



global sojourns
GIVING
CIRCLE

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 03 GIRL'S DREAM
- 04 EVOLUTION
- 05 YEAR OF SYNERGY, YEAR OF ENERGY
- 06 THE MODEL'S PROVEN PRACTICES
CLARIFIED, EMBRACED
- 07 ACADEMIC SUCCESS
- 08 SUCCESS IS QUALITATIVE,
NOT QUANTITATIVE
- 10 IN DEMAND BY PARENTS, TEACHERS,
COMMUNITY LEADERS, GIRLS, BOYS
- 11 OUR NUMBERS
- 12 2018-2019 MILESTONES
- 13 PROJECTS SUPPORTED &
BOARD MEMBERS



GIRL'S DREAM

TO FLY LIKE A BIRD IN THE SKY,
I WONDER WHAT THE CLOUDS
ARE SAYING ABOUT MY LIFE.
THE FORCE OF GRAVITY IS
PULLING ME DOWN AND AM
HOPING TO SEE THE STARS TO
GIVE ME DIRECTIONS.
I BELIEVE I WILL FLY IN THE SKY.

*An excerpt from Girl's Dream, by Angela Nyambe, 17,
Believe Club, St. Peter's Secondary School, Livingstone, Zambia*





EVOLUTION

For its 13 years, Global Sojourns Giving Circle has been devoted to helping girls in deeply patriarchal communities of Southern Africa overcome complex cultural, educational and economic barriers to be able to live with dignity and self-confidence. At the heart of our work is: I see you. I hear you. I believe in you.

Now our reach includes boys. They are learning the value of empowered, educated girls and women. They are learning new life skills. Their perspective is shifting.

The women and men who head our youth clubs — Mentors — know the challenges these young people face; they grew up with them. They want to guide the next generation, giving what they did not receive, helping with what they now know. Mentors do their work, as we do, with head and heart. They want to create more equitable, prosperous and hopeful communities. Now more than ever, GSGC is following the Mentors' lead and reaching out to those who seek what we can offer.



YEAR OF SYNERGY, YEAR OF ENERGY

Global Sojourns Giving Circle hit its stride in 2019. After diligent refinement, GSGC's low-cost model became more robust, effective and valued than ever before. Nourished by years of GSGC-organized gatherings and trainings, Mentors who lead local youth clubs have forged an iron-clad network of camaraderie and expertise.

"The magic of 2019 is that we got the right people with the right support, and everything became clear." said Mentor Nyika Muyambo of Sisonke Boys Club outside Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Sisonke became a full GSGC partner in 2018, but Nyika has worked with GSGC for a decade through other organizations.

"THE MAGIC OF 2019 IS THAT WE GOT THE RIGHT PEOPLE WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT, AND EVERYTHING BECAME CLEAR."



We matched our vision to local efforts. Friendships, trust and understanding have deepened. Skills have sharpened and expanded. GSGC listens to what Mentors say they need and, with small grants, comes along side to support them as community leaders. With passion and excitement, Mentors are training the next mentors and club members to be changemakers.

Demand for GSGC-sponsored clubs is growing, and the model is spreading.

THE MODEL'S PROVEN PRACTICES CLARIFIED, EMBRACED

How we do it:

- Secure community and parental buy-in for cultural acceptance and sustainability
- Provide a safe space to meet, share confidences and have fun
- Meet frequently and consistently
- Keep clubs small, about 15 members, so that mentors know youth and youth form friendships
- Girls are accountable to Mentors for participating and abiding by GSGC values; Mentors are accountable to GSGC for small grants and upholding values
- Focus the programming on character- and value-based topics and skills

Mentors say community buy-in and the Mentor network are most important. Other organizations come and go, failing to gain the support of parents, neighbors and village elders, they say.

But GSGC requires such buy-in, which eliminates top-down management and ensures sustainability. And the Mentor network has become a family of love, peace and support, they say.

- Believe Club Mentors Gloria Mubita and Racheal Musonda Ng'andu send parents and guardians a letter asking permission for girls to participate in activities or field trips in and around Livingstone, Zambia. "None of the parents has ever said no to one of our letters," Mentor Gloria said.
- Sisonke Boys Club built and meets in a traditional thatched "men's council," which was the bridge between village elders' support and the boys' opportunity to learn new skills and new thinking.
- Parents of a club member who won GSGC's 2019 I Am An African Girl creative contest prepared a generous meal when GSGC representatives came to her home to present her with the top prize.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

GSGC youth are leaders in test scores, the first in their families to finish high school, the first to go on to post-secondary education, or the first to hold a professional job.

