



Decent Living  
Institute of Organic Farming

# GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES



## **About Decent Living Institute of Organic Farming (DLIOF)**

In 2018, after over 40 years of working in development with the Catholic Relief Services, DLIOF's Director, Peter Kimeu Ngui, founded DLIOF to serve his community in Makueni County, Kenya, a large county with a population over 1 million, 74% of whom are under the age of 35, and 61% of whom live in poverty. With extensive experience in sustainable development, organic farming techniques, and peacebuilding, Peter set out to build model organic farms that could be used to share his knowledge with community members. Peter hopes his organization will help members of his community live out their dreams without fear of food insecurity or a lack of opportunity.

## **The work of DLIOF is centred around its main objectives:** To

- Improve Soil and Water Conservation Programs
- Promote Social and Cultural Tourism
- Increase Capacity to Create Wealth
- Increase Access to Secure Communities

For more information please visit:

<https://www.decentlivinginstituteoforganicfarming.org/>

## **Our Philanthropy agenda.**

Guided by our mantra: Lifting our communities through education and dignified livelihoods, DLIOF philanthropic work aims to provide sustainable support through educating deserving young people in Makueni, whose families cannot afford school fees for secondary school and tertiary level / university. Secondly, we aim to provide a dignified livelihood to neglected senior citizens.

Makueni is classified as a semi-arid County, characterized by water scarcity, falling food production, and low resilience to climate change. The poverty index is 61%, and many families struggle to put food on the table. Traditionally, youthful people leave their villages and go to urban areas to look for livelihoods, leaving behind their parents. In the Kamba culture, ageing parents are cared for by their children. . Where their children are unable to break the vicious poverty cycle, caring for their parents becomes a mirage and distress sets in, leading to untold suffering of many ageing citizens, who in most cases have burden of orphaned grand-children to take care of Existing social safety nets are inconsistent and unreliable in wards across the County.



This creates a dire need for support systems to ensure such vulnerable and impoverished families have food and shelter. On the education scene, Makueni County is affected by low transition rates, poor participation and completion rates. This happens despite efforts by the Kenya government to achieve universal access to education at primary and secondary levels. The importance of education as an empowerment tool cannot be overemphasized. In the world of Kofi Annan, "... education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." While there is no justification for any youth not to attend secondary education because of lack of school fees, this however is a rude reality that awaits you in Makueni.

Annual school fee in a Kenyan public school is no more than US\$ 200 for a day scholar, and US\$ 600 for a boarder. While this may seem affordable, it is a tall order for many families in Makueni, given the poverty levels, competing livelihood interests and meagre incomes. Moving stories abound in DLIOF, of members who were educated by well-wishers and charities through secondary and university level, leading to their enlightenment, empowerment, and becoming agents of change to their families and communities. This has been a sure way of breaking the vicious poverty cycles.

DLIOF identifies support of impoverished families and education for needy cases as two cardinal opportunities for philanthropy. These two areas have an element of human dignity and progress, which intricately bind in the objectives of DLIOF. To this end, DLIOF

### **Our own journeys compel us to act.**

DLIOF's Founding Director is a living testimony of a life in deep poverty, which the New York Times featured. Besides his forty years of service in a global organization and as a community leader, he has privately mobilized resources and provided sustainable livelihood

intervention to 70 families. This support also includes care of orphans, food subsidies, and dealing with disease burdens.

DLIOF's Philanthropy Coordinator is an accomplished professional, now volunteering back to the community. Coming from an impoverished background, he achieved his secondary and university education through support from Save the Children Fund and OSHWAL Relief Foundation, among other well-wishers. He is deep in philanthropy, an active member of Lions Clubs International and supporting the education of 15 youths including orphans, in their secondary and tertiary level education.

While our hearts and souls are in hand-holding our community, our thoughts are deeply in sustainability of these initiatives. This is a journey we are compelled to enjoy you.

**Bee keeping / Apiculture** is one of the activities identified by DLIOF as a space-efficient and ethical organic economic opportunity for local farmers. On the farm, the impact of bees on farming output is immense. Bees are responsible for increased harvests per acreage since they directly pollinate the food crops that maintain entire farm ecosystems—from the food produced and consumed, to what farm animals taken in entirety. Besides, bees are the vital source of honey and beeswax, which are important high economic earners for Kenyan farmers and entrepreneurs. Similarly, bees are an important source of royal jelly and propolis. DLIOF's Apiculture initiative is encouraging farmers to transition from traditional bee-keeping methods to modern beekeeping hives, and to embrace advances in technology and apiary management training in order to maximize their output and create a net beneficial outcome that benefits the environment and natural habitats where farming is practiced.

Part of a growing trend in Kenya, apiculture allows farmers to produce high-quality honey for global consumption. DLIOF now plans to set up a philanthropic apiary, whose proceeds go towards educating needy students, as well as supporting impoverished families. A land of 10 acres has been set aside for this initiative in Aimi Ma Kilungu Farm, off Mombasa Road, in Mukaa sub county. The first set of beehives have been set-up as seen in the photos.

The planned philanthropic apiary will host 200 hives, each with a potential to generate US\$100 a year. In our modelling, one hive provides a family with NHIF cover, two hives a child education through University, and 10 hives basic needs support for a family of four.

Once fully operational, this will create an endowment fund that can sustain the education of up to 100 beneficiaries, and over 100 Neglected ageing citizens in a year.



## ***It is working!***

Only fate knows what could have happened to a brilliant young lady – Jackline Nthenya, whose impoverished family could not afford her university education. Her moving story and her call for action is better told by herself in this video clip

### ***The story of Jackline Nthenya***

And there is every reason to believe that by empowering her through a decent education, we uplift her family too. We will follow her story keenly.



### ***Our call to action***

DLIOF invites you to support the establishment of 200 philanthropic beehives. The cost of one hive is currently negotiated at KES 5,200, from identified County Technical Training Institutes, to set up in the designated site. Your donation will provide a one-off investment that will sustain the vision for the next generation, with full accountability to the DLIOF board.

### ***For further information, please contact:***

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