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MYTH OF MANHOOD

We are proud to celebrate the publication of Mentor Nyika Muyambo's book *Myth of Manhood*.



Celebrating the CIRCLE

This year offered a clearer view of what patient, locally led investment can achieve. Throughout the Circle, we witnessed continued growth in the confidence, leadership, and resilience of young people. We saw mentors deepen their impact and strengthen their capacity as leaders. We saw communities continue to embrace and support this work. We also strengthened the systems, structures, and partnerships that will help sustain and expand our impact in the years ahead.

None of this is possible without the circle of people who have sustained GSGC over time. Mentors, donors, volunteers, and leadership each play a distinct role in this shared work. Some first encountered this work through travel and formed relationships that sparked their connection. Some provide the resources to make the programs possible. Some walk alongside the young people as mentors. Some remain quietly present over many years, ensuring the work endures. Each role matters. None works in isolation. Together, they form a continuous circle of support, trust, and opportunity. We hold deep appreciation for every person who has helped carry this work forward.

A special acknowledgment goes to Tara Lee Casey for helping guide us through this important season of strengthening. Her steady leadership and insight contributed meaningfully to the growth and progress we celebrate this year.

As you read this annual report, you will find stories, insights, and outcomes that reflect this progress. Together, they tell a larger story: when people are given the opportunity to grow, lead, and shape their own futures, lasting impact becomes possible.

To our donors, mentors, board members, and friends: **thank you** for staying the course. **Thank you** for understanding that real change takes time. **Thank you** for helping build something genuine, resilient, and full of promise. Because of you, what has been nurtured patiently is now flourishing.

With gratitude and excitement,



Priscilla Plummer
Founder and Chairperson



Pathways to purpose and possibilities

Woven throughout all our efforts is the development of practical life skills, gender equity, resilience, and a commitment to community. This shared foundation unites our work while creating space for local adaptation, innovation, and individuality.



MENTORSHIP CLUBS

At the heart of GSGC are mentorship clubs where young people build confidence, explore identity and begin to imagine new possibilities.

Mentors developed three-year session guides as a framework shared across clubs, strengthening the quality and consistency of sessions while allowing flexibility for local context.



ALUMNI CLUBS

Support does not end when students leave secondary school.

Alumni Clubs help young adults navigate the transition into higher education, employment, and independence through mentorship, practical skills training, and continued community connection.



ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Alumni scholarships support young people who face financial barriers to further training and education.

Scholars receive both financial support and ongoing mentorship, helping them navigate new environments with confidence.



YOUTH MENTORSHIP CENTERS

Youth Mentorship Centers serve as community hubs where young people and mentors can access technology, internet connectivity, educational resources, and collaborative learning spaces.

These resource centers expand access to opportunity while creating environments for connection, creativity, and growth.



Our reach

The communities we serve border national parks, where daily life is closely tied to conservation, economic survival, and cultural identity.



LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

Believe Girls | 4 Clubs | 48 members
 Friends of Change Boys | 1 Club | 15 members
 Sungomukoshi Girls | 1 Club | 17 members
Uluthanda Alumni | 1 Club | 34 members

VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE

Girls Time | 3 Clubs | 45 members
 Trailblazers Boys | 1 Club | 15 members
 Sisonke Girls | 2 Clubs | 26 members
 Sisonke Boys | 2 Clubs | 30 members
Ithuba Alumni | 1 Club | 13 members

DETE, ZIMBABWE

Tikobane Girls | 2 Clubs | 40 members
 Tikobane Boys | 1 Club | 15 members
Tikobane Alumni | 1 Club | 8 members

MFUWE, ZAMBIA

Project Luangwa Boys | 2 Clubs | 30 members
 Project Luangwa Girls | 3 Clubs | 50 members
 Project Luangwa Satellite | 487 youth served
 Yosefe and Matula Girls | 4 Clubs | 50 members

LIUWA PLAIN, ZAMBIA

Sibemi Girls | 1 Club | 10 members

LOWER ZAMBEZI, ZAMBIA

Kuchengetedza Boys | 1 Club | 20 members
 Mugurameno Girls | 1 Club | 20 members

* ANTSIRANANA, MADAGASCAR

Nosy Ankao Girls | 1 Club | 42 members

• YOUTH MENTORSHIP CENTERS

2025

MENTORSHIP CLUBS

33 CLUBS

473 YOUTH

964 SESSIONS

28 MENTORS

MEMBERSHIP

74% GIRLS

26% BOYS

ALUMNI CLUBS

3 CLUBS

35 MEMBERS

24 SESSIONS

8 INTERNSHIPS

6 JOB PLACEMENTS

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

8 SCHOLARSHIPS

ACCOUNTING - 3

DEMOGRAPHY - 1

LAW - 1

PHARMACY - 2

ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING - 1

YOUTH MENTORSHIP CENTERS

2 CENTERS

430 YOUTH
BENEFITED

ACADEMIC SUCCESS **79** Students completed
Secondary Studies

80% Passed National Exams

89% of these passing
students qualified
for University, College,
or Trade School

I see you.

