

GIVING JOY

MICRO GRANTS • MACRO IMPACT • GLOBAL REACH



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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MISSION

Giving Joy strengthens and inspires women entrepreneurs worldwide through one-time micro grants and mentorship programs.

VISION

Giving Joy envisions a world where women have equal opportunity to support and sustain themselves and their families, in dignity.

WHAT WE DO

We believe that all women should have the opportunity to sustain themselves. Women from all technical areas, fields, industries and geographies are eligible to apply for a one-time grant. The micro grant serves as a boost or stepping stone towards an existing or new business, nonprofit or idea. All proposed grant activities must go beyond the financial benefit of a specific business or entity, and cascade through communities—creating jobs and income for everyone touched by the entrepreneur’s endeavor.

Known as the “multiplier effect,” it means that every dollar donated to Giving Joy has an exponentially positive impact: (1) the grant injects initial capital to the awardee; (2) builds confidence of the applicant; and (3) enhances the livelihood of the individual, her family and the community at large.

OVERVIEW

In 2023, we proudly awarded a record 13 grants to individuals and organizations across 12 countries! With the increasing accessibility of AI tools like Google Translate and the reach of social networks such as TikTok, Giving Joy is now reaching non-English speakers, rural populations, and previously underserved groups. As a result, we expanded our geographic reach to include awardees from Argentina, Kurdistan, and Nepal, with three winners receiving their very first grant from any donor! We are thrilled by these advancements and eagerly anticipate how future technological innovations will bridge the gap between women in need and access to Giving Joy!

2023 GRANTEES



- » **BLUEMIND FOUNDATION, Cameroon**—Implemented the “Heal by Hair” program, connecting mental health specialists with hairdressers to raise awareness of mental health issues.
- » **FUNDACIÓN KALEIDOS, Argentina**—Advocating for adolescent and teen pregnancy awareness through podcasts focused on the consequences of obstetric violence in adolescents.
- » **GOLOCAL, Liberia**—Empowering women and girls with viable business ideas to start 50 new businesses and establishing a Startup Lab for product or service pilot testing.
- » **HUMAN ORGANIZATION FOR PEOPLE’S ENLIGHTENMENT (HOPE), India**—Provided seed funding and business skills training to women working in dangerous stone mines to start their own market businesses.
- » **JANE FRANCES MUGERWA, Uganda**—Trained women farmers in mushroom production, cultivation, processing, and marketing.

- » **KARWEMERA UNITED WOMEN ASSOCIATION (KUWA)**, *Uganda*—Developing the capacity of single mothers, teen mothers, widows, and women with disabilities to repurpose used tires for various products.
- » **LAURA PETTIE KISSAKWA AND HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA (HOHATZ)**, *Tanzania*—Equipping hard-of-hearing women with essential entrepreneurial skills, social media utilization, and coping strategies for mental health challenges.
- » **PASSION POULTRY**, *Zimbabwe*—Trained women to operate a mobile chicken slaughterhouse, providing sustainable revenue for communities.
- » **PROPOLIS**, *India*—Conducted workshops on gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence against women through storytelling, stage acting, meditation, and cooking.
- » **RADIO DANGE NWE**, *Kurdistan*—Produced radio programs advocating for women’s rights and addressing challenges faced by women in Iraq.
- » **SAFER-I NEPAL**, *Nepal*—Developing internet usage skills, digital privacy, and financial literacy platforms for adult women.
- » **SHADES OF US STORYTELLING INITIATIVE FOR AFRICAN PEOPLE (‘SHADES OF US’)**, *Nigeria*—Producing and disseminating “Flow,” a film highlighting the challenges of period poverty and menstrual hygiene products’ unavailability.
- » **YOUTH FOR THE PEACE IN GREAT LAKES REGION**, *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)* – Combating stigma against albino girls, providing school fees for the entire school year.

AMPLIFYING WOMEN’S VOICES IN KURDISTAN



Being heard is still a struggle by women globally but a Kurdish community radio station, Radio Dangi NWE and its Media Director, Rangeen Salem Mahmood, is trying to amplify women’s voices in Kurdistan and Iraq. With support from the Giving Joy grant, the station produced four impactful radio programs and ten enlightening radio spots (April-July 2023). These segments shed light on gender inequality, salary disparities, the significance of education for women and girls, and the role of men in fostering gender equality. Reaching an estimated 80,000 listeners, the programs have made a remarkable impact in the community.

