



# CORE Tanzania

## 2024 Annual Report



*Building Futures!*

# Who We Are



## Mission

Access to high quality education in rural Tanzania

## Motivating Principles

All children deserve a quality education

Quality education empowers children and communities

Healthy children can learn more effectively

Environmental awareness is crucial to our planet's future



Dear Friends,

I concluded last year's letter by noting that we had completed building school buildings and could now focus on building futures. In 2024, we took on building futures in a big way.



## A Letter From Our President

In June, twelve high school students from Lakeside's global service learning program came to Bushasha to experience the local culture and to provide community service. The Lakeside students stayed with Twegashe families and led camp activities for Twegashe students during the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn about life in rural Tanzania, and for our students to practice English with native speakers, to learn a bit about life outside of Bushasha, and of course, to have fun!

2024 was the fifth year of operation for Twegashe School. It seems not very long ago that we started with the construction of a road down the grassy hillside to the future school site, with skeptical villagers telling us the path we had chosen wouldn't work. "That road will wash out in the next big rainy season!" The road is still there and still in good condition. The school had its skeptics, too, especially those who couldn't believe we were in this for them and not for ourselves. But even the skeptics are coming around, having seen ordinary village kids who attend Twegashe helping their older siblings with schoolwork, speaking English comfortably with visitors, and expressing themselves with confidence not common here in children their age – and no one being turned away because of some surprise fees they couldn't pay.

Building futures in a sustainable way here in Bushasha means continuing to build trust with villagers. Bushasha's new village chairman is very much on-board. He predicted recently that in twenty years this village will have been transformed because of Twegashe School. And at a recent village meeting he encouraged villagers to take ownership and to contribute to the school, even those who do not have children attending. We've worked hard over the past five years to earn the trust and buy-in of villagers. Now we must maintain that trust, not with promises but with results.

I look forward eagerly to the next five years, seeing lives made more meaningful by the presence of Twegashe School!

With gratitude and anticipation,

Michael Banobi  
CORE Tanzania Board President

We began with the foundation. In January, our new class of kindergartners included 30 four-year-olds in addition to the usual 30 five-year-olds. Starting school at an earlier age will give our students a stronger start in English so lack of language doesn't inhibit their learning later on.

At the other end of the age spectrum, in 2024 we launched a scholarship campaign so Twegashe graduates will have a quality option for secondary school that will allow the investment we have made in them to yield its full potential. The performance of our fourth-graders on their first national exam – everyone passed with a C or higher and the majority scored A's or B's – suggests that they will be able to take good advantage of these scholarships.

Competence in using technology is becoming ever more important in Tanzania, just as in the rest of the world. In 2024 we secured donations of 54 laptops and began training students to use these computers. Having developed skill in using technology, students will leave Twegashe better equipped for life in today's world..

Twegashe teachers regularly emphasize to students the importance of cooperation and collaboration. Pairwork and groupwork can be observed every day in every Twegashe classroom. We believe that collaboration strengthens organizations, too. In 2024 CORE Tanzania launched an important new partnership with Lakeside School in Seattle. In

178 children  
provided with  
student-centered  
education

100%  
student retention  
from 2023 to 2024

7 composting  
biofil toilets and  
6 girls' urinals

18,720 hours  
of employment  
created for residents of  
Bushasha Village



100% solar  
power used to operate  
the school

15 goats  
and 14 rabbits in the school  
livestock program

29,100 cups  
of porridge and  
23,280 healthy lunches  
served

# 2024 By The Numbers



100%  
of students passed the  
grade 4 national exam

54 donated  
laptops

12 Lakeside  
High School (U.S.)  
students ran summer  
camp for Twegashe  
students

3,120 parent  
volunteer hours in the  
school garden



CORE Tanzania works with rural communities to provide a quality education option that will help those communities lift themselves out of poverty. Our first step is building and operating a new primary school, Twegashe School, in Bushasha village.

Our school program emphasizes community engagement, strong academics, and a focus on the whole child. Class sizes are small, and instruction is in English so students will be successful in secondary school.

Our goal is for every student who graduates from Twegashe Primary School to have the foundation they need to reach their full potential and make a positive contribution to their community.

# How We Work





# Twegashe School

## Creating a path to a better future!

We opened Twegashe School in 2020 with 30 kindergarten students. In 2024 there were 178 students in grades PreK-4. The school is located on a 50-acre site donated by the village. The school buildings are now complete, and include nine classrooms,

cafeteria, kitchen, library, staff room, offices, toilets, and a solar power system. This year we completed construction of all six originally planned teacher duplexes, and began construction of the first of three additional staff duplexes.





# Academics

Twegashe's school program reflects the conviction that all children can learn if provided with adequate support. Class sizes are limited to thirty students, and teachers spend extra time with students who are struggling. Teachers use a wide range of teaching methods to engage students in learning and to promote critical and creative thinking. Teachers are supported with curriculum materials and extensive training to help them use new strategies and techniques effectively.

Most kindergarteners arrive at Twegashe knowing only Kihaya, the language spoken in Bushasha. Our teachers use English for instruction from the beginning, while Kiswahili,

the national language of Tanzania, is introduced in Grade 1. Our aim is to provide children with a strong background in English that will help them to be successful in secondary school, where all instruction is in English. We also ensure competence in Kiswahili, which is vital for active participation as Tanzanian citizens.

