

Growth Through Learning



March 15, 2025

Organization Name: Growth Through Learning (GTL)

Project Title: GTL- High School scholarships for Girls

Grant Amount: \$25,000

Contact Person: Wanjiku K. Mwangi (Executive Director)

Address: P O Box 390975, Cambridge, MA 01239

The Mission of GTL: Founded in 1997, Growth Through Learning (GTL), is a secular organization that supports education and development by providing full high school scholarships to girls and young women in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. These girls come from families who are not in a financial position to afford tuition and upkeep in quality boarding schools.

The grant provided by TWR was for financial support to educate girls through high school by offering a full annual scholarship. This is the second year of high school for the 32 scholars sponsored by the TWR grant. All the 32 girls supported by TWR are in school, and they started in January 2024. The 32 scholarships offered by TWR, are part of the 450 in total that GTL paid for in 2024.

When GTL offers a scholarship to a GTL scholar, we make a commitment to pay for their school fees for the entire 4 to 6 years, until they complete high school. However, the scholars must keep their grades up. The biggest challenge we encounter is that we must look for money year in and year out to meet this commitment.

Late last year, one of our longtime generous funders decided to halve their annual funding. They have been our most consistent funder over the last 25 years. We have over 2100 alumnae and it's due to the consistent funding provided by this foundation that these many girls have graduated from high school.

Due to the decline in funding by our major donor in 2025, we offered only 5 new scholarships, bringing the total scholarships to 388. We usually offer about 100 new scholarships every year, so this is a big drop for us. We continue to look for new funding.

On average, the typical family in East Africa where our scholars come from is made up of 7 people. The impact of educating one girl per family affects 32 families multiplied by 7 individuals, resulting in a total of 224 people (including the scholar).

95% of GTL scholars graduate from high school every year.

GTL's greatest achievement is the graduation from high school by more than 2100 girls in East Africa who, without a GTL scholarship, would not have been able to receive a secondary school education. In 2024, we awarded 450 high school scholarships, up from 187 in 2016.

Multiple studies by international development and government agencies have shown that girls in developing countries who have achieved a high school education:

- Are more likely to participate in the labor force, engage in paid employment, earn more for their families over their lifetimes, and have healthier children who stay in school longer than girls who are not able to attend high school.
- Receive a higher economic return on investment in education than boys. Female secondary education has an 18% return in the form of eventual wages, compared with 14% for males.
- Are up to six times less likely to be married as children than those with little or no schooling.
- Have a greater influence over school enrollment of children than the education level of fathers.
- Have, on average, 2.2 fewer children.

The positive effects of maternal education are also transferred to the next generation: Every extra year of schooling reduces infant mortality by up to 10%. In addition, the ripple effect from improving the lives of young girls becomes even stronger for the local community because of the tendency of females to reinvest their income at home. Girls and women spend 90% of their earned

income on their families, compared with 30% to 40% among males. (From The Mac Arthur Foundation. “Girls Secondary Education in Developing Countries”. January 2016.)

The benefits of each GTL scholarship ripple through the families and communities of the girls we support, amplifying their impact many times over.

Here below are some scholars supported by GTL in 2024



Sarah Achieng - Mogotio Girls High School, Kenya

Sarah is a scholar in one of our 15 schools in East Africa. Her aspiration is to become a medical doctor. “I want to help save lives and help people in dire need. I have seen many people in my family get sick and would like to help them and others in the future.” She is an orphan with 6 siblings, two who are also in high school school. Her older brother is their primary caretaker, and he is a casual laborer in the local town as a car washer.

Everline Ntitai Lepariyo - Mogotio Girls High School, Kenya



Everline comes from Marigat, a local town near her school. She is lively and confident and shared her dreams, “I want to become a financial engineer and specialist in Statistics. My parents are older and struggle to support our large family. I want to help pay for my siblings' education once I get a job.”

Lucy Odhiambo- Sega Girls, Kenya



Lucy attends high school at Sega Girls. She wants to be top of her class to make her teachers and parents proud.



GTL scholars join a yoga session at Karoti Girls. 10 of the girls were paid for school fees by the grant from TWR.



St. Marie Eugenie Milleret, Kisaki, Tanzania

On March 8, 2025, Maria and Honoraria standing in the photo above represented their school in a debate competition on International Women's Day. They excel academically and are thrilled to have GTL sponsor their high school education.

Finances

In January 2024, thirty-two girls received an annual scholarship of \$700 per student, totaling \$22,400.

\$2600 went into administrative costs.