

DRAPER RICHARDS KAPLAN FOUNDATION

# We Were Made For This Moment

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2025 Annual Report





**Protecting children in a digital world.**

Netherlands-based HackShield teaches children to protect themselves and others from cybercrime, turning them into “Cyber Heroes” and training more than 300,000 kids across six countries to stay safe online and in their communities.

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Collective Energy

## We Were Made For This Moment

These six words say everything that needs to be said.

With more than two decades behind us and nearly 280 investments in portfolio organizations making a difference in the lives of others, to say we have seen a thing or two is the understatement of the century. Our team and our portfolio have lived through seemingly endless macro and micro challenges, and yet over this same period of time, both have flourished.

The numbers speak for themselves — our portfolio organizations, in the aggregate, **reached an additional 100 million people this past year**, bringing the **total number of lives impacted to 610 million** — a remarkable milestone that reflects not just scale, but deep, meaningful change in people's lives. And we can now predict confidently that by the end of 2029, if not before, our portfolio will reach a billion people. That's more than 10% of the world's population.

What we see time and time again is the sheer power of one human being to make a difference in another's life. We see it demonstrated across sector after sector of human need and in diverse geographies from North America to Africa and across Europe. We see it because the leaders and organizations we invest in are on the front lines of the safety net — providing food to those who need it; housing for those without shelter; access to critical healthcare, quality education, and employment opportunities; and above all else, the opportunity to live life to its fullest potential.

What does this look like in real life? It looks like this:

More children receiving meals at school so they can learn.  
Parents gaining the skills and jobs they need to support their families.  
Access to doctors, medicines, and care that make healthy lives possible.  
Clean water, safe homes, and opportunities to be lifted out of poverty.  
Families reunited, dignity restored, and futures reimaged.

In the pages that follow, you will hear about some of our portfolio organization's impact around the globe — entrepreneurs who have harnessed their hope into action. This coming fall, BenBella will be publishing and Simon & Schuster will be distributing our new book, *A Matter of Hope* — a blueprint for anyone who sees the potential for change and dares to make a positive impact. The book features many inspiring stories of our fearless entrepreneurs who turn hope into action every day by making a difference in the lives of millions of people, one life at a time. I can't wait for you to read their stories.

Your support and belief in this work — and in us — means the world to us. We could not do this without you. On behalf of all of us at DRK, thank you for believing in the possible.



Jim Bildner, CEO

## The Difference We Make

Our core belief in the power of human beings to make a difference in the lives of others has never been more evident than it is right now. Every day, our incredible portfolio continues to deliver services, support, opportunity – and most importantly, hope – to those who need it most. The impact speaks for itself.

# 610 MILLION LIVES IMPACTED



**12.8 MILLION**

people connected to healthy, affordable foods



**1.4 MILLION**

educators trained or supported to provide quality education and improved learning outcomes



**103 MILLION**

students served with high-quality educational resources



**49.7 MILLION**

people made more resilient to climate change



**4.6 MILLION**

people reached with legal aid and resources, improving access to justice



**6.4 MILLION**

people uplifted through skills training, resulting in \$3.4 billion of increased assets



**13.5 MILLION**

people globally connected to mental health resources



**64.5 MILLION**

patients supported with low-cost, high-quality healthcare



**11.4 MILLION**

community and frontline health workers trained, improving health outcomes

# The Heart of Everything We Do

As we know, in times of crisis and rapidly changing environments, teams and their models are challenged in real time and only the most resilient and adaptable organizations survive. Our model — from sourcing, diligence, funding mechanisms, and overwhelming support at the most critical time — is the difference.

With a team of experienced operators, sector specialists, and strategic leaders, we stay engaged during and beyond the three-year commitment, rolling up our sleeves alongside organizations as they grow. And we know this kind of long-term support not only strengthens systems and expands reach, it helps organizations catalyze lasting impact at scale, because we've seen it work.

We are driven by the relentless optimism and determination we see in our portfolio organizations and their leaders, who work tirelessly to bring hope to those who feel hopeless, belief in a better future for those who feel powerless, and that meaningful change, across the globe, is within reach if we choose to act.



# Support That Meets the Moment

Our portfolio support continues to be our secret sauce — building our portfolio organizations' capacity by providing support for scaling strategies, strategic planning, organizational development, leadership coaching, fundraising, and board development, in addition to serving on their boards for three years as hands-on operating partners.



## Organizational Capacity

This past year, our team **delivered 99 capacity-building projects**. This included:

- 11 focused on leadership development
- 19 focused on organizational capacity
- 44 focused on board development
- 10 focused on financial sustainability
- 9 focused on scale strategy
- 6 focused on fundraising capacity building



## Fundraising

In 2025, our team conducted over 700 fundraising coaching sessions.

This support continues to unlock extraordinary outcomes for our organizations — in 2025, our portfolio organizations raised \$375.8 million in follow-on funding, bringing the total to \$2.3 billion in downstream capital leveraged since we began tracking in 2021.



## Board Development

DRK has placed 134 board members on the boards of portfolio organizations, and since the inception of the board sourcing initiative, we have interviewed and vetted a pipeline of 317 potential board candidates.

DRK also offers board development, including board sourcing, board retreat planning, board self-assessments, board culture and effectiveness support, board recruitment, and onboarding strategy.



## Communications

We have also increased our communications support with hands-on targeted and tailored support for DRK portfolio organizations in managing crisis communications, internal communications alignment, and strategic communications; supporting media relations to pitch external outlets; developing press releases; coaching on best interviewing procedures; and supporting content creation for video, web, and social media to amplify audiences and optimize visibility.

# The Power of Community



In 2025, we made an intentional commitment to prioritize spending time together, in person, to learn, share, and renew our common sense of purpose.

In May, we convened entrepreneurs, partners, and team members in Nairobi for a dedicated gathering focused on connection, reflection, and learning rooted in place and community.

In September, we came together again for our Annual Retreat. Over three days, 230 participants – including current entrepreneurs, alumni leaders, donor partners, and the DRK team – gathered to learn, support one another, exchange ideas, and

inspire one another. Centered on the themes of resilience and hope, the Retreat reaffirmed why we do this work and strengthened our belief in the power of one person to make a difference in the life of another.

Across both gatherings, we witnessed extraordinary openness and connection. From new entrepreneurs courageously sharing their vulnerabilities to alumni leaders offering words that grounded and inspired us, each voice reflected the strength, spirit, and shared responsibility of this community, reinforcing that our greatest strength – and our hope – comes from one another.



# Catalyzing Change on a Global Scale

The work of DRK's portfolio organizations and their exceptional leaders has not gone unnoticed. Our tradecraft, honed over 24 years, has created a shared belief that DRK's unique competency is our ability to find, fund, and support extraordinary early-stage organizations and to build their capacity so that, downstream, they can absorb significant later-stage capital that can be truly transformative as indicated by the large number of Audacious Projects (19% of awardees are DRK organizations), Skoll Awards (10% of awardees are DRK organizations), and MacKenzie Scott grants (55 DRK organizations) that have come directly from our portfolio. Our portfolio's impact speaks for itself and is widely recognized, as the awards on the next page demonstrate.

Organizations like Healthy Learners, founded by Lonnie Hackett and Ignacious Bulongo, are redefining access to care through an innovative, school-based community health model. In 2025, Healthy Learners received a Skoll Award in recognition of this work. Operating across Zambia, the organization currently serves 1.2 million children and is on track to reach 2.5 million by the end of 2028 – becoming the 14th DRK organization to receive a Skoll Award.



skoll  
world  
forum

skoll  
world  
forum

## Yield Giving (MacKenzie Scott)

Amani Global Works	Laboratoria
Arpan	Last Mile Health
Arts for Healing and Justice Network	Living Goods
Braven	Measures for Justice
Brilliant Cities	Merit America
City Teaching Alliance	Muso
Coalfield Development	myAgro
Crisis Text Line	Noora Health
Define American	One Acre Fund
Democracy Works	Open Door Legal
Detroit Justice Center	Propel America
DigDeep	Recidiviz
Digital NEST	RefugePoint
Equal Opportunity Schools	Represent Justice
Essie Justice Group	Room to Read
Food4Education	Service Year Alliance
FoodCorps	SIRUM
FreeFrom	SmartStart
Friendship Bench	Solutions Journalism Network
Fundi Bots	Teaching Lab
Generation Citizen	The Mission Continues
Global Health Corps	The Nudge Institute
Healthy Learners	The Oakland REACH
iCivics	Tilting Futures
Imagine Worldwide	Transcend
IRAP	Upstream USA
Kiva	Upwardly Global
	VisionSpring

## Audacious Project

Braven  
Crisis Text Line  
Food4Education  
Imagine Worldwide  
IRAP  
Last Mile Health  
Living Goods  
myAgro  
Noora Health  
One Acre Fund  
SIRUM  
Transcend  
Upstream USA

## Skoll Award

Build Change  
Crisis Text Line  
Food4Education  
Global Health Corps  
Healthy Learners  
Kiva  
Last Mile Health  
Living Goods  
myAgro  
Noora Health  
One Acre Fund  
Room to Read  
SaveLIFE Foundation  
VisionSpring