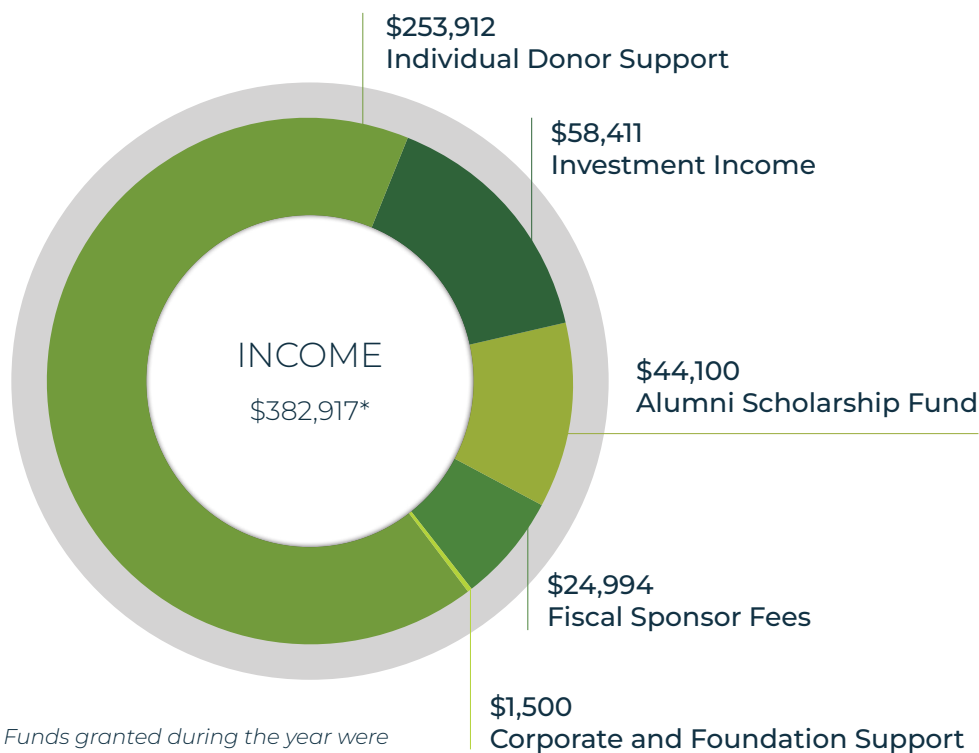
I hear you.

I believe in you.

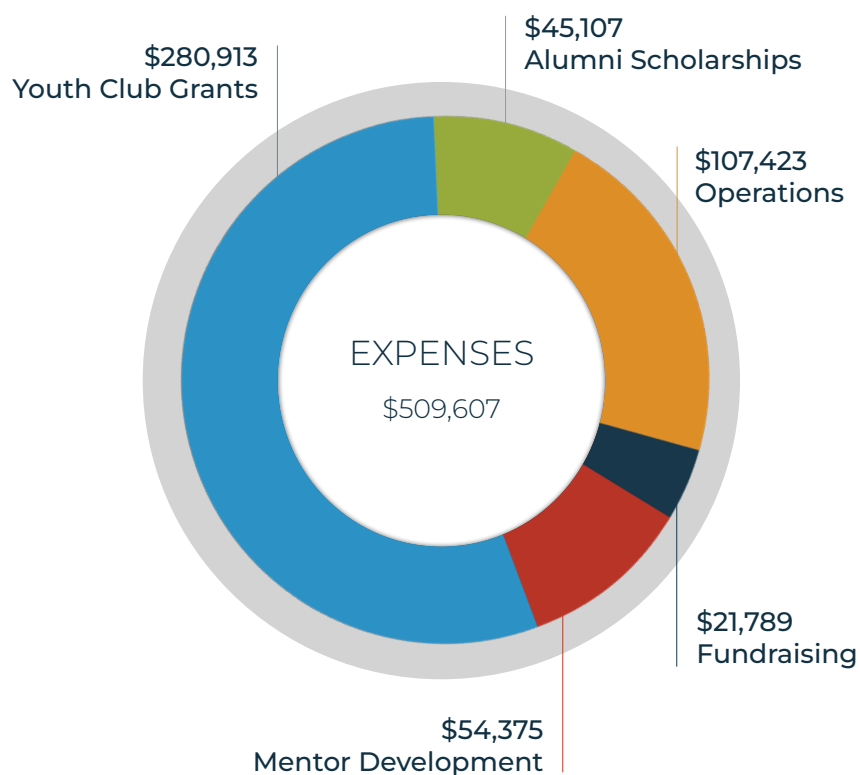


2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025



** Funds granted during the year were received only days after the fiscal year closed. Counted in full, income and expenses were balanced. GSGC's financial footing remains stable.*



