





## *A note from the Founder & Executive Director:*

Even as a young girl, I knew that I was destined for a life of service. I wanted to help empower others, provide opportunities for people in need and to use my privilege for good. I believe in treating others the way that you want to be treated, and I try my best each and everyday to embody this philosophy.

Following my second year of university, I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania for a volunteer abroad trip. After one short week in country, I met a group of children in a remote village who changed the course of my entire life. It was on that day in June of 2011 that the dream of Neema International was born. Following graduation I moved into a home in that same Tanzanian village, located at the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, where I still live with my adopted son Baraka and our four rescue dogs.

Neema grew tremendously over the next few years, opening its own school and residential facility for orphaned and/or vulnerable children in the village of Uru. The complex issues surrounding access to education and overall development in the community led me to pursue a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University.

Today, Neema International is going strong with four education-based projects that support over 250 children and young adults, and provide jobs for over 45 Tanzanian men and women. For us, this is not a charitable endeavor, but an investment that has the potential to bring a thousand-fold return in lives empowered for generations to come. I sincerely hope you will join us on this incredible journey in creating a brighter future for Tanzania's promising youth.

Sending love from Tanzania,

Mandy Stein

# Who We Are

Neema International is a non-profit organization based in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania. We are committed to breaking down the cycle of poverty through grassroots education-based projects that synergize environmental and economic sustainability with creative learning and community engagement.

## Our Strengths



African leadership



Strong understanding of the social and political landscape



Bilingual organization



Strong partnerships at the community level



# Why We're Here

## Education in Tanzania

# 70%

OF ALL STUDENTS IN TANZANIA DROPOUT AFTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

# 3%

OF THE REMAINING 30% WHO CAN GO ON TO SECONDARY SCHOOL, ONLY 3% WILL CONTINUE WITH TERTIARY EDUCATION

Government schools are extremely underfunded, overcrowded, and generally unsuccessful. With ratios of 60-80 students to one teacher, one book for every five to ten students, and the prevalence of corporal punishment, kids are set so far behind before they have a chance to get started.

Research shows that 52% of girls who have begun childbearing before the age of 18 years old have either zero formal education or have only completed primary school.



# The Challenge

In Tanzania, 1 out of 4 girls has already begun childbearing by the age of 18.

Pregnant adolescents are often rejected by their families leaving them without any guaranteed means to care for themselves or for their new born baby. As a result, many girls resort to transactional sex with older men in order to meet their most basic needs.

More often than not, this “arrangement” results in subsequent unwanted pregnancies further inhibiting the young mother’s ability to find work and support her children. In some cases, the children wind up abandoned and left to be raised by their grandparents or another family member. Either way, these children almost always experience extreme poverty which has a tremendous impact on their brain development and overall wellbeing.

Research shows that poor child development and significant adverse childhood experiences prevent a child from being able to reach their full potential, which not only harms this individual child’s future but **will also have an extremely detrimental effect on the future of their society as a whole.**





# Our Solution




Our projects work to dismantle the cycle of poverty on an individual family level by taking a dual-generational approach, ensuring that both the caregiver and the children receive the education, life skills, confidence, and support that they need to achieve upward mobility and live successful and productive lives. Together, these families are working to build a better and stronger Uru that will benefit the entire community for generations to come.

# How We Differ

Large scale international-aid organizations tend to invest in top-down, macro-blanket solutions that focus on the quantity of individuals served, instead of the quality or relevance of the services being delivered. Tremendous amounts of time, energy and money have been wasted on ineffective solutions that in the long run have further hindered the communities they were trying to help.

By using a grassroots, bottom-up approach, we not only allow members of the beneficiary community to serve as their own agents of change, but also ensure that the project being implemented serves the true needs of the community at hand, rather than what the West perceives that need to be.



*Using this method towards poverty reduction ensures that the money you contribute will be sustainably invested in projects that directly help those in need, in ways that have been proven to work on ground in THIS community.*

# Our Projects

Neema International's vision is an empowered Uru community that harnesses the benefits of education to drive sustainable development and break the cycle of poverty.

Education is the momentum behind the tools adults need to be successful in life. Neema International is fully invested in improving the chances and eliminating the barriers to child education in the Uru community of Tanzania.

We are strategically empowering lives in Tanzania by providing educational opportunities and resources. We strengthen self-reliance so that individuals, families, and communities can create positive change in their own lives.







# Uru Community Pre and Primary School

Uru Community Pre and Primary school is an early childhood education center and primary school designed to break down the cycle of poverty for each student and their family. The school provides high-quality education and wrap-around services to over 120 children and jobs to over 45 local men and women. With high teacher ratios, a creative and interactive curriculum and access to technology, this school helps give the most at risk students a true fighting chance. Students receive healthcare, social work services, clothing and three nutritional meals a day. Whereas most children in Uru don't start school until they are six or seven, Uru Community Pre and Primary begins working with children as young as six months, focusing on whole-child development, ensuring them a strong academic and socio-emotional foundation for continued future life success.