## The Earthshot Prize

Keep IT Cool  
Kheyti

## Google.org Global Goals & Accelerator: Generative AI

Darsel  
Earth Genome  
Jacaranda Health  
Karya  
Rocket Learning  
Tarjimly

## Obama Foundation Fellowship

Aimée Eubanks Davis, Braven  
Dr. Charles Daniels Jr., Fathers' Uplift  
Derrick Braziel, MORTAR  
Sasha Fisher, Spark MicroGrants  
Tarun Cherukuri, Indus Action  
Zarlasht Halaimzai, Amna

## Charles Bronfman Prize

Amy Bach, Measures for Justice  
Ari Johnson, Muso  
Becca Heller, IRAP  
David Lubell, Welcoming America  
Sasha Chanoff, RefugePoint

## Elevate Prize

Alexandra Grigore, Simprints  
Amanda Alexander, Detroit Justice Center  
Atif Javed, Tarjimly  
Bianca Tylek, Worth Rises  
Cindy Eggleton, Brilliant Cities  
Daniel Forkkio, Represent Justice  
Dixon Chibanda, Friendship Bench  
Hillary Blout, For The People  
Kaushik Kappagantulu, Kheyti  
Dr. Lisa Hunter Romanelli, The REACH Institute  
Manu Chopra, Karya  
Namya Mahajan, Rocket Learning  
Piyush Tewari, SaveLIFE Foundation  
Rebecca van Bergen, Nest  
Sonya Passi, FreeFrom  
Tom Osborn, Shamiri Institute  
Utkarsh Saxena, Adalat AI  
Uzoma Orchingwa, Ameelio  
Wawira Njiru, Food4Education  
Zarlasht Halaimzai, Amna



Aylon Samouha, Transcend  
Audacious Project



Abdulhamid Haidar, Darsel  
Google.org Accelerator: Generative AI



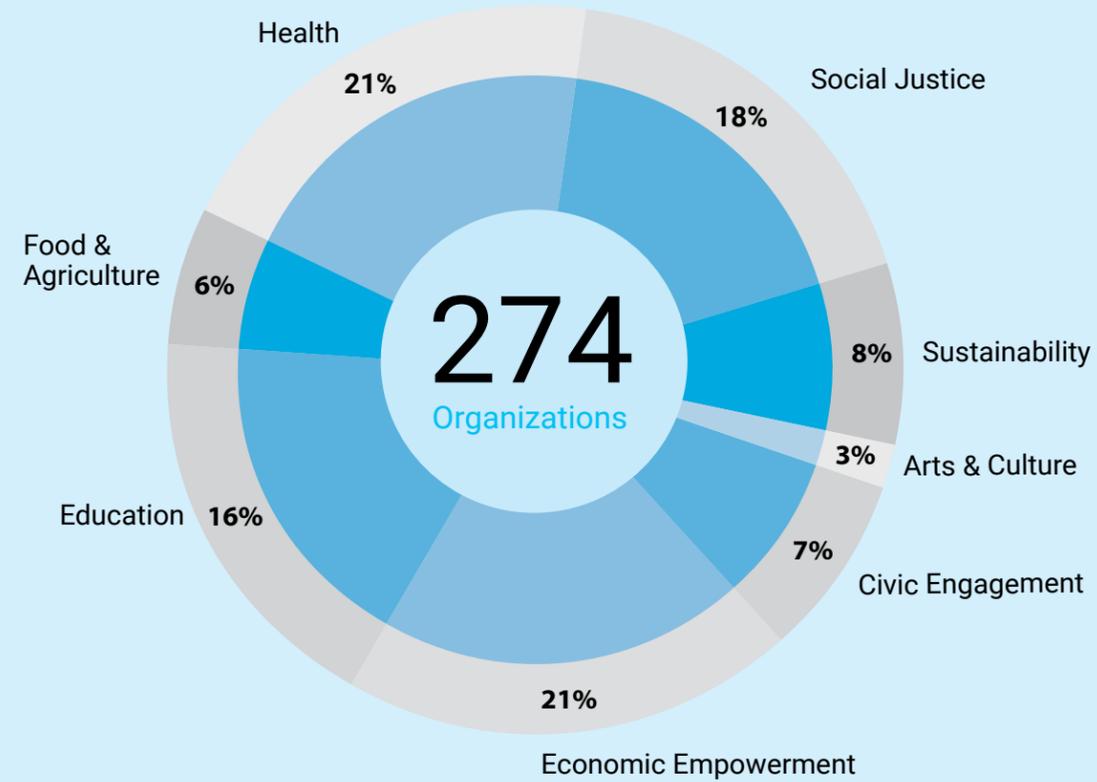
Wawira Njiru, Food4Education  
Audacious Project



Abigail Gachigi & Francis Nderitu, Keep IT Cool  
The Earthshot Prize

# Portfolio Snapshot

Data reflects DRK's full portfolio of organizations funded from 2002 to 2025



**74%**

of organizations have impacted over 10,000 lives

**59%**

of organizations have impacted over 50,000 lives

**36%**

of organizations have impacted over 500,000 lives

**30%**

of organizations have impacted over 1,000,000 lives

## Building a better care system.

BelleVie is transforming at-home care with a community-powered model that champions caregivers, centers clients, and is designed to scale across the UK. With strong retention and more than 35% of new care workers joining from outside the healthcare industry, BelleVie is proving a scalable solution to the recruitment and retention crisis in care.





#### Planting the future.

Mati Carbon is increasing the incomes of smallholder farmers in India and Africa through crushed-basalt soil restoration, boosting crop yields while delivering durable, gigaton-scale carbon removal.

Collective Energy

Darsel

Diverting Hate

Edulution

eWAKA

HackShield

Human Trafficking Institute

Mati Carbon

MWINGI

OneDay Health

Parenting for Lifelong Health

RefuAid

Rural Behavioral Health Institute

Student Basic Needs Coalition

Trust Neighborhoods

Unmudl

Zuri Health

## New Portfolio

In 2025, DRK invested in 17 organizations working across sectors to advance our shared dignity and humanity:

- **Diverting Hate, HackShield, Human Trafficking Institute, and Parenting for Lifelong Health** — four organizations equipping communities with the skills to keep children safe from physical and digital harm.
- **Edulution, eWAKA, MWINGI, OneDay Health, and Zuri Health** — five organizations empowering last-mile communities in Africa through access to quality healthcare, education, and economic opportunities, with funding made possible by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.
- **Darsel, Rural Behavioral Health Institute, and Student Basic Needs Coalition** — three organizations providing wraparound services to students so they can effectively learn and thrive in school.
- **Collective Energy and Mati Carbon** — two organizations advancing innovative sustainability solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helping low-income communities build resilience to changing climates.
- **RefuAid, Trust Neighborhoods, and Unmudl** — three organizations creating pathways to affordable housing, employment, and financial resources to catalyze upward economic mobility.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
Andrew MacCalla  
Co-Founder and CEO

Melissa MacCalla  
Co-Founder and VP  
of Marketing

Andrew has 20 years of experience responding to disasters both domestically and internationally. He previously served as VP at Direct Relief. His work supporting 25 health centers with solar installations inspired him to launch Collective Energy.

Melissa brings 20 years of pipeline planning and market research to the role, drawing on her experience in publishing and commercial construction development. Melissa leads Collective Energy's sales approach development, strategic marketing and communications to engage CHCs, and supports day-to-day operations.

**Year Founded:** 2021 **Serving:** United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Ojai, CA  
**Org Type:** For-Profit **Issue Areas:** Sustainability, Health

[collectiveenergyco.com](http://collectiveenergyco.com)



**Why We Are Excited**

Collective Energy is ensuring low-income communities have reliable healthcare access, even in the event of a power outage. They finance, design, and install resilient energy systems for community health centers, enabling uninterrupted care when it's needed most. **To date, Collective Energy has contracted or completed construction on 66 projects, which support care for over 700,000 low-income patients, while offsetting over 3,400 metric tons of GHG emissions. Over the next seven years, they plan to develop hundreds of projects to serve up to 1.2 million patients.**

**The Problem**

The US leads the developed world in power outages, which have become more frequent and intense due to climate change and extreme weather events. Power is a necessity for community-based health organizations; without it, providers cannot serve their patients, refrigerated medicines spoil, client records are inaccessible, and technology is inoperable. Community health centers (CHCs) across the country serve over 30 million low-income patients, yet more than 60% of CHCs lack backup power sources. As a result, the most at-risk communities are left without essential care during outages, and CHCs risk losses of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

**The Solution**

Collective Energy is equipping community healthcare centers with the clean energy infrastructure needed to operate during power outages. Tailoring each system to the unique needs of the facility, they design solar and battery-storage solutions and guide centers through each stage of the implementation process, including permitting, installation, and commissioning. With uninterrupted power, CHCs can deliver critical care even when the grid goes down, while minimizing the financial losses typically caused by outages. Transitioning to clean energy also helps centers lower their day-to-day operating costs and significantly reduce their carbon footprint.

