarded for excellence in many different categories including Most Outstanding Collaborative Teachers in Staff Reflection Best Practice, Most Improved in Student-Centered Teaching Strategy, Creative and Collaborative Teacher in School Teaching, and High Performance in National Exams for 2024.

These awards reflect the long-term impact of our Teacher Training Program, which continues to grow in reach and sustainability - empowering educators, strengthening schools, and transforming classrooms across the region. Excitingly, the Teacher of Distinction Award has been adopted and rolled out by the government and other like-minded organizations, creating a systems wide change.

## Powering Potential: How Our Learning Centre Is Lighting Up Young Minds

*continued from Page One*

This event was celebrated in conjunction with International Literacy Day in September and welcomed roughly 70 children, ranging in age from five to twelve years old. TFFT board member, Rukia Hatibu, hosted a writing and art activity for some of the other children in attendance. She also donated copies of her children’s book, The Adventures of Naserian, to the library’s growing collection.



## Hongera/Congrats Graduates

By Haruni John Kidungu, Learning Enhancement Coordinator

We are thrilled to celebrate 9 scholars who have recently completed their Bachelor’s degrees and are awaiting final results.

Congratulations to:

- David Abraham
- Janeth Ishmael
- Emanuel Japhet
- Madelyn Kipara
- Miriam Daniel
- Glory Faustine
- Lomonyaki Lendimi
- Glory Emanuel
- Neema Mnyapanda

*We are so proud of their achievements and excited to see what they accomplish next!*

Glory Faustine is now interning at TFFT’s Learning Centre Library, supporting our mission while gaining valuable experience.

David Abraham completed his Bachelor’s degree in Tourism this year and has already received a job offer at Bawe Island Resort in Zanzibar.

Miriam Daniel, who recently completed her Bachelor’s degree, is now in Medical School and will continue her studies until 2027.

We also celebrated the graduations of scholars from primary school, including Denis, pictured above. We are thrilled to support these graduates as they embark on their next educational steps with TFFT.

As we sit in a moment of gratitude for everything our team and scholars were able to accomplish this year, we are overwhelmed by the knowledge that none of it would be possible without our loyal TFFT family supporting us each step of the way.



## Kiongozi Award Winner: - Lauren Bolshakov

By Miller Bianucci, Executive Director

Each year at our annual South of the Sahara Gala, we award someone with the Kiongozi Award. Kiongozi means leadership in Kiswahili, and this TFFT award highlights the achievements of an individual or couple who have shown exceptional generosity to TFFT through direct involvement, support, and leadership for the past several years. The recipient is an individual whose outstanding civic and charitable responsibility in and outside of TFFT has encouraged, inspired, and motivated others to take philanthropic leadership roles within their community. This award goes to someone who demonstrates exemplary commitment to the advancement of philanthropy, fostering passion and vision for social change in the hearts of many.

This year we were proud to honor our Board of Directors Chairwoman, Lauren Bolshakov. Lauren first got involved when she hosted a pop-up event to benefit TFFT at her house in October 2019. Since then, she has run in marathons and half marathons with Team TFFT around the world including Kilimanjaro, Chicago, Berlin, and she will be taking on Tokyo in 2026. She stepped up her involvement even more when she became a sponsor to TFFT scholar Joachim in 2021 and joined our board of directors in January 2023. Behind the scenes, she always makes herself available to TFFT in every way imaginable, from offering to host various events throughout the year to making time to meet for coffee and brainstorm new ideas. Her support is unwavering and has made her an incredible asset to the TFFT family over the years. We feel immensely fortunate to have her in our family and are grateful for the countless ways she impacts our work. Asante sana, Lauren!



# 2025 SOUTH OF THE



The South of the Sahara (SOS) Gala is our largest fundraising event of the year, and this year was no exception. We spent the evening of November 8th celebrating the progress of TFFT scholars and the hard work of our team, **raising nearly \$300,000!** This year, we were joined by our Training and Skills Development Coordinator, Evelyne Kaijage, who shared powerful stories from the field about the transformative impact of TFFT's programs in Tanzania. Evelyne spoke passionately about her work, highlighting the growth, resilience, and determination of TFFT scholars as they gain the tools and confidence to shape their futures. Her words reminded everyone in the room of the deep, personal impact behind every donation and commitment to our mission.

We are grateful for those of you who were able to join us in person and those of you who participated from afar. We hope you all can join us next year for our 20th anniversary celebration on November 7, 2026!