- “Parents have told us that suddenly, their child is able to speak English. Suddenly the kids are aspiring to do better, they are saying they want to be doctors or lawyers.” – Mentor Kalinda Zimba, Yosefe Girls Club, Mfuwe, Zambia
- “Last year, those who wrote exams were seven, and we are so grateful to have four who passed very well. That is very significant because in our community, most girls don’t complete their schooling.” — Mentor Procedure Chikosi, Girls Time Club, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- Based on her 2019 school record, Pamela of Girls Time Club in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, was named Head Student at Lulu Academy in early 2020.
- In Zambia, five Believe Club alumnae have or nearly have completed nursing school. Another is studying economics at university, one earned an education degree, and one started an internship in pharmacy. Alumnae now say they are a “sisterhood.”
- After attending Believe Club for two years, Charity, who had been quiet and withdrawn, was named Head Girl at St. Peter’s Secondary School in Livingstone, Zambia, in early 2020. “It’s not just that she’s smart, it’s the way she carries herself,” a school official said.





Success is qualitative, not quantitative

Mentor Procedure Chikosi of Girls Time Club explained success this way:

“In 2019, we saw the growth of impact of the model. I see change in my community — in girls being more confident, (making) better choices for themselves. The impact of our program is not only on the girl but on the family and community as girls also become mentors in their families and neighborhoods. I can say that the results I see — girls being academically excellent, girls taking up new challenges, learning new skills, the progress of each girl from being able to write or speak better English, to being able to open up and get support when being abused — all these keep my spirits high. The fact that I know a girl is saved and my community is better because of our programs keeps me going. The key is learning every day, doing it with the community you are working in. The GSGC model has made this easier.”

- In 2019, four Girls Time girls visited Sisonke Boys Club for the first time. While introducing herself, one girl said, “I see men as weapons of destruction in my life.” It was a startling comment, but honest. Most women want a relationship with a man, but few have hopes it will be safe or positive. The girls thanked the boys for taking time to see them as whole human beings. Eventually, Mentors from both clubs arranged for all members to get together. They discussed gender issues and played volleyball. All agreed that for the first time, they were seeing each other as brothers and sisters.
- “Just having a girls club has lowered pregnancy (rates) and drop out levels, and this is only from other kids observing their friends in the club.” — Mentor Kalinda Zimba, Yosefe Girls Club
- A WayiWayi Art Club alumna has opened a hair salon in Livingstone, Zambia.
- Saturday club gatherings were enthusiastically received by girls, school leaders and parents, relieving girls of traditional household chores and errands.
- In a culture where Rubenesque women are prized, a self-described “skinny” Believe Club member learned to love herself as she is and, with her newfound confidence, entered a modeling competition.



IN DEMAND BY PARENTS, TEACHERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, GIRLS, BOYS

“Girls keep knocking on our doors,” said Mentor Gloria Mubita of Believe Club.

- 60 girls wrote essays about wanting to join Believe Club when Mentors sought eight students to fill slots left open by graduates at one secondary school.
 - “I feel it is a place where we can encourage each other to never underestimate ourselves as a girl, to stand up on your own, and tell yourself, 'You can do it'," one girl wrote.
 - “The skills I will learn will benefit me in school, career and in life, skills like commitment, leadership and effective communication,” another wrote.
 - Girls chose Believe Club, which offers belonging, support and love, instead of another program that provides food.

**“GIRLS KEEP KNOCKING
ON OUR DOORS”**



- Previously a Mentor in Livingstone, Pestrida Muleya started Isepe Girls Club after she moved to Lipumpa, a rural area west of the city.
- Masizakhe Youth Art Project in Gugulethu Township, Cape Town, South Africa became a GSGC partner.
- Tikobane Trust, a community organization in Dete, an area in and around Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, learned of GSGC in late 2019. One of the leaders reached out to GSGC Mentors in Victoria Falls, about 110 miles away, and Mentors, trust members and Priscilla met in January 2020. Within days afterward, the trust had started Tikobane Boys Club and Tikobane Girls Club using the GSGC model. The clubs serve 15 boys and 18 girls.