To make their microgrids accessible to all communities, Collective Energy offers flexible options for ownership. For CHCs with the resources to own their projects, Collective Energy provides consulting services and manages the development process on their behalf. For those without the resources for ownership, Collective Energy identifies financing opportunities, develops and operates their systems, and assumes ownership of these projects. They then sell energy back to health centers over a 20-year period for long-term sustainability.

**Impact**

- Collective Energy has contracted or completed construction on 66 projects. Annually, their projects will support care for over 700,000 low-income patients, reduce CO2 emissions by 3,400 metric tons, and provide 1,166 hours of backup-powered resilience.



**Entrepreneur:**  
Abdulhamid Haidar  
Founder and CEO

Abdulhamid was born into a Syrian family of educators, and his father began teaching him advanced math at the age of eight. He was first accepted to university at 14. After studying computer science, mathematics, and economics at MIT, he started his career working on economic development and public policy issues at McKinsey & Company. Abdulhamid later earned an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and an MPA in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School. He began working on Darsel during graduate school, writing his thesis on education in resource-constrained environments. This research surfaced evidence supporting Darsel's approach from a policy perspective, strengthening his conviction to pursue the idea.

**Year Founded:** 2021 **Serving:** India, Jordan, Nigeria  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Sacramento, CA  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Education

[darsel.tech](http://darsel.tech)



**Why We Are Excited**

Darsel is harnessing the power of AI to reverse learning losses in low- and middle-income countries. Their innovative platform features a chatbot which sends math questions to students, leveraging an algorithm to identify and eliminate gaps in learning. Over 500,000 unique curriculum-aligned questions are available in multiple languages on Darsel's platform. **Darsel has demonstrated significant global expansion and impact since their inception in 2021, reaching 264,000 students in 2,600 schools across three countries.**

**The Problem**

A global learning crisis is underway: six out of 10 children worldwide are failing to meet minimum proficiency levels in mathematics. In the United States, middle school students' scores have plummeted to the lowest levels in decades, with only 26% of eighth graders meeting proficiency standards. In low-income countries, the situation is even more dire, with nine out of 10 children unable to meet minimum standards. While teacher shortages, lack of teacher training, limited education funding, and caregiver constraints are barriers to student success, low-income communities also face a digital divide that limits access to video learning technologies and tutoring. Children miss out on the ability to advance their own economic potential and life outcomes.

**The Solution**

Darsel is an AI-powered, text-based learning platform that provides adaptive math tutoring for students in grades four through nine, with a growing emphasis on foundational math skills. Their interactive, gamified platform features an autonomous chatbot that sends math questions to students via low-bandwidth messaging services (e.g., SMS, WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger). The AI algorithm learns each student's skills and creates a personalized learning journey to eliminate learning gaps. Over 500,000 unique curriculum-aligned questions are available through Darsel's platform, with explanations and hints.

Darsel is ready to expand globally to low-income, rural, and urban communities through state and local district adoption. Their cloud-based solution requires minimal administrative requirements: only one full-time employee is needed per 100,000 students. Their intuitive platform requires little product training, and teachers spend just five minutes per week reviewing performance and motivating students. Available in English, Arabic, and Hindi — at an annual cost of just \$1 per student — the platform is designed to accommodate significant language diversification as they scale.

**Impact**

- In June 2025, Darsel received \$1 million in funding from Google and is one of just 20 organizations to join the new Google.org Accelerator: Generative AI cohort, designed to harness AI for social impact.



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Kaitlyn Tierney**  
Co-Founder and CEO

Kaitlyn is a dedicated leader specializing in ethical technology and online extremism, with a focus on issues like gender-based violence, radicalization, and social media policy. With over 10 years of experience in business strategy, Kaitlyn has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative marketing research, as well as designing and executing integrated marketing campaigns. She has also conducted extensive research on extremism at the Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism. She holds a BA in marketing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MA in international policy development, specializing in countering violent extremism, from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

**Year Founded:** 2023  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit

**Serving:** United States  
**HQ:** Washington, D.C.  
**Issue Area:** Social Justice

[divertinghate.org](http://divertinghate.org)

# DIVERTING HATE

## Why We Are Excited

Diverting Hate is an applied research nonprofit disrupting digital radicalization by steering at-risk men away from harmful misogynistic content and toward wellness and community support. They replace exploitative narratives with ones that foster growth, belonging, and safety through strategic digital marketing campaigns. Diverting Hate reaches young men at a critical fork in their online experience, intervening to cultivate healthy masculinity. To date, **Diverting Hate has reached 30 million men online, engaged 274,000 through partner offerings, and connected over 1,000 men to mental health support.**

## The Problem

Social media platforms that rely on explosive narratives for engagement are amplifying the normalization of violence. The angriest voices are the loudest. When social media algorithms amplify misogynistic content, often acting as an entry point to darker parts of the internet, the very technology designed for connection causes division. Alarmingly, more than 40% of young men trust one or more misogynistic voices online. Young men are often radicalized through social media’s “manosphere” as a way to prove their masculinity and deal with feelings of “male failure” due to social or economic marginalization.

## The Solution

Diverting Hate’s solution is an applied research intervention combining technology, credible voices, and public health principles to replace exploitative narratives with ones that foster growth, belonging, and safety. They operate across two complementary workstreams to shrink the cultural and digital space that enables misogyny:

- 1) **Direct digital marketing campaigns:** Diverting Hate runs targeted, paid digital advertisements to redirect users away from extreme content and toward healthy alternatives. Leveraging a network of online and offline partners, they create digital campaigns to disseminate culturally relevant, prosocial content in native languages. Their content connects men to direct mental health support, practical ways to build community, and positive online creators.
- 2) **Field research and insights:** Diverting Hate uses their unique insights to shape policy and public dialogue, advocating for narrative and structural changes. Their research team uncovers the underlying factors fueling online toxicity, informing where to target direct interventions (e.g., geographies, demographics, topics).

## Impact

- Reached 30 million men online across YouTube and X (formerly Twitter), engaging 274,000 through partner offerings, and connecting over 1,000 men to direct mental health support.
- Advised members of Congress on online safeguards, violence, and misogyny prevention, as well as messaging and investment priorities through their field research and insights.



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Richard Akwei**  
CEO

Richard stepped into the role of CEO in November 2025, building on his experience as a member of the Edulution Strategic Services team since 2019, where he was instrumental in launching the Namibia and South Africa market entries and shaping their current strategy. He is a seasoned investment and fund management professional with over 20 years of experience across Africa, leading sustainable development initiatives in education, nutrition, and agribusiness. Richard now steers Edulution with strong operational discipline and partnership acumen, bringing a systems-focused approach to scale inside public education systems.

**Year Founded:** 2015  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit

**Serving:** Zambia and South Africa  
**HQ:** South Africa  
**Issue Area:** Education

[edulution.org](http://edulution.org)



## Why We Are Excited

Edulution strengthens foundational numeracy by combining digital learning with teacher support in classrooms. Using offline tablets powered by adaptive learning software, students receive instruction aligned to their individual skill levels, while teachers receive data to identify students who need extra support — dramatically improving learning outcomes. **To date, Edulution has reached over 75,000 learners, who have improved, on average, 32% against control groups. By 2030, Edulution will scale to reach more than 500,000 learners.**

## The Problem

Across Africa, millions of children progress through school without mastering basic reading or math, leaving them unable to access future opportunities. More than half of learners in Africa cannot read for meaning or perform basic numeracy, with the gap widening as learning becomes more complex. Teachers often lack the tools, time, and support needed to monitor individual progress, and traditional teaching methods struggle to meet learners at different levels. As a result, foundational learning is weak, drop-off rates continue to increase, and millions of children risk completing school without functional skills — shaping a generation with limited pathways into work, economic mobility, or further education.

## The Solution

Edulution strengthens foundational learning in public schools by combining adaptive digital content with teacher support inside the classroom. Using offline tablets powered by Mindspark Ei’s adaptive learning software, learners engage with curriculum-aligned numeracy content at their own level and pace, while teachers receive progress data to identify students who need extra support. Edulution’s solution is implemented in small groups of learners, initially supported by trained youth coaches who guide students, mentor teachers, and build learning routines until schools can transition to a teacher-led model. As teachers become confident with technology-enabled instruction, their capacity to reach every learner grows, bridging learning gaps that traditional methods struggle to close.

Edulution’s scale will be achieved by expanding to additional schools, training teachers to lead daily delivery, and expanding the use of Mindspark. As evidence builds through ongoing trials and government partnerships deepen, Edulution expects governments to gradually absorb core delivery costs, making the model sustainable in the long term.

## Impact

- Edulution has reached 75,000 learners across South Africa and Zambia.
- Students who have used Edulution show 1.4 years of progress in one school year.