# Neema International Educational Sponsorship Program (NIESP)

The Neema International Educational Sponsorship Program (NIESP) invests in the promising youth of Tanzania by providing them access to high-quality private institutions where they can discover their full potential. Students are sponsored from primary school until the completion of their university studies when they are able to get a job and support themselves. In addition to paying school fees, NIESP covers all other basic needs and school related expenses. We provide our students with educational counseling and monitor their progress in addition to strengthening family support systems by including their parents and guardians in Neema programs and meetings. During their breaks from school, NIESP students write letters to their sponsors and “pay it forward” by volunteering their time to help out with other Neema International projects.



# The Digitruck

The Digitruck is an eco-friendly classroom that promotes student learning through the use of technology. It was constructed from a 40-foot shipping container converted into a fully insulated, solar-powered classroom, equipped with 20-networked laptops, a printer, and a TV. Adolescents who have dropped out of school get a second chance through this remedial “bridge-way” program that focuses highly on life skills and real world education. Teachers work with determined pupils to improve their basic English, math and science skills until they are ready to return to school. Digitruck students that prove their dedication to education feed into the NIESP program.



# Neema Bags

Neema Bags is a social enterprise that was created to provide jobs for women in Uru as well as a means to fund our other projects. 100% of all proceeds from Neema Bags goes directly to providing funds for nutrition and education for the children of Uru Community Pre & Primary School. Each bag sewn by the Mamas is unique and hand crafted with all locally sourced materials, including beads, canvas, faux leather and African fabrics. The bags come in different designs such as laptop cases, toiletry bags, small cosmetic bags and tote bags. Neema Bags are sold in local craft fairs as well as boutiques in the United States and Canada. This employment opportunity allows these poised, hard-working women the opportunity to provide for their families and help craft a better and stronger Uru.



# Our Approach

We ensure alignment between our project goals and objectives with our core values and local initiatives.

- Every project is designed based on foundational research.
- We establish partnerships with key community influencers including government officials, healthcare providers, corporations and the media.
- We specifically invest in community development through investing in local infrastructure, human capital development, and providing jobs.
- We respond to family emergencies by providing the social work services, healthcare and support they need, including emphasizing family planning and parental involvement.



# Our Values Drive Our Mission

## LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IS KEY FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

We believe in partnering with local stakeholders and leveraging community knowledge to create lasting change.

## COLLABORATION IS THE FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS.

We believe collaboration and relationship-building lead to unique approaches and solutions and foster a healthy organization.

## EDUCATION CHANGES THE WORLD.

Education equips children to make positive changes in their homes, communities, and the world.

## WE LIVE THE MISSION.

We are advocates, teachers, parents and leaders driven by purpose and deeply committed to our mission.

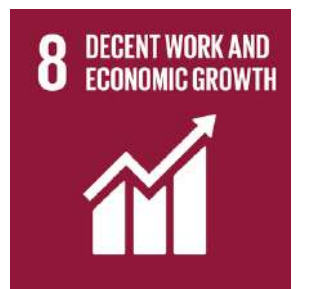
## WE OWN THE IMPACT.

We are committed to delivering sustainable results and recognize learning and growth, as well as community collaboration, are at the heart of the work we're doing.



# Our Values (cont.)

Neema International supports the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the focus of all Neema projects being to break the cycle of poverty and ensure overall health, well-being, and upward mobility, we recognize the importance of each SDG in transforming the community of Uru, Tanzania .



1

Our projects are designed to specifically break down the cycle of poverty and help build the foundation for successful and productive futures.

2

We ensure all the children in our programs receive nutritious meals and reach the WHO recommended caloric intake .

3

We provide health insurance and interventions such as HIV testing and counseling, jigger removal, and family planning education.

4

We achieve quality education through our flagship projects: Uru Community Pre and Primary School and NIESP.

5

We empower women through job creation, parent education and family planning options.

6

We previously built a clean water system for the Uru community and meet the WHO standards for sanitary washrooms facilities.

7

Our facilities are mostly solar-powered, and we previously funded solar electricity and the construction of a bio-gas stove for a children's facility in the village.

8

The Neema staff is made up of over 45 Tanzanian men and women, ranging from teachers, administrators, seamstresses, caregivers, and cleaners and chefs.

# Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: A Success Story



## Frankie, 24 from Uru, Tanzania

Frankie is an Uru native who we met in 2017. He had failed the Primary School Leaving Exam (PSLE), which prevented him from continuing on to secondary schooling. He had been in the streets for several years before going to be an apprentice at a small welding shop near Uru. Unfortunately, he was having severe problems with his eyes because he hadn't been given proper protective gear to use... so he came to us looking for a new path for his life. He studied in the Digitruck for some time before we realized that he shined the most when he was doing physical labor and making things. So we helped him get a new apprenticeship with a local carpenter. Frankie found in this job a huge passion for building... after a year, we hired him at Neema International— he now speaks fluent English, has a driver's license, and is an INCREDIBLE carpenter who builds all our office and school furnishings. He has become an EXTREMELY valuable and integral part of our team, and we feel so fortunate to have him with us!



# Impact



100+ LOCAL JOBS  
CREATED



500+ CHILDREN  
AFFECTED



3 MILLION  
DOLLARS RAISED



# Our Reach



Headquartered in Moshi, Tanzania and with our solid relationships with key influencers, we are able to advocate for tangible change in the community or Uru.



# Thank you



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