



STEPHEN'S story

10-year-old Stephen was paralyzed from the waist down when he fell from a coconut tree. His community told him he was cursed and would never accomplish anything. Because his parents were too poor to pay for his care, Kuhenza provided Stephen with a wheelchair, medical care, schooling and counseling. With this support, Stephen excelled in school and received a scholarship to University, where he is now majoring in special needs education to improve the lives of others like him.

"MY ACHIEVEMENTS . . . HAVE CHANGED NEGATIVE COMMUNITY ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND MY SELF ESTEEM IS NOW HIGH SINCE I BELIEVE I CAN DO ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE BY ANY OTHER PERSON."

— Stephen Karisa

OUR MISSION

Transforming harmful beliefs surrounding disability to those that improve children's lives.

WHERE WE WORK

Kuhenza's interventions are developed and tested in Kilifi County, Kenya. Our approaches have also been used in other parts of Kenya and Austria, Burundi, Haiti, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S., Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

www.Kuhenza.org

Kuhenza is a registered nonprofit organization that assists children affected by disabilities regardless of their religious affiliation.



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KUHENZA
for the children

Transforming harmful beliefs
surrounding disability to
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ku•hen•za: Giriama, meaning "to love"

WHEN CYNTHIA AND LEONARD MET IN 1999, THEY NEVER IMAGINED THEIR SUPPORT FOR A FEW CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WOULD ONE DAY LEAD TO IMPROVED HEALTH AND INCLUSION FOR THOUSANDS.

Leonard Mbonani, a Kenyan special needs teacher, met Cynthia Bauer, an American graduate student, while she was conducting wildlife research on the Kenyan coast. Cynthia was born without her left hand and discovered that many people in Kenya believed disabilities like hers were caused by curses and she may have even been killed if she had been born there. This knowledge inspired Cynthia to respond when Leonard introduced her to children with disabilities who did not have access to medical care or education. In addition to providing educational assistance, Cynthia and Leonard supported medical interventions, and worked with families and communities to change superstitions connected to disability. Because of these efforts and needs, Kuhenza for the Children was registered as an official nonprofit in 2007 with the vision of a fully-integrated society where people of all abilities have access to health, education, and a loving community.



KUPENDA
SUPPORTS
CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES
THROUGH:

HOW CAN
YOU HELP

ADVOCACY

Incorrect beliefs about the causes of and treatments for disability are often a larger obstacle for children with disabilities than physical barriers. Kuhenza removes stigmas related to disability by educating leaders and communities through training workshops, large-scale public events, family counselling sessions, and our community resource center.

EDUCATION

Consistent access to high-quality education gives children with disabilities life and career choices that otherwise would not be available to them. Kuhenza supports this goal by providing special education teachers, school supplies, teacher trainings, construction of school facilities, and boarding school fees.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION

Many parents and caregivers of children with disabilities are unable to afford the medical care these children need. In response, Kuhenza provides funding, referrals and transportation to help children access medical services such as physical therapy, doctor visits, surgeries, medication, nutritional support, and equipment like wheel chairs and hearing aids.

- Donate monthly or annually (Paybill Number 684066)
- Sponsor a child with a disability for less than 100 KSH / day
- Follow our blog and Facebook and share with your networks
- Organize a fundraising event
- Invite us to share about Kuhenza with a group of your friends or colleagues
- Volunteer at the special schools we support
- Donate food and other gifts to the special schools we support

Visit [Kuhenza.org](https://kuhenza.org), stop by our offices in Gede, or call us at +254 733 316 584 to learn more