**Why We Are Excited**

eWAKA is revolutionizing last-mile transportation in Africa with innovative, eco-friendly mobility solutions. They offer a fleet of affordable electric bikes to enhance productivity while promoting sustainability. Through eWAKA, riders also have access to lease-to-own opportunities, promoting their financial independence. eWAKA is addressing a critical gap in Africa’s mobility and livelihoods landscape by aligning affordability, accessibility, and rider empowerment. **To date, more than 1,170 active riders have increased their daily income by up to 40%. eWAKA is on track to reach 200,000 riders by 2028.**

**The Problem**

Across Africa, an estimated 30 million delivery riders form the backbone of the informal economy, providing essential mobility for people, goods, and services. Yet most of these riders operate on precarious margins, spending up to half of their daily income on fuel and repairs. Despite the potential of electric two-wheelers to reduce operational costs by 30 to 40%, their high upfront costs, limited access to financing, and insufficient charging infrastructure have made adoption out of reach for most low-income riders. As a result, millions of riders — many of whom support their entire household — remain trapped in a cycle of high costs, limited earning potential, and economic vulnerability.

**The Solution**

eWAKA provides a range of electric bikes powered by rechargeable batteries, prioritizing efficiency and eco-friendly transportation. More than just selling bikes, eWAKA combines affordable lease-to-own financing, battery-swapping infrastructure, and fleet management technology into an integrated platform that lowers operating costs, improves asset ownership, and maximizes rider productivity. Through real-time performance tracking, eWAKA’s platform ensures riders can increase their earnings while reducing dependence on fuel prices. The model has evolved from pure logistics to a scalable structure that partners with financing institutions and delivery aggregators. This model is designed to sustainably scale across urban and peri-urban markets, enabling thousands of riders to transition from informal gig work to stable, income-generating livelihoods.

Over the next five years, eWAKA aims to grow from 1,172 active riders to over 2,500 in Kenya and Rwanda by 2026, reaching 200,000 riders by 2028 and impacting 800,000 lives. This scale will be driven by expanding their logistics platform, growing B2B2C partnerships, and deepening battery-swapping infrastructure.

**Impact**

- 1,172 active riders empowered with income-generating electric mobility, supporting over 4,600 livelihoods.
- Riders have increased their daily income by up to 40%, helping them afford essentials like food, housing, and education.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
Céleste Vogel  
Co-Founder and CEO

Jimmy Tune  
Co-Founder and Head of  
Asset Operations

Céleste brings over two decades of experience in senior legal and transactional roles across global multinationals in the finance and engineering sectors. Her background spans cross-border finance, infrastructure, complex commercial transactions, and governance within regulated environments. She has led global, cross-functional teams and applies institutional discipline to strategy, partnerships, fundraising, and governance at eWAKA.

Jimmy founded his first logistics company while still in university and brings deep, hands-on entrepreneurial experience in mobility and last-mile operations. At eWAKA, he leads asset performance, deployment readiness, quality control, and training.

**Year Founded:** 2021 **Serving:** East Africa  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Nairobi, Kenya  
**Org Type:** For-Profit **Issue Areas:** Economic Empowerment, Sustainability

[ewaka.tech](http://ewaka.tech)



**Why We Are Excited**

HackShield is equipping children with the critical skills to safely navigate today’s ever-changing digital landscape. Through their engaging online game, children learn to identify digital risks and protect themselves and their communities from online harm. HackShield’s game builds digital resilience early and encourages children to share their learnings with parents and caregivers. **Active in six countries, HackShield has registered over 600,000 children, and more than 300,000 have completed their digital safety training. HackShield has ambitious plans to scale, and is on track to impact 10 million children within the next five years.**

**The Problem**

As technology rapidly evolves, tools to keep children safe online are falling behind. Parents and teachers, whose childhood experiences were vastly different, often lack the knowledge to help their children navigate the internet safely. As a result, children are left vulnerable to online cyberbullying, financial extortion, and sexual exploitation. Online child sexual exploitation or abuse is the fastest-rising form of sexual harm in the world, with an estimated one in 12 children falling victim. Additionally, formal policies mandating child protection online have yet to materialize, while technology companies are failing to take responsibility for cybercrime.

**The Solution**

HackShield prepares children to recognize, avoid, and combat digital risks through their online game, *Future Cyber Heroes*. As children play the game, they answer questions and complete tasks, learning how to protect themselves online. Players are encouraged to share their learnings with parents and caregivers to progress in the game, earning badges and pins to incentivize knowledge-sharing behavior. HackShield places children at the center of learning by empowering them to teach adults, making it a unique and powerful contribution to current efforts combating online harm.

*Future Cyber Heroes* is intentionally designed for children aged seven through 12 to instill digital resilience before the age when online harm is most prevalent. The game is continuously evolving to keep up with the ever-changing digital landscape, regularly adding new content and materials.

HackShield’s primary distribution channel is through municipalities, which has generated strong interest from mayors, many of whom are now referring the game to other mayors, promoting their nationwide expansion. The game is also offered as interactive lessons in schools, a channel that is growing even faster.

**Impact**

- More than 600,000 children have created a HackShield account, and over 300,000 have completed HackShield’s digital safety training. HackShield aims to reach more than 10 million children by 2030.
- HackShield collaborates with 215 municipalities in the Netherlands and has launched in five additional countries: Sweden, Curaçao, Brazil, Belgium, and Germany.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
Emily Jacometti  
Co-Founder and Chief  
Marketing Officer

Tim Murck  
Co-Founder and Chief  
Product Officer

Emily is a pioneering entrepreneur and speaker in the fields of gamification and digital education. She has dedicated her career to creating social impact through the power of play and storytelling. Emily is a board member of the Dutch Games Association.

Tim is a dynamic professional with a diverse background in acting, storytelling, and applied gaming. He is passionate about harnessing the power of narratives and gamification to drive social change and enhance learning experiences.

**Year Founded:** 2019 **Serving:** Europe  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Netherlands  
**Org Type:** For-Profit **Issue Area:** Education

[nl.joinhackshield.com/en](http://nl.joinhackshield.com/en)



**Entrepreneur:**  
Victor Boutros  
Co-Founder and CEO

Victor served as a federal prosecutor in the US Department of Justice's Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit. He taught human trafficking at the FBI Academy and trained lawyers in trial advocacy around the world. A best-selling author with Oxford Press, he received the Grawemeyer Prize for Ideas Impacting World Order, awarded annually to the authors of one book for originality, feasibility, and potential for global impact. He is a graduate of Baylor, Harvard, Oxford, and the University of Chicago Law School.

**Year Founded:** 2017 **Serving:** Africa, United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Dallas, TX  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Social Justice

[traffickinginstitute.org](http://traffickinginstitute.org)

HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
INSTITUTE

**Why We Are Excited**

Human Trafficking Institute (HTI) combats child sexual abuse (CSA) and human trafficking by empowering justice systems to confront these crimes at their source. HTI partners with governments to establish specialized enforcement units equipped with the tools required to drive prosecutions and prevent victimization at scale. Their upstream solution creates a powerful deterrence effect: when enforcement teams impose serious consequences on CSA perpetrators and traffickers, word spreads, and many decide the risk is no longer worth it. **Since HTI launched in Uganda five years ago, nationwide prosecutions of these crimes have increased by 1,466%.**

**The Problem**

Human trafficking and CSA are global issues that seem overwhelming and intractable. Existing efforts to combat human trafficking and CSA primarily focus on reducing the vulnerability of potential victims or supporting survivors. While these interventions can help, they do not disrupt the perpetrators of these crimes. Without stopping the perpetrators, a tragic cycle of devastation follows: more perpetrators exploit more victims, who need more care.

**The Solution**

Human Trafficking Institute is dismantling the incentive structure behind human trafficking and CSA crimes by driving a tipping point where the risks of committing the crime outweigh the perceived rewards. Each perpetrator stopped – whether through enforcement or deterrence – ends the exploitation of their current victims and prevents countless others from ever being harmed. HTI partners with governments on three key deliverables:

- 1) Specialized units: large-scale teams of police and prosecutors enforcing anti-trafficking and CSA laws.
- 2) Tools and tactics: data-tested tools and tactics enabling these teams to fairly and efficiently enforce those laws at scale.
- 3) Embedded experts: HTI law enforcement experts work alongside teams, building their skills and solving case-related challenges to drive high-quality prosecutions.

HTI has deployed their intervention in Africa, Central America, Texas, and Virginia. The goal of every HTI project is full government adoption. Once HTI-trained enforcement units meet key performance benchmarks and manage turnover without ongoing HTI support, they become sustainable, government-funded engines of protection – independently delivering long-term impact without the need for continued philanthropic investment.

**Impact**

- Uganda has seen a 1,466% increase in the number of traffickers and CSA perpetrators prosecuted since HTI launched its embedded expert model five years ago. Uganda is now prosecuting traffickers at nearly nine times the global average.
- In a US government analysis of the highest impact anti-trafficking strategies funded over the past decade, HTI's work was at the top of the list.



**Entrepreneur:**  
Shantanu Agarwal  
Founder and CEO

Shantanu is a seasoned climate tech entrepreneur with more than 20 years of industry experience across the energy and climate sectors. A two-time founder, Shantanu brings deep technical and strategic expertise, with a background in chemical engineering and an MBA from Harvard Business School. His journey to founding Mati Carbon began after a visit home to India, where he witnessed the urgent need to support smallholder farmers already affected by climate change, and the potential of ERW as a tool for scalable impact.