# SAHARA (S.O.S) GALA





# VISION & FUTURE



## Planning for the Future

The Planning for the Future workshop was a one-day event held in July for three of our recent Form 6 graduates: Upendo, Glory, and Angela. Designed to help them prepare for the transition to university and beyond, the session offered a structured space to reflect on their strengths, values, and long-term aspirations. Through guided activities, the scholars completed personality assessments, explored their individual strengths, and reviewed academic and career options aligned with their interests. They also discussed how technological advancements and future job trends may shape their chosen fields, encouraging them to think strategically about opportunities in an evolving world. By the end of the workshop, each scholar developed a personalized action plan outlining their short- and long-term goals. Their current top career interests include Upendo's ambition to become a teacher, Angela's goal of becoming a lawyer, and Glory's interest in cyber security. We are proud of all three scholars and look forward to supporting them as they take their next steps.

## Looking Back, Looking Ahead

*By Elizabeth Souder, TFFT Board Member*



As TFFT celebrates 19 years of impact, I find myself reflecting not only on the organization's incredible journey but also on my own. I first connected with TFFT in 2016 when I participated in RIDETZ, a 400-mile cycling adventure across Tanzania designed to raise awareness and support for TFFT's mission. That journey was far more than a physical challenge. It was a powerful, eye-opening experience that introduced me to the communities TFFT serves and the transformative work being done on the ground.

That trip left a lasting impression on me. Seeing firsthand the environments in which TFFT operates and meeting the resilient youth whose lives are being changed inspired me to stay involved. Since then, I've had the joy of sponsoring a TFFT Scholar named Happy, and through her, I've witnessed just how deeply TFFT's programs impact individual lives.



Today, I have the honor of serving on TFFT's Board of Directors. It's a privilege to be engaged in a more hands-on way and to help steer this mission-driven organization into the next chapter. This past year has been one of incredible impact, from strengthening our programs to expanding our reach, and we are energized as we look ahead to TFFT's 20th year.

If the past two decades are any indication, the future is bright. We can all be proud to support this organization that believes in the power of education to break the cycle of poverty. Together, we are ensuring that one's circumstances do not dictate their future. As we move forward, TFFT will continue to expand services, reach more children, and meet critical needs through access to quality learning and education.

## Upcoming Events: *Mark Your Calendar!*

March 1, 2026

Tokyo Marathon

March 19-22, 2026

TFFT Vision Trip in Arusha, Tanzania

March 22, 2026

Kilimanjaro Marathon Weekend (Entries still available)

May 26, 2026

The Sanlam Cape Town Marathon (Entries still available)

August 3, 2026

TCS Sydney Marathon (Entries still available)

September 27, 2026

BMW Berlin Marathon (Entries still available)

October 11, 2026

Bank of America Chicago Marathon (Entries still available)

November 1, 2026

TCS New York City Marathon (Join our waitlist)

November 7, 2026

20th Anniversary South of the Sahara (S.O.S.) Gala

*Please contact us for further details and information about any of the above events.*

## *Help Baraka find his way to graduation!*



## THE SCHOLAR'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: BOARDING SCHOOL CHRONICLES

*Created by TFFT alumni, Sirili Robert, who studies graphic design*



## English / Swahili Word Search

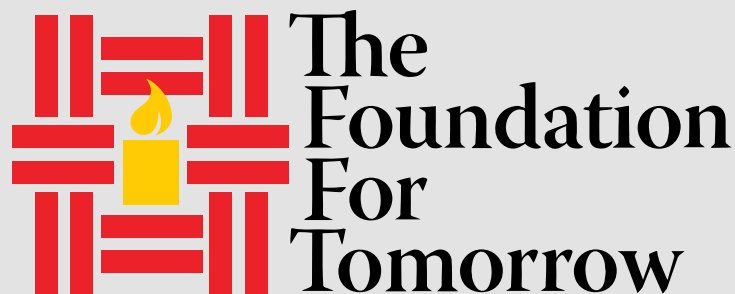
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PLAYGROUND  
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SOLAR PANEL  
EDUCATION  
GRATITUDE  
COMPUTERS  
MENTORING

TEACHERS  
SCHOLARS  
LEARNING  
TANZANIA  
DARASANI  
LIBRARY  
MWALIMU

SWAHILI  
HONGERA  
ASANTE  
RAFIKI  
JAMBO





## Mission

The Foundation For Tomorrow's mission is to secure quality education and emotional support for orphaned and vulnerable children so that they may reach their full potential and thrive in their communities.

## Vision

Focused on work in Tanzania, The Foundation For Tomorrow envisions a world where all children contribute to society as active and empowered citizens, free of exclusion, disadvantage, and vulnerability.

## How To Give

If these stories moved you, consider turning that inspiration into impact. Your support fuels the programs, teachers, and resources that help our scholars grow and thrive. This time of year invites us all to give with purpose – and your gift truly matters.

To join us in building lasting change, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Stay in Touch

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