This year Twegashe's fourth-graders took their first national exam. We are pleased to report that everyone passed, all with A's or B's except two students who scored a C. This level of success far surpassed typical government school scores and was comparable to many long-established private schools.

# Health and Agriculture



Twegashe works in partnership with the local clinic and with families to ensure that all students are healthy. In addition, we provide children with a nutritious breakfast and lunch daily so that empty stomachs do not interfere with children's ability to learn. The school promotes public health through the curriculum and outreach to families.

Our fruit and vegetable garden provides healthy foods for our students. Parents help to maintain the gardens. Our livestock program has grown to 15 goats and 14 rabbits. These agricultural projects provide hands-on learning for students and are helping the school move toward self-sufficiency. Agricultural projects also allow us to promote positive farming practices in the community.



# Environment



Twegashe School is committed to environmental sustainability. The school buildings and staff homes are powered by solar energy. Our biofil composting toilets use only a small amount of water. A worm-based composting system digests the waste, rapidly converting it to compost that can be safely

used on the garden. Students and staff have also been working hard to plant trees on campus.

We are currently using propane as a healthier alternative to firewood. Our school layout has dedicated space near the kitchen for a biodigester. When our agriculture program has grown to include more livestock we'll have the option to use biogas instead of propane for cooking. We also promote environmental sustainability as part of our curriculum .



# Community



Community is central at Twegashe School. The campus is located on a 50-acre site donated by Bushasha Village, and the motivation for a new primary school using English as the language of instruction came from the community. All village children are eligible for admission.

Twegashe parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's' education by volunteering in the school garden, by participating in school events such as parents' sports day, and by making financial contributions.



# Scholarships...



## Opening a door to the future

We have learned during our first five years of operation that the quality options for Twegashe graduates are very limited. Regardless of how they do on their national primary school exit exams, most will be assigned to the local community secondary school, where classrooms are crowded, teachers are too few and many are not comfortable with English, and typical incoming students are poorly prepared.

In response, in 2024 we launched a scholarship campaign so Twegashe graduates will have a quality option for secondary school that will allow the investment we have made in them at Twegashe School to yield its full potential. A scholarship of \$850 per year will pay for room, board and tuition at a local private secondary school with a good reputation. Our current fundraising efforts are focused on not only building a scholarship reserve, but also securing the \$51,000 that we expect will be required for our first year of scholarships in 2028. (Due to a change in the TZ education system, both 6th and 7th graders will graduate and begin secondary school in January 2028.)

# Our Partners



We are very grateful for several existing partnerships sustained over the past few years. CG Charitable Fund has been providing grants to CORE Tanzania since 2021. We are delighted to be partnering with them in our shared mission of promoting access to quality education. In addition, Gilead Foundation has contributed to CORE Tanzania since 2022 as part of their employee giving campaign. We are grateful for Gilead employees' consistent and generous support of Twegashe School.

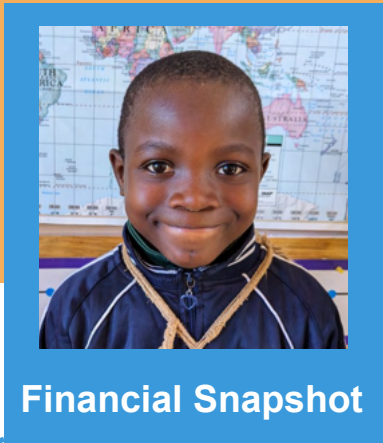


We are delighted to report that in 2024 CORE Tanzania began an exciting new partnership with the Global Service Learning program of Lakeside School in Seattle. Twelve Lakeside high school students spent three weeks in Bushasha, living with Twegashe families and leading camp activities for Twegashe students during the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for Lakeside students to experience life in the village and gain



intercultural competence, while Twegashe students had the chance to practice English with native speakers, to have their horizons broadened beyond the confines of the village, and to have lots of fun during mid-year break. Another benefit for all was the wonderful friendships formed. We are very pleased that Lakeside has decided to send another group of students to Twegashe in 2025.

# Financials



### Annual Revenue



### 2024 Revenue

\$320,331

Private grants & donations \$296,467 93%

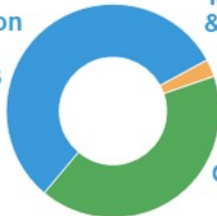


Other \$23,864 7%

### 2024 Expenditures

\$244,707

School Construction Grants \$136,993 56%



Management & Fundraising \$6,445 3%

School Operating Grants \$101,269 41%

### Thank you CORE supporters!

Together we raised \$296,467 in donations in 2024, exceeding our goal by 17%. This puts us in a good position to continue building futures, with enough reserves to fund the school's 2025 operations, construction of two additional staff duplexes, and scholarships for the first class of Twegashe graduates! You can see more about our scholarship program on page 10.



# Thank you



A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and partners, the Twegashe staff, and our many wonderful donors, whose energy, commitment, and generosity are making quality education possible for children in rural Tanzania.



## CORE Tanzania

Creating Opportunity  
through Rural Education

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