**Year Founded:** 2022 **Serving:** India, Africa  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Houston, TX, India, Zambia, Tanzania  
**Org Type:** For-Profit **Issue Areas:** Sustainability, Food and Agriculture

[mati.earth](http://mati.earth)

Mati

**Why We Are Excited**

Mati Carbon increases incomes for smallholder farmers in the Global South through a farmer-first model that uses crushed basalt rock to restore soils, boost yields, and deliver gigaton-scale carbon removal. Farmers enrolled in Mati Carbon's platform receive basalt application at no cost, and as the basalt weathers, soil quality improves and carbon is captured from the atmosphere. **To date, Mati Carbon has enrolled more than 20,000 farmers, who have generated more than \$3 million in new income through their carbon credit program.**

**The Problem**

In India, more than 90% of farmers are expected to face at least one major climate hazard in the coming years. At the same time, these farmers manage vast areas of land that could become one of the world's most reliable carbon sinks if paired with the right technology. Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW), a process that uses crushed volcanic basalt to capture atmospheric carbon, holds immense promise. Yet existing methods for ERW remain inaccessible to smallholder farmers due to costly logistics, equipment, and intensive scientific verification. Meeting global climate targets will depend on solutions that can operate at a planetary scale, but the farmers whose land could unlock carbon removal remain excluded.

**The Solution**

Mati Carbon is harnessing ERW at scale to deliver carbon removal and improve the lives of smallholder farmers. As the first step of their solution, farmers are enrolled through local partners who identify fields suitable for basalt application. Basalt is sourced from vetted quarries and spread directly on eligible farms at no cost. As the basalt weathers, it naturally captures atmospheric carbon and enriches the soil, increasing crop yields, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers, and building long-term soil health. Simultaneously, Mati employs robust scientific monitoring and verification to quantify permanent carbon removal, enabling high-integrity climate impact at scale. The model fits seamlessly into existing routines, requires no new expenses, and asks for only minimal behavior change. The result is a triple benefit: healthier soils, higher incomes, and permanent carbon removal.

Mati Carbon is demonstrating scalable impact across diverse agricultural zones and is on track to reach 250,000 smallholder farmers by 2030. Over the next decade, Mati Carbon plans to expand across India, East Africa, and other suitable regions, unlocking gigaton-level carbon removal while strengthening rural livelihoods at scale.

**Impact**

- Mati Carbon has enrolled more than 20,000 smallholder farmers, who have generated \$3 million in increased income.
- Mati Carbon has deployed more than 200,000 tons of basalt rock.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
**Brenda Mideva**  
 Co-Founder and Managing Director  
**Dr. Manuela Raith**  
 Co-Founder and Managing Partner

Growing up in Kenya, Brenda witnessed firsthand the challenges of accessing essential goods and services. Before co-founding MWINGI, she gained experience in people management at Solarkiosk and now oversees operations and expansion of MWINGI's Kenyan team.

Manuela holds a PhD in mathematics, and brings extensive executive experience from Siemens and as head of country management at Solarkiosk, where she gained expertise in last-mile distribution in rural Kenya. She drives MWINGI's business model and technology innovation.

**Year Founded:** 2019 **Serving:** Africa  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Nairobi, Kenya  
**Org Type:** For-Profit **Issue Area:** Economic Empowerment

[mwingi.africa](http://mwingi.africa)



### Why We Are Excited

MWINGI is creating reliable access to essential goods for rural communities across Africa by empowering local franchisees to run a network of last-mile shops. They provide shopkeepers with everything they need to get started, and once the shop is operational, MWINGI routinely delivers inventory, tracking supply and demand through a digital system. **With a current network of 200 franchise stores, MWINGI has empowered entrepreneurs who serve more than 210,000 customer visits each month. Over the next five years, MWINGI will expand their network to more than 2,000 franchise shops across Kenya.**

### The Problem

Approximately 400 million people living in rural Sub-Saharan Africa face challenges in accessing reliable, affordable essential goods, including basic food staples, personal care products, solar lamps, and other necessities. Small-scale retailers account for 70% of retail sales across Africa, yet they face crippling challenges. Shopkeepers, primarily women and youth, struggle with thin margins, limited working capital, lack of affordable credit, and inconsistent supply chains. Poor inventory management leads to frequent stockouts, while supply chain inefficiencies increase consumer costs by up to 30%. As a result, shopkeepers struggle to profit, and rural families are forced to pay unfair prices for goods or go without basic necessities entirely.

### The Solution

MWINGI operates a network of franchise stores to connect underserved rural communities with essential goods. MWINGI partners with local franchisees — many of whom are first-time women entrepreneurs — to run each shop, providing training, a digital sales system, and initial inventory at no upfront cost. Once the store is operational, shop owners receive weekly deliveries of essential products, such as flour, rice, and sugar. Items are packaged in smaller sizes to increase affordability and match local purchasing habits. The entire operation is managed through a digital system, which closely tracks supply and demand to avoid shortages.

In addition to their own franchise stores, MWINGI delivers goods to unaffiliated shops located along regular delivery routes. This combined approach enables MWINGI to maximize profit, purchase products at wholesale prices, and ultimately, reach more customers with essentials.

Over the next five years, MWINGI plans to expand to more than 2,000 franchise shops nationwide, increasing profitability through strategic partnerships (e.g., advertising and promotion of third-party products and services), catalog sales, data commercialization, and the creation of regional supply centers to improve delivery efficiency.

### Impact

- MWINGI delivers 21,000 kilograms of food each day to remote villages. Their products directly reach about 50,000 rural households, providing basic nutrition for 250,000 people.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
**Dr. Nicholas Laing, MD**  
 Co-Founder and CEO  
**Emmanuel Ochola**  
 Co-Founder and COO

Nick is a public health doctor with experience managing medical centers in Northern Uganda. Nick has a medical degree from the University of Otago in New Zealand, a post-graduate diploma in tropical medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and an MPH from Cambridge University.

Emmanuel trained as a nurse and worked with rural populations in South Sudan before securing a role as a nurse educator in Northern Uganda. Throughout his previous roles and OneDay Health, Emmanuel's passion has remained unchanged — to extend healthcare to people who have been historically underserved.

**Year Founded:** 2016 **Serving:** Africa  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Gulu, Uganda  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Health

[onedayhealth.org](http://onedayhealth.org)



### Why We Are Excited

OneDay Health envisions a world in which every African has access to quality primary healthcare close to home, delivering accessible, high-quality, and affordable care to underserved rural populations. They establish basic health clinics to provide comprehensive care to entire remote communities, treating acute and chronic diseases and providing pregnancy care. **To date, OneDay Health has provided essential primary care to 417,000 patients through 74 remote medical centers, saving over \$723,000 in healthcare-related costs. By 2027, OneDay Health will expand their network to more than 120 clinics.**

### The Problem

Across Africa, millions of people in rural areas live too far from a health clinic or hospital to access the care they need. This severe lack of access — often referred to as healthcare “black holes” — leads to significantly worse outcomes in acute emergencies, for pregnant women, and for adults with chronic disease. Most tragically, children under five in these areas face a 20% higher mortality rate. Compounding this challenge, the limited care that is available is often financially burdensome and compromised in quality: patients incur high transportation costs and lost income to seek care, and even when they reach a facility, clinics frequently face stock-outs of essential diagnostic tests and medications.

### The Solution

OneDay Health launches simple, comprehensive health centers in remote communities, delivering high-quality care to the hardest-to-reach populations for the first time. Using an AI-powered geomapping tool, OneDay Health pinpoints underserved areas and rapidly establishes cost-effective clinics to close critical care gaps. With an upfront cost of only \$4,000, each OneDay Health clinic provides primary healthcare for the whole community — from young children to mothers to the elderly. Staffed by a single nurse trained on clinical guidelines for 30 common illnesses, the clinics can treat 80% to 95% of the local disease burden. OneDay Health ensures high-quality care through robust nurse supervision and reliable supply chain management. Patients pay up to \$2 per visit, an affordable fee that saves an average of \$3 in transportation costs while covering the operational expenses of the clinic.

By 2027, OneDay Health plans to directly manage a growing, self-sustaining network of more than 120 clinics across Uganda. OneDay Health is harnessing technology to scale their model, including deploying an AI-powered diagnostic support tool and digitizing patient records.

### Impact

- In 2025, OneDay Health launched 24 health centers, growing their network to 74 facilities that treated 417,000 patients across Uganda.
- OneDay Health has saved communities \$723,000 by eliminating transport costs that prevent patients from accessing care.



**Why We Are Excited**

Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) delivers a positive parenting program designed to strengthen family resilience. Through their interactive courses, PLH teaches caregivers how to build positive relationships with their children — driving lasting behavior change that fosters safe, nurturing homes. **Since 2022, Parenting for Lifelong Health has reached 13 million families, and is well-positioned to scale their positive parenting worldwide. PLH is on track to reach 15 million families every year by 2030.**

**The Problem**

Parenting is one of the most important roles adults take on, yet many are unprepared for it. Harmful intergenerational norms, often reinforced by poverty, inequality, and poor mental health, contribute to the use of violence in child-rearing, with devastating consequences for children and communities. Globally, up to half of all children experience violence each year, most often at the hands of caregivers. While positive parenting programs are proven to reduce harm, they remain significantly underfunded and inaccessible at scale.