BOARD MEMBERS

Priscilla Plummer
Founder | President

Heidi Johnson Bixby
Treasurer

Holley Gilbert
Secretary

Paige Hasson
Donor Care



A decade of transformation

by Nyika Muyambo | Mentor and Mentor Representative | Sisonke Boys Club

There are moments in life when a single question grows into a lifelong mission. For me, that moment came 14 years ago, after attending the Global Sojourns Giving Circle summit. I remember walking away with a burning question in my heart: “Where are the boys in all this?”

I knew that the global conversation around girls’ empowerment was necessary and powerful. But something felt incomplete. Deep within me was a persistent belief that, to see lasting gender equality, we could not leave boys behind. That certainty was not yet a strategy, it was simply a fire. At the time I did not have all the answers. But I knew one thing: we needed to start.

THE SEED PLANTED

In 2015, this resolve found expression through one of the clubs, Project Luangwa in Mfuwe, Zambia. What began as a small, uncertain step, planting the idea of boys

clubs alongside girls’ empowerment work, has now grown into something far beyond what I once imagined.

Seeds do not shout when they are planted. They lie quietly beneath the soil building unseen resilience. But over time, with nurturing and persistence, they begin to grow and eventually bear fruit.

In 2025 I had the privilege of travelling to witness the fruit of that seed. GSGC organized a trip to provide support to the two furthest clubs, Kuchengeza in Zambia’s Lower Zambezi region and Project Luangwa in the country’s Eastern Province.

LOWER ZAMBEZI: A LIVING TESTIMONY

My journey to the Lower Zambezi in Zambia was more than a visit; it was a profoundly personal opportunity for reflection. As I sat among the boys in one of the club meetings, I was struck by the realization that no one had forced them to attend.

They were present because they wanted to be there. Their eyes were fixed on Mentor Patrick Kazadi.

I felt an overwhelming sense of familiarity as I watched Patrick, seeing a reflection of my younger self — full of passion, conviction, and a desire to see change. I remembered the moment Patrick's journey began, during the 2022 Mentors' meet-up in Zimbabwe with Time & Tide girls clubs, where he had listened quietly as boys club mentors shared their experiences.

Later Patrick approached me and said, "Our boys in Lower Zambezi need this."

There was urgency in Patrick's voice. Hunger. He did not stop there. Before returning home to Zambia, he visited the Sisonke Boys Club. That visit ignited him even further. Within three months, Patrick became a Mentor and started a boys club of his own.

Now, years later, as I witnessed the boys' respectful listening and open engagement with Mentor Patrick, it was clear that something meaningful was happening. He stood before his boys not just as a Mentor but as a role model.

In that moment I realized: The seed we planted had taken root, and it was now producing seeds of its own.

MFUWE: CONFRONTING THE PAST, WITNESSING TRANSFORMATION

From Lower Zambezi, I travelled to Mfuwe in Eastern Province, another place deeply connected to the early days of this journey.

As I arrived, memories flooded back. I remembered the resistance we faced when we first introduced the boys club there. Cultural beliefs about manhood were deeply entrenched. The idea of questioning them was not easily accepted.

I remember one boy boldly declaring back then, "Girls are made for us."

At the time, those words reflected a mindset shaped by generations of unchallenged cultural narratives.

But this visit would reveal a different story.



Mentor
Patrick Kazadi

PERSISTENCE AND ADAPTATION

Over the years, Mentor Fwilane Janery dedicated herself to working with boys in Mfuwe, Zambia. As a woman, supporting boys in such a context is not easy. Yet she found a way.

In many African cultures, boys tend to open up more easily to their aunts than to other adults. Mentor Fwilane embraced that cultural space, positioning herself in the boys club, not as a replacement for a male Mentor, but as a trusted guide.

She stayed in the position for a long time before handing it over to a male figure because in her words, “It’s not just about having a man to lead the boys. It’s about having the right man.”