OUR NUMBERS

20

CLUBS

17

MENTORS

470+

BOYS & GIRLS

3 COUNTRIES

ZIMBABWE, ZAMBIA,
SOUTH AFRICA



174

DONORS

\$101,859

IN PUBLIC SUPPORT

\$79,082

GRANTS AWARDED



2018-2019 MILESTONES

- GSGC board gained two new members
- Five-year Strategic Plan written and adopted by Board
- Mentor toolkit project got underway
- Demonstrating gender equality, the women and men who head GSGC-sponsored clubs agreed to call themselves Mentors. Women had been called Aunties.
- Mentor Kalinda Zimba of Yosefe Girls Club, Mfuwe, Zambia, earned a Masters of Clinical Neuropsychology.
- Mentor Agness Buya Yombwe of WayiWayi Art Enrichment for Girls and Boys in Livingstone, Zambia, published a book about Zambian cultural taboos.
- Mentor Fwilane Banda of Project Luangwa in Mfuwe, Zambia, spoke about gender equality and menstrual health at the United Nation's Women Engage For A Common Future conference in New York City.

2019 PROJECTS supported by GSGC

Total Clubs: 20 Youth Served: 380+
A 27% increase in youth served over 2018

Working in rural villages, Auntie Sfe, and her husband Shorai, are working to create educational equality for girls, and inspire self-confidence and expression through art.
3 Clubs: 55 Girls



RISE N SHINE

BH11, BH25, BH27-
BH29, Lupinyu &
Jabulani, Zimbabwe

Auntie Procedure, a GSGC girls' club alumna, now leads two dynamic clubs of her own, supporting girls to believe in themselves and stay in school.
2 Clubs: 60 Girls



GIRLS' TIME

Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe

Boys' club mentor, Nyika, is helping boys – and village elders – understand the societal benefits of seeing and educating girls and women as equals.
2 Clubs: 30 Boys



SISONKE BOYS' CLUB

Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe

In the Xhosa language, Masizakhe means 'let's rise up' and that is exactly what Aunties Busiswa and Bongeka are helping girls to do in the poverty stricken township of Gugulethu.
2 Clubs: 30 Girls



MASIZAKHE ART PROJECT

Cape Town,
South Africa

PROJECT LUANGWA

Mfuwe, Zambia



With a strong focus on gender equality, veteran Auntie Fwilane, runs two girls' clubs and a boys' club, and mentors alumnae girls who have started two primary school clubs.
5 Clubs: 80+ Girls; 24 Boys

YOSEFE GIRLS' CLUB

Mfuwe, Zambia



Auntie Kalinda is giving her girls a chance for a brighter future by improving English language skills and school attendance, and increasing opportunities for secondary education.
2 Clubs: 40 Girls

WAYI WAYI GIRLS' CLUB

Livingstone,
Zambia



Auntie Agness and her daughter Yande, are helping YY girls gain confidence, self-expression, and life skills through a focus on art and craft techniques.
1 Club: 16 Girls

BELIEVE CLUBS

Livingstone,
Zambia



Aunties Gloria and Racheal are empowering girls by providing a support network, exposure to opportunities, and life skills to make positive choices.
2 Clubs: 30 Girls

ISEPE GIRLS' CLUB

Lipumpu,
Zambia



Auntie Pestrida, a former teacher at the GSGC-supported Tusa Munyandi pre-school, is reducing poverty in her village by helping girls stay in school and avoid early pregnancies and early marriages.
1 Club: 15 Girls

www.facebook.com/gsgivingcircle

www.instagram.com/gsgivingcircle/

www.gsgivingcircle.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Heidi Johnson Bixby, Treasurer, Washington; Holley Gilbert, Secretary, New Mexico; Paige Hasson, Oregon; Bruce Klein, New Jersey; Priscilla Plummer, Founder/President, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Washington; Jean Tucker, Washington, DC; Erin West, California

Global Sojourns Giving Circle | 275 West 3rd Street, Suite 600, Vancouver, WA 98660-2916 | 360-695-1795 | www.gsgivingcircle.org