**The Solution**

Parenting for Lifelong Health delivers an effective, low-cost, positive parenting program designed to reduce violence against children, improve caregiver and child mental health, and strengthen family resiliency. At their core, PLH teaches caregivers how to build warm, supportive, and non-violent relationships with their children through interactive, practice-based modular courses. Parents and caregivers progress through a personalized, self-paced digital curriculum, with content tailored to each parent’s goals, gender, marital status, and their children’s age. Their learning experience is supported by trained facilitators who help onboard families into the digital program and moderate online chat groups with parents. After completing the core program, parents stay connected through ongoing peer support in their chat groups.

The recent shift from in-person positive parenting programs to an app-based delivery model has reduced the implementation costs from \$100 per family to less than \$6 per family. Through partnerships with governments, intergovernmental agencies, leading research institutes, and local implementation partners, PLH is well-positioned to scale evidence-based positive parenting worldwide. PLH is on track to reach 15 million families annually by 2030.

**Impact**

- 45% reduction in physical abuse against children (results from South Africa) and 81,000 cases of severe abuse avoided.
- 40% increase in parental engagement in child development and learning (China) and 40% reduction in caregiver depression, anxiety, and stress (Thailand).
- 67% less violence against girls (Tanzania) in the latest trials on the app-based program.



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Jamie Lachman**  
Co-Founder and CEO

Jamie is a social entrepreneur, researcher, and innovator dedicated to designing effective solutions to improve child development, reduce family violence, and promote mental health and well-being. He leads Parenting for Lifelong Health’s global efforts to expand access to parenting courses that are evidence-based and designed for scale by governments. A professor of child and family global health at the University of Oxford, Jamie has over 20 years of experience developing and scaling interventions that empower families and drive large-scale social change. Committed to promoting peace and laughter, he strives to live each day fully with compassion and amazement.

**Year Founded:** 2022      **Serving:** Global  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025      **HQ:** Oxford, UK  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit      **Issue Areas:** Health, Social Justice

[parentingforlifelonghealth.org](http://parentingforlifelonghealth.org)



**Why We Are Excited**

RefuAid accelerates refugees’ integration into society through accessible loans. RefuAid loans unlock the capital needed to cover the licensing and training required to re-enter the workforce, and pay for housing and family expenses to support successful integration. A solution born in the UK, RefuAid is demonstrating how financial institutions can confidently extend reaccreditation loans to forcibly displaced people around the world. **To date, RefuAid has dispersed £3 million in loans, supporting more than 1,500 individuals with a default rate of less than 1%.**

**The Problem**

More than 500,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in the UK, with nearly 40,000 new refugees arriving on British shores each year. Many of these newcomers bring a wealth of workplace experience that today’s toxic discourse around migration completely dismisses. It is estimated that a quarter of all refugees arrive with skills and experience that match available jobs in the UK, but three main barriers prevent newcomers from quickly securing employment in their area of expertise: language skills, local credentials, and access to capital.

**The Solution**

RefuAid is a targeted economic empowerment program that enables skilled refugees to rapidly secure the professional accreditation required to enter high-demand sectors across the UK workforce. RefuAid’s program provides loans of up to £10,000 for professional reaccreditation, enabling a quick return to work in regulated sectors with critical shortages, such as doctors, nurses, engineers, dentists, and teachers.

RefuAid’s interest-free, character-informed loans help refugees cover essential costs, such as licensing, training, and exams, as well as housing and family-reunification expenses, to rebuild their lives in meaningful and sustainable ways.

For every £1 invested in a RefuAid reaccreditation loan, £5.66 is returned to the economy, due to decreased dependence on public resources (unemployment, welfare benefits, and mental health care), and increased contributions via taxes and social security. RefuAid aims to nearly triple their capacity to 2,000 loans totaling £6 million in the next three years, impacting an additional 3,000 beneficiaries.

**Impact**

- RefuAid has provided approximately 770 loans totaling £3 million, directly impacting 1,500 individuals while maintaining a default rate of less than 1%.
- The average salary for a refugee borrower post-reaccreditation loan is £36,858, 5.3% above the UK average salary.



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Anna Jones**  
Co-Founder and CEO

Anna has a background in international relations and law with a focus on forced migration. Early in her career, she worked in Asia with a refugee-serving NGO and moved into immigration law. In 2015, at the start of a major influx of migrants into Europe, Anna moved to Lesbos, Greece, to volunteer, arriving before UN staff, and spent 18 months working in frontline relief. Upon returning to the UK, she witnessed the challenges newcomers face when integrating into society, and founded RefuAid to address these barriers.

**Year Founded:** 2015      **Serving:** Europe  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025      **HQ:** London, UK  
**Org Type:** Fiscally Sponsored      **Issue Area:** Economic Empowerment

[refuaid.org](http://refuaid.org)



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Janet Lindow**  
Co-Founder and CEO

Janet is dedicated to improving healthcare in rural America. With a diverse background, including a PhD in biology from MIT and two postdoctoral fellowships studying infectious diseases in the US and abroad, she brings over a decade of hands-on expertise in mental health interventions and innovative healthcare delivery to RBHI. She has served as junior faculty at Yale, worked in Botswana and Brazil, and is currently a volunteer associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

**Year Founded:** 2020 **Serving:** United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Livingston, MT  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Health

[rbhi.org](http://rbhi.org)



**Why We Are Excited**

Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI) supports rural American youth struggling with mental health conditions who lack access to the care they need. Their program identifies students facing mental health challenges and connects them to same-day support, along with ongoing care navigation. RBHI solves the access barriers rural youth face by providing support where they already are: at school. **Since piloting in 2021, RBHI has served more than 61,000 students across Montana, Georgia, Illinois, and Oregon, resulting in a threefold year-over-year reduction in suicidality.**

**The Problem**

Rural youth in America are experiencing a mental health crisis. Over 2 million children and teens in rural areas struggle with treatable mental health conditions, yet fewer than half receive the care they need. Suicide, the second leading cause of death for rural youth, occurs at a rate 61% higher than that of their urban peers. In states like Montana, where youth suicide rates are more than triple the national average, severe provider shortages and long travel distances leave families without support. This is not just a crisis of access — it’s a matter of impaired life trajectories and lives lost. Millions of rural children are being left behind.

**The Solution**

Rural Behavioral Health Institute offers a transformative solution to the rural youth mental health crisis by addressing critical gaps in care delivery and workforce shortages. Designed for rural communities, their fully virtual Screening Linked to Care (SLTC) program delivers bi-annual universal mental health screenings, same-day care for high-risk students, care navigation support, targeted violence prevention, and short-term psychiatric services right to students at their schools. RBHI’s comprehensive approach ensures that no child or adolescent will have to suffer the dire consequences of untreated mental health conditions because of geography.

Since 2021, RBHI has rapidly scaled to more than 150 schools across 71% of Montana’s counties, serving over 18,000 students in the 2024–2025 academic year. RBHI is piloting similar programs in Illinois and Georgia, with plans to expand to rural regions of other states. By combining an innovative care delivery model with school-driven program development, RBHI is poised to change the landscape of mental health care for rural youth and screen over 150,000 students annually by 2028.

**Impact**

- In just four years, RBHI has delivered over 61,000 screenings in 150 rural schools across Montana, Georgia, Illinois, and Oregon.
- Same-day care was provided to more than 4,000 students with elevated suicide risk.
- Among repeat SLTC student participants, new suicidality rates have decreased more than threefold annually.
- Severe depression and anxiety symptoms, risk factors for suicide, have dropped over 29% year-over-year.



**Entrepreneur:**  
**Paige Swanstein**  
Co-Founder and Executive Director

Paige launched SBNC after leading a student group focused on basic needs at North Carolina State University. Her experience with basic needs insecurity while balancing her undergraduate studies and multiple jobs inspired her to get involved at the national level. During college, she also worked in a lab researching student food and housing insecurity and conducting outreach efforts to support students. Her work has been featured in *Fast Company* and *Teen Vogue*, and she is a TEDx speaker. She was also recognized on the 2026 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 – Social Impact list.

**Year Founded:** 2020 **Serving:** United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Chicago, IL  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Economic Empowerment

[studentbasicneeds.com](http://studentbasicneeds.com)



**Why We Are Excited**

Student Basic Needs Coalition (SBNC) is combating the student basic needs crisis by facilitating solutions for food, housing, and financial insecurities among college students. SBNC’s platform, *Navy*, quickly identifies the benefits students qualify for, leveraging peer navigators to help reduce stigma and guide peers through complex application processes. To date, SBNC has screened over 43,000 students, identifying \$109 million in eligible benefits. **By 2035, SBNC plans to work with all 4,000 US campuses to ensure every eligible student is automatically screened and enrolled using data schools already have.**

**The Problem**

Millions of college students face a basic needs crisis that threatens their ability to stay enrolled and graduate. Nearly 44% of undergraduates experience food insecurity, yet an estimated 70% of the 3.3 million students eligible for SNAP benefits are not enrolled in the program. The stakes are high: 59% of students have considered dropping out due to financial challenges, and unmet basic needs are associated with a 43% lower likelihood of graduating. Consequently, students who drop out face higher unemployment rates and lose approximately \$1.2 million in median lifetime earnings compared to their peers who graduate. These challenges are disproportionately felt by low-income and nontraditional students, especially those attending community colleges.