Mentoring boys requires selflessness, courage, and resilience. It often comes with criticism from the community, including accusations of challenging cultural traditions or “changing the way things have always been.”

Yet she persevered.

A MOMENT OF FULFILMENT

Then came a moment on this trip I will never forget. As she and I stood together, Mentor Fwilane pointed to a young man holding a camera. He looked confident, professional and composed. “This is our project photographer,” she said. “His name is Mjose Mtalika.”

As I greeted him, he smiled and said, “Mr. Nyika, I remember you. You came to speak to us ten years ago.”

Before I could respond, Mentor Fwilane added, “He is the same boy who once said, ‘Girls are made for us.’” I paused. Standing before me was no longer that boy. Mjose had become a leading advocate for girls’ empowerment in his community. In that moment, the full weight of the journey settled in my heart. This was not theory. This was deep transformation at both the individual and community level.

THE POWER OF INCLUSION

Mjose’s story is not an exception, it is a testament to what is possible when boys are included in the conversation. The strength of this approach lies in its inclusiveness. By bringing boys alongside girls, we are not creating competition; we are building partnership. We are shaping communities where both genders work together to solve shared challenges. However, this work is not without resistance.

Many communities initially view the inclusion of boys in girls’ empowerment efforts with suspicion. Cultural beliefs can act as barriers. Yet we have learned that community buy-in is key to breaking those barriers.

ENGAGING TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP

One of the most effective strategies has been engaging traditional leaders — the custodians of cultural values.



Alumni Mjose Mtalika

At Project Luangwa, Mentor Fwilane has worked closely with the chief. Through dialogue and mutual understanding, the chief has come to recognize the importance of involving boys in gender discussions. Today, he not only supports the initiative but actively participates in some of the activities. When traditional leaders embrace change, communities follow.

THE DEEPER CHALLENGE: CULTURAL IDENTITY AND MODERN REALITY

At the heart of the challenges boys face is a deeper issue: the tension between traditional cultural expectations and the realities of the modern world. Many boys are growing up without guidance on how to navigate this transition. They are trying to apply outdated definitions of manhood in a rapidly changing society. This creates confusion, frustration and often conflict — especially between boys and girls. In many cases, it contributes to gender-based violence and inequality.

THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

Within the boys clubs we have witnessed something powerful. As boys begin to explore and question the myths surrounding manhood, a shift occurs. Conversations that were once difficult become possible.

I remember sitting in one session when a boy hesitantly said, “So... it’s okay for me not to be what people expect me to be?” The room fell silent. Another boy responded quietly,

“Maybe we can just be good people first.”

That moment captured the essence of this work. When boys are given space to reflect, to question and to learn, they begin to experience freedom. Freedom from harmful expectations. Freedom to redefine themselves — not by rigid cultural scripts but by values of respect, responsibility, and empathy.

FROM SEED TO FOREST

Looking back over the past decade, I am reminded that transformation is a journey. What began as a personal conviction has grown into a movement that is impacting lives across communities. Leaders like Mentor Patrick are emerging. Advocates like Mjose are rising. Communities are slowly shifting. And perhaps most importantly, **boys are finding their place — not as obstacles to gender equality but as partners in building it.**

The work continues. But now it is no longer driven by zeal alone. It is sustained by evidence, stories and lives transformed. And every time I see a boy step into a new understanding of himself, I am reminded: This is why the first seed was planted. Slowly but surely, we are creating a forest.





My friend Lisa with boys from the Tikobane Club on our way into Hwange National Park.

From moments to momentum

by Kristi Koebeke | Volunteer | GSGC donor since 2016

Nearly a decade after our first visit to the GSGC clubs in Zimbabwe and Zambia, Lisa Wright, Heidi Johnson Bixby, and I returned with some new travelers. Our hope was to reconnect with people who made such a powerful impression on our first visit and introduce this beautiful place to our friends.

At first it was difficult to name the profound change we experienced, but it was palpable. Yes, there were the same rich rhythms: the laughter of children, the warmth of shared meals, the quiet power of mentors creating space for young people to be seen and supported. But this time something felt more defined, more integral.

We came to realize that the early promise we sensed years before had materialized as something distinct, enduring, and deeply meaningful.

This return offered a rare perspective: the chance to see not just moments of impact, but the rich, unfolding legacy of such moments over the years.

On a game drive with members of the Tikobane Club, I asked, “How has this club changed your life?” One young man answered candidly that, without the club, he believed he would be in trouble, possibly using drugs. When asked how he found the club, he pointed to a friend beside him.

“I saw his life change and followed him.”