A GUIDING LIGHT FOR HARD OF HEARING WOMEN IN TANZANIA



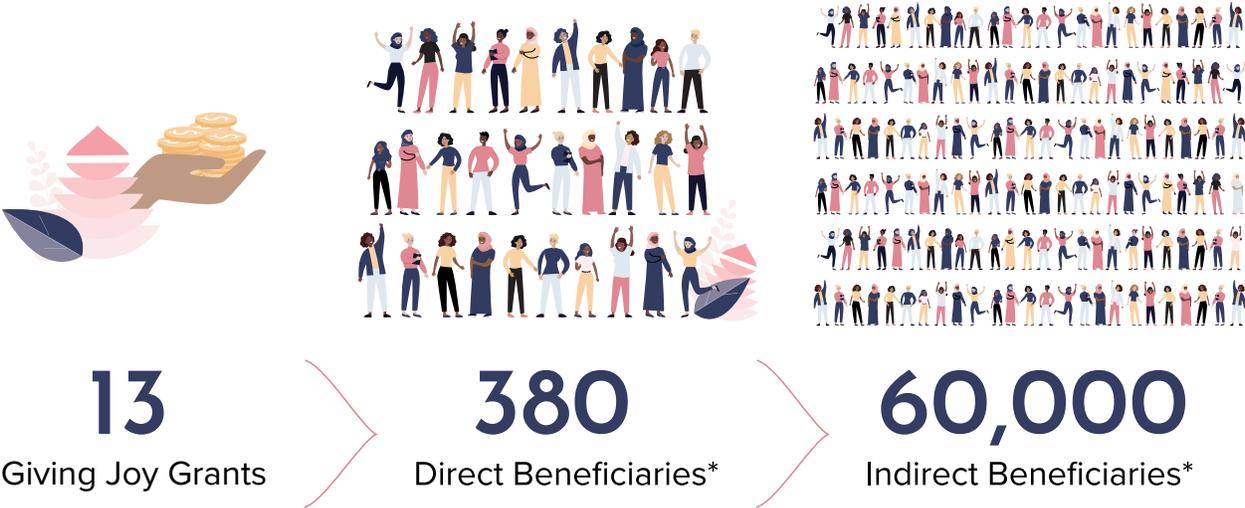
At the forefront of promoting inclusivity for hard-of-hearing (HoH) individuals in Tanzania, the Hard of Hearing Association of Tanzania (HOHATz), led by the inspiring Laura Pettie Kissakwa, organized impactful workshops for 20 HoH women in July 2023. With support from the Giving Joy grant, participants gained crucial entrepreneurial skills, learned effective social media marketing, and received guidance on managing mental health in the workplace.

Through her own experiences, Laura facilitated discussions on stress management, customer interactions, and fostering a positive mindset for female entrepreneurs with disabilities. As a passionate advocate, Laura expressed her personal mission to assist overlooked HoH individuals. She stated that “seeing these women smile, ask questions, embrace one another, and pledge to hold their heads high, I realized I had made a profound impact on their lives.”

Laura added that “receiving this grant and witnessing their transformation has ignited my potential to reach even more women and girls who are HoH and may have lost hope. I aspire to be the guiding light for every HoH woman living in poverty, empowering them to dream big.”

2023 IMPACT

Our 13 grants awarded this year have directly benefited up to 380 women, providing them with essential business skills and knowledge about women’s health and rights. Moreover, these initiatives have cultivated supportive communities, fostering an environment that nurtures women’s entrepreneurship. The ripple effect of our impact is evident as direct beneficiaries generously share their knowledge and resources through various platforms, including workshops, community events, webinars, social media, podcasts, and radio shows. As a result, approximately 60,000 individuals have been exposed to the transformative impact of the Giving Joy grants.



**Averages calculated from all 13 grants awarded in 2023*

FINANCIALS

A detailed financial report is available upon request.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we were able to award a record 13 grants this year - the highest number in our history! Our dedicated core donor group and supportive business sponsors have significantly amplified their commitment to Giving Joy, and we express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Looking ahead to 2024, our aim is to broaden our donor base and aspire to award 20 grants in the coming year.

2023 BUSINESS SPONSORS



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THANK YOU AND SEE YOU IN 2024



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