**The Solution**

Student Basic Needs Coalition combines digital tools, human support, and policy advocacy to combat the basic needs crisis. SBNC’s platform, *Navy*, screens students for SNAP and Medicaid eligibility and identifies the benefits they qualify for in under 10 minutes. The technology is paired with peer navigators to help reduce stigma and guide students through complex screening and application processes. To maximize support for students, they are refining their *Navy* platform to generate personalized application roadmaps and automate benefits submissions. Simultaneously, SBNC leverages their network of student and administrator advocates to push for state policies that streamline student benefit access.

SBNC plans to scale their reach from 88 campuses to 500 within the next three years through collaborations with school, government, and nonprofit partners. By 2035, SBNC plans to work with all 4,000 US campuses to ensure every eligible student is automatically screened and enrolled using data schools already have. In the same time frame, they aim to work with 10 states through their policy efforts to remove the systemic barriers that make it difficult for students to prove eligibility and access benefits.

**Impact**

- SBNC has screened more than 43,000 students across all 50 states for SNAP and Medicaid, referring them to \$109 million in SNAP eligibility to date.
- In 2025, SBNC expanded from 35 campus partners to 88, and is on track to screen an additional 25,000 students and unlock \$100 million in SNAP eligibility.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
Kavya Shankar  
Co-Founder and CEO

David Kemper  
Co-Founder and COO

Kavya previously helped start the Obama Foundation and has supported access to economic opportunity through her policy work at the Obama White House. She started her career at McKinsey & Company, focused on local and state economic development.

David previously helped build New York City's Division of Capital Planning and Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs. He began his career as an urban fellow and project manager in affordable housing finance under New York City Mayors Bloomberg and de Blasio.

**Year Founded:** 2020 **Serving:** United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Kansas City, MO  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Area:** Economic Empowerment

[trustneighborhoods.com](http://trustneighborhoods.com)



### Why We Are Excited

Trust Neighborhoods supports communities facing rapid gentrification to establish Mixed-Income Neighborhood Trusts (MINTs) — community-governed entities that own and operate rental properties. Each MINT is designed to stabilize housing prices, ensuring communities remain accessible and resilient. Trust Neighborhoods' solution unlocks the power of mixed-income neighborhoods without requiring massive investments in housing development. **To date, Trust Neighborhoods has launched MINTs in five cities, directing \$80 million in investment to blighted properties, enabling economic opportunity for more than 600 low-income residents.**

### The Problem

Economic mobility in the US is at a historic low — less than 50% of children today will out-earn their parents, compared to 90% in 1940. Studies show that where you grow up is the strongest determinant of economic mobility. Yet, while mixed-income neighborhoods are among the most significant drivers of economic mobility, rising housing prices in most growing cities are forcing low-income renters out of high-opportunity neighborhoods. Consequently, these renters tend to relocate to neighborhoods with lower school quality and higher crime rates, often having to change jobs and lose income. As hundreds of neighborhoods are expected to gentrify over the next decade, new tools and solutions are needed to combat displacement and ensure that low-income residents can benefit from rising property values.

### The Solution

Trust Neighborhoods has developed the Mixed-Income Neighborhood Trust, a community-governed, perpetual-purpose trust that prevents gentrification while allowing residents to benefit from rising property values. Each MINT uses equity and debt financing at the neighborhood level to acquire rental properties and is managed by a local nonprofit to preserve affordability. The majority of acquired units are stabilized at affordable prices, with a small number rented at market rate to generate income to repay investors and expand the neighborhood's real estate portfolio over time.

Trust Neighborhoods supports organizations in establishing and operating their trusts, helping them secure capital, establish a structure, and provide long-term technical assistance. Supported MINTs have acquired 256 units, preserving affordability for approximately 600 residents. Currently active in five cities, Trust Neighborhoods aims to scale to 15 cities within the next five years and 100 cities within the next 15 years, providing affordable housing in perpetuity for 50,000 renters in neighborhoods that are growing in opportunity.

### Impact

- Established MINTs in five cities across the US, driving \$80 million in investment into blighted or mismanaged properties, and preserving affordability for 256 housing units.
- Enabled higher economic and social opportunity for more than 600 low-income residents most likely to be displaced by the housing affordability crisis, while strengthening the social fabric for entire neighborhoods and shifting power dynamics.



**Entrepreneur:**  
Parminder K. Jassal  
Founder and CEO

Parminder completed high school in India and was shaped by the American community and technical college sector. Her early professional path ran through work as a fiber optics network engineer, before she earned her PhD in higher education and went on to lead national investments in postsecondary success at the Gates Foundation and ACT, shaping large-scale initiatives that systematically realigned employers with community and technical colleges. She later founded the Institute for the Future's Work + Learn Futures Lab, where working alongside America's community and technical college partners, she architected and launched Unmudl to build durable Skills-to-Jobs® infrastructure for working learners nationwide.

**Year Founded:** 2021 **Serving:** United States  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025 **HQ:** Austin, TX  
**Org Type:** Nonprofit **Issue Areas:** Economic Empowerment, Education

[unmudl.com](http://unmudl.com)



### Why We Are Excited

Unmudl is building America's technician workforce infrastructure, a human-centered digital and physical system that moves people into high-demand, living-wage technical jobs. These hands-on roles require real-world problem-solving, adaptability, and human judgment alongside technical skill. Unmudl uses AI to improve coordination, speed, and visibility across employers and colleges, while keeping learners at the center. **To date, Unmudl has partnered with leading US employers to train over 5,000 working learners, resulting in job placements with starting salaries of \$55,000 or more.**

### The Problem

More than 40 million households earn less than \$50,000 per year, making it difficult to afford education, build wealth, or simply cover their basic needs. At the same time, major employers struggle to fill middle-skill jobs, especially in industries that require hands-on technical expertise, such as advanced manufacturing, mechatronics, and robotics. As automation and AI reshape the labor market, the traditional two- and four-year college model is proving too costly, time-consuming, and inflexible for the 65 million working learners who seek career advancement while juggling jobs, education, and family responsibilities.

### The Solution

Unmudl is transforming America's community and technical colleges into a nationwide network of training providers aligned with real employer demand. For talent, Unmudl offers job-aligned training in mechatronics, robotics, instrumentation, controls, and automation technician positions with clear pathways to employment. For colleges, Unmudl delivers hybrid courses that combine online learning with in-person labs on campus — driving new tuition revenue and employer engagement. For companies, Unmudl co-develops curricula to upskill current technicians and build external talent pipelines in automation-driven industries. Their model reduces friction for employers, strengthens college impact, and provides working learners with faster, lower-cost access to high-quality training tailored for the age of automation.

In 2025, Unmudl launched a statewide initiative in partnership with the Georgia Association of Manufacturers to help address a shortage of 215,000 workers in the manufacturing sector. The collaboration will onboard more than 120 manufacturers, representing half of Georgia's manufacturing workforce. By 2028, Unmudl will expand this model to three additional states, placing over 1,500 working learners into career paths paying at least \$55,000 annually.

### Impact

- As of July 2025, up to 61% of learners have moved into high-demand technician roles with starting salaries above \$55,000 plus benefits, or continued their education.
- Amazon Robotics is the founding employer partner. Unmudl works with over 50 employers and 70 public community and technical colleges nationwide, and has trained over 5,000 job-ready technicians.



**Entrepreneurs:**  
Ikechukwu Anoke  
Co-Founder and CEO

Daisy Isiaho  
Co-Founder and Chief  
Product Officer

Ikechukwu is an experienced entrepreneur in the telecom industry, previously leading East Africa operations and commercialization efforts at mobile content aggregator and service provider MTech Communications. He previously founded a digital entertainment company. Ike holds an MBA from IESE Business School.

Daisy previously held marketing, operations, and customer accounts roles at Cloud9xp and Mesozi Group, focusing on customer experience, growth, and new business development. She holds a BS in mathematics and computer science. She has been recognized with the Bayer Foundation Women Empowerment Award and named one of the Top 25 Women in Digital.