That friend, in turn, pointed to another. A quiet chain reaction. A ripple effect, unfolding in real time.

There were moments of reflection too, like reconnecting with Mentor Gloria Mubita. She was still leading the Believe Girls Club nearly a decade later, now supporting not only

current participants, but alumni navigating university and early careers. Individually these moments are powerful. Together they begin to tell a larger story, one that becomes visible only with time.

WHAT FEELS DIFFERENT NOW

What stood out most was a sense of confidence in the mentors, in the youth and in the structure of the clubs themselves. The relationships felt more balanced, more grounded. What was once emergent is now well-established.

“The first time I visited, you could feel how much heart there was, but also a sense that everyone was still building toward a vision of what it could be,” Lisa says. “This time, it felt different. It felt like true partnership. The mentors and kids know exactly who they are and where they’re going.”

The clubs are no longer simply spaces of possibility; they are communities with continuity. Older participants guide younger ones. Alumni remain connected. Mentors lead with clarity and ownership. The work is no longer about introducing something new, it is about sustaining and deepening what exists and works.

Even the evolution of the model reflects this maturity. What began as a focus on girls’ mentorship has expanded to include boys clubs, grounded in the understanding that lasting change requires engaging entire communities. The vision has grown by building on its foundations.

THE EVOLUTION

As a founding board member and long-time supporter, Heidi has witnessed this growth from its earliest stages.

“What struck me most on this visit was the impact of the work,” says Heidi. “Witnessing the depth of relationships, the leadership that’s been built over time, and the trust, is what makes this work sustainable versus surface-level change.”

It is clear that meaningful change is not created through clubs alone but through relationships that are consistent, mutually respectful, rooted in trust.

And what continues to propel support is the understanding that this work is both deeply local and broadly relevant. While the challenges may differ across communities, the model of investing in people, centering local leadership, and committing for the long term is universal in its potential.

For those who support GSGC, this is the impact your generosity has made possible. Not just in moments, but in momentum.

AN INVITATION TO SEE FOR YOURSELF

For those who have traveled with GSGC before, there is something powerful about returning. You see the same places but with new clarity. You recognize familiar faces and witness how far they’ve come.



Lisa reuniting
with Mentor Gloria

And for those considering a first visit, there is no substitute for experiencing this work firsthand. It is immersive, humbling, and deeply human. It will stay with you.

Most importantly, it will show you what is possible when commitment meets community and when small moments, sustained over time, create lasting change.

“Because of the meaningful impact I saw during this trip in 2025, I became a monthly giving donor.”

Prior to this, I would give only when there was a special ask, but I realize the importance of this steady work and the steady commitment it requires.

Funding the core operations is critical to keeping the programming reliable. Like mentors, monthly donors are part of the steady rhythm. Committing to the journey empowers a young person facing challenging circumstances to recognize new possibilities. They stay in school. They delay pregnancy. They avoid abusive relationships. They build skills that lead to independent livelihoods.

And something else remarkable happens.

With new confidence, they begin to champion others. Families grow stronger. Communities become more stable. Futures that once felt uncertain become possible.

This transformation takes time. It takes commitment. But it's happening!

I encourage you to join me and become a monthly donor today.



Kristi
Koebke
in 2016

REAL STORIES, REAL IMPACT

VOICES OF TRANSFORMATION

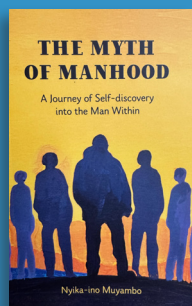
Stories rooted in lived experience, resilience, cultural complexity, hope, and deep community knowledge transform both the storyteller and the reader. They create space for reflection, inviting us to pause, listen, and better understand experiences beyond our own. In doing so, they deepen connection to the people, communities, and possibilities at the heart of this work. These stories are more than narratives. They are tools for dialogue, learning, and cultural confidence.

THE MYTH OF MANHOOD

Written by GSGC Mentor Nyika Muyambo and illustrated by Alumni Club member Kangwa Yombwe, this book offers an honest examination of masculinity through the eyes of an African man raised within deeply rooted cultural expectations. It is a courageous story of questioning inherited beliefs, unlearning harmful norms, and choosing a different path.

Myth of Manhood is being used in clubs to spark honest conversations about identity, relationships, and the expectations placed on young people. These conversations continue to strengthen the culture of understanding, dignity, and gender equity that lies at the heart of GSGC's mission.

Congratulations Nyika!



Scan the QR code
to purchase your copy
and share the journey.

Storytelling is a
pathway to dignity,
leadership, and
societal change.





global sojourns
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