



# CORE Tanzania

## 2025 Annual Report



*One meaningful step at a time!*

# 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,

Learning proverbs and interpreting their meaning is an important topic in the grade four Kiswahili syllabus in Tanzania. One of the first proverbs students learn is the well-known saying, “Haba na haba hujaza kibaba,” – “Little by little fills the jar,” or as we might more commonly put it in the US, “Slow and steady wins the race.”

2025 was that kind of year at Twegashe – not a flashy year of exciting beginnings or of big obstacles overcome or major milestones reached, but a year of steady forward motion, maintaining and building on past progress. As a sign we recently saw posted in our Seattle neighborhood put it, “One meaningful step at a time.”

For the second year in a row, 100% of our fourth graders passed the national exam – a pass rate well above the 82% rate nationwide. This provides more evidence that teaching children to think rather than teaching to the test can still lead to positive exam results. Now our teachers have confirmation that if they prepare lessons that promote thinking and engagement rather than just feeding students information, they will be helping and not hindering them within the Tanzanian test-centric system.

## A Letter From Our President

2025 was also our second year admitting four-year-olds to kindergarten. We won't see until next year whether spending two years in kindergarten helps students to progress faster when they learn to read in grade one, but we've been very pleased to see how eager the five-year-olds are to help their younger classmates. Another “second” for 2025: It was our second year hosting the Lakeside global service learning program. Once again, the program was a resounding success.

This was also a year of working steadily to “fill the jar” in our construction program. In late 2024 we began construction on three additional staff duplexes, which will allow us to hire an optimal number of teachers and to offer on-campus housing to other employees who are not from Bushasha. This year we completed the first two of those additional duplexes and welcomed the first teacher to move into Twegashe's “north campus”.

This was a year of steady progress for CORE Tanzania as well. We once again exceeded our annual fundraising goal, maintained a strong and active board, and continued our partnerships with Lakeside School, Rotary, CG Charitable, and Gilead Foundation. We continued to grow our scholarship fund and are in a good position to send Twegashe's first graduates to secondary school in 2028.

In 2025 our teachers implemented a peer training program to help solidify and extend the teaching skills they have gained so far. To provide further training support, in early June we hosted two Seattle-based ESL teacher trainers to conduct a training on teaching language together with subject content. We saw the strategies our teachers learned during this training exhibited in their classrooms throughout the rest of the year. Thanks to our teacher training program, learning in Twegashe classrooms continues to grow more interactive and engaging. Teachers are planning lessons carefully, using different teaching methods, and ensuring that every child participates actively.

In addition to their peer training sessions, teachers also meet weekly to share challenges they face with their students, rather than struggling through these challenges alone. Sitting in on these meetings and hearing teachers express heartfelt concern for their students' academic, social, and emotional well-being never fails to lift my spirits and increase my confidence that the future is bright for Twegashe School!

With gratitude and anticipation,

Michael Banobi  
CORE Tanzania Board President

207 children  
provided with  
student-centered  
education

99%  
student retention  
from 2024 to 2025

11 composting  
biofil toilets and  
6 girls' urinals

2,200 donated  
books  
In the school library



100% solar  
power used to operate  
the school

11 teachers  
and 9 villagers provided  
with full-time employment

34,800 cups  
of porridge and  
23,980 healthy lunches  
served



# 2025 By The Numbers

100%  
of students passed the  
grade 4 national exam

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

546 trees  
planted

4,000 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 2025 there were 207 students in grades PreK-5. 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. We have completed construction of all six originally planned teacher duplexes. This year we built two 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 formally in Grade 2. 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.

In both 2024 and 2025, all Twegashe students passed the grade 4 national exam—with a class average of B—compared to a national pass rate of 80% in 2024 and 82% in 2025. These results help to support our conviction that village children can learn as well as their more-privileged peers in towns and cities if they are given the appropriate resources.

# 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 24 goats and 13 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, we have 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're very grateful for our wonderful partners. 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. Gilead Foundation has contributed to CORE Tanzania since 2022 as part of their employee giving campaign. We are grateful for the consistent and generous support of Gilead employees. A third partner is Rotary District 5030, who funded our initial solar project, and just informed us at the end of this year that they have approved a new grant for a rainwater harvesting and storage project at the school.



In 2025 we continued our partnership with the Global Service Learning program of Lakeside School in Seattle. Eleven Lakeside high school students spent three weeks in Bushasha, living with Twegashe families and leading camp activities for Twegashe students during the day. This program is a wonderful opportunity for Lakeside students to experience life in the village



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

# Financials



Financial Snapshot

### Annual Revenue



### 2025 Revenue

\$336,435

Private grants & donations  
\$315,037  
94%

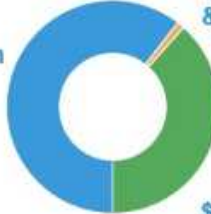


Other  
\$21,398  
6%

### 2025 Expenditures

\$232,537

School Construction Grants  
\$140,675  
61%



Management & Fundraising  
\$2,641  
1%

School Operating Grants  
\$89,221  
38%

### Thank you CORE supporters!

Together we raised \$315,047 in donations in 2025, exceeding our goal by 15%. This puts us in a good position to continue building futures, with enough reserves to fund the school's 2026 operations, construction of the final staff duplex, and scholarships for the first two classes 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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## Board of Directors

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