**Year Founded:** 2020      **Serving:** Africa  
**Year DRK Funded:** 2025      **HQ:** Kenya, Africa  
**Org Type:** For-Profit      **Issue Area:** Health

[zuri.health](http://zuri.health)



### Why We Are Excited

Zuri Health is a digital platform providing a range of health services to insured and uninsured populations across Africa. Their accessible platform eliminates the transportation and wait times that typically burden in-person visits. To complement their platform, Zuri operates highly successful mobile outreach clinics that treat up to 3,000 people at a time. **In just three years, Zuri Health has expanded from Kenya to nine African countries, serving more than 1 million patients, and is on track to reach 3 million people across 10 countries by 2027.**

### The Problem

Across Africa, millions of people lack access to basic healthcare when they need it most. Healthcare workers are critically scarce, with some regions having fewer than one doctor per 10,000 people. Many communities lack access to basic medical infrastructure, such as laboratories for diagnostic tests, pharmacies for essential medications, and medical insurance to cover care. Patients who seek in-person care face high transportation costs and extensive wait times, leading families to delay or forgo medical care entirely. These barriers create a crisis where preventable conditions become life-threatening emergencies.

### The Solution

Zuri Health connects communities across Sub-Saharan Africa to high-quality healthcare. Using Zuri's innovative digital platform, patients can receive virtual care from a qualified doctor, schedule diagnostic tests, and order prescription medication for home delivery, all in one place — eliminating common barriers to healthcare. Beyond virtual consultations, Zuri also delivers direct medical care through fully equipped mobile clinic buses that provide a range of services, including basic check-ups, x-rays, and laboratory tests. Mobile clinics are able to reach up to 3,000 people in a single weekend, and have evolved into community events that provide healthcare and educate families about healthy living. Zuri's solution is both affordable and accessible; patients can chat with a healthcare provider for just \$0.10 per message and access the platform via smartphone or basic feature phone.

Zuri is already transforming healthcare access across nine African countries and is rapidly expanding to serve even more patients in need. As Zuri expands to new countries, they will collaborate closely with local doctors, clinics, and insurers in each new community to guarantee quality care is delivered by trusted providers who understand local needs.

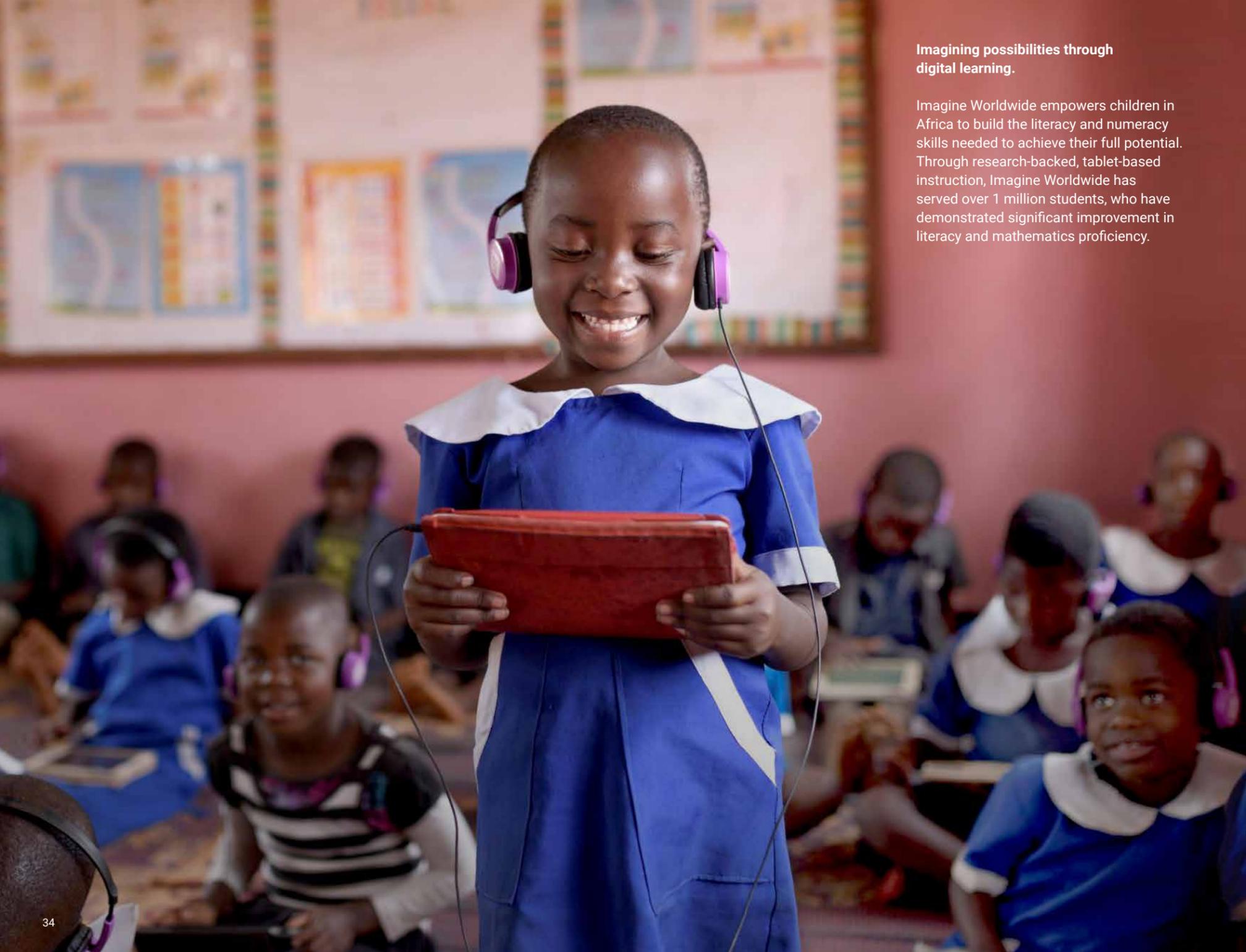
### Impact

- Zuri Health delivered over 3 million medical consultations to patients across nine African countries.
- Zuri Health provided comprehensive medical services to over 200,000 people through mobile clinics.



Providing foster youth with a place to call home.

First Place for Youth combines robust housing support with wraparound services to help youth aging out of foster care achieve a successful transition to adulthood. In 2025, 91% of My First Place participants secured stable housing after completing the program.



**Imagining possibilities through digital learning.**

Imagine Worldwide empowers children in Africa to build the literacy and numeracy skills needed to achieve their full potential. Through research-backed, tablet-based instruction, Imagine Worldwide has served over 1 million students, who have demonstrated significant improvement in literacy and mathematics proficiency.

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 Africa Portfolio Advisor



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Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation is fully supported by a unique group of donor partners, including individuals, family foundations, private foundations, the private sector, and corporations — all of whom believe in the power of innovation and entrepreneurs to address some of the world’s most pressing challenges. DRK does not receive any federal or state funding. Since 2002, Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation has deployed over \$175 million to support our nearly 280 social enterprises around the world that aspire to make the world a better place.

Affordable, healthcare. Anytime, anywhere.

Zuri Health provides access to affordable health services, including clinical consultations, diagnostics, and pharmacy services, through their digital platform and mobile clinics. These mobile clinics can serve up to 3,000 people in a weekend. To date, Zuri Health has delivered over 3 million patient consultations across nine African countries and is on track to serve 7 million patients by 2027.

# Financials

Fiscal year January – December 2024

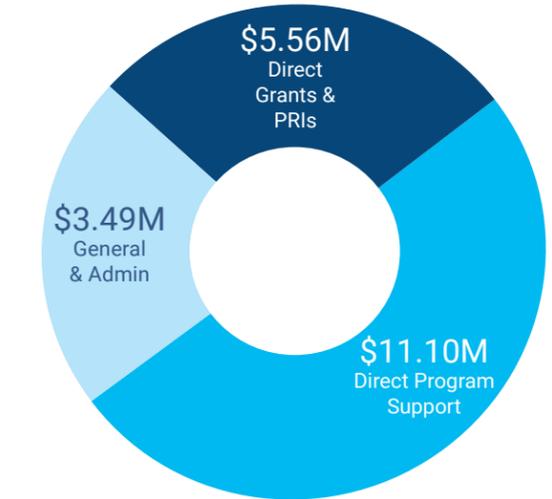
## Net Assets:

Total \$38.49M

## Use of Funds:

Direct Grants and PRIs \$5.56M  
 Direct Program Support \$11.10M  
 General & Admin (& Fundraising) \$3.49M

## Use of Funds





**Front cover: Advancing opportunity through education.**

Across our portfolio, more than 103 million students have been reached through transformative education innovations. From cradle-to-career systems like StriveTogether to first-generation career readiness like Braven, our organizations are expanding access, strengthening pathways, and launching students into brighter futures.

Image provided by Spartanburg Academic Movement

**Back cover: Connecting communities, growing opportunities.**

Nest connects a global community of artisans, retailers, and philanthropies to bring the beauty and value of handcraft to the world. Nest has supported over 3,200 artisan businesses across 127 countries, directly employing more than 385,000 handworkers, benefiting 1.6 million people.

 **Draper Richards Kaplan**

FOUNDATION

**Menlo Park**

1600 El Camino Real, Suite 155  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Tel: 650-319-7808

**Boston**

535 Boylston Street, 7th Floor  
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**Dallas**

3963 Maple Ave, Suite 490  
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**Netherlands**

Lange Voorhout 16  
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[drkfoundation.org](http://drkfoundation.org)



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Pre-order your copy of *A Matter of Hope*.