



**GIRLS WITH  
BOOKS!**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



720-447-4032



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



**Girls  
With  
Books!**

Empowering South Sudanese  
Girls through Education



# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## A YEAR OF GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY, & IMPACT

Dear Friends & Supporters of Girls With Books!

As I reflect on 2025, my heart is filled with gratitude. This year has been one of meaningful growth, courageous expansion, and deepened impact for Girls With Books! (GWB!) It has been a year marked by hope that continues to shine because of you.

Through your generous support, GWB! empowered 116 South Sudanese girls by providing education, mentorship, and safe spaces where they can dream boldly, learn confidently, and thrive in South Sudan and Uganda. In 2026, we will be able to increase that number to 150 students, due to your increased support!

In communities where girls are too often overlooked or left behind, your partnership allowed us to offer more than access to school. Together, we restored dignity, strengthened young leaders, and opened doors to creating peace, and opportunity possibilities.

I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together. Thank you for walking this journey with us. I am excited to share the highlights of this year.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Micklina Kenyi  
Executive Director



# ABOUT GIRLS WITH BOOKS!

## Our Reach

### Mission

To educate South Sudanese girls to become peacebuilders and leaders in South Sudan.

### A Place to Belong and Grow: New Home for Learning & Leadership

In early 2025, we helped our South Sudanese GWB! affiliate establish a new Women's Center in Juba, in a space leased in late 2024. This center has quickly become a vibrant hub of learning, mentorship, and leadership development.

To ensure our students are connected to the wider world, we installed a Starlink antenna providing 50GB broadband, enabling reliable internet access for both office operations and our Skills for Success classes. In a country where connectivity is limited, this has been transformative.



GWB! student scholars attending Skills for Success class

### Students

116 girls supported with tuition, room & board, books, uniforms, and hygiene products

### Graduates

2 girls graduated high school— with a 90%+ GWB! graduation rate vs. <5% nationwide

### Skills for Success

46 women completed the post-secondary program giving them computer literacy and job skills





# 2025 IMPACT

## Skills for Success: Preparing Young Women for the Future



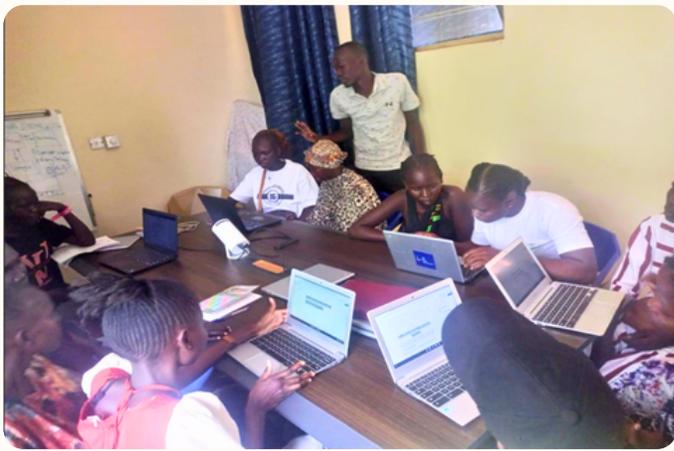
Skills For Success students at the center

We launched our first Skills for Success class with 16 graduates of the Girls With Books! program. Over three months, with 100% attendance, students gained practical skills in computer literacy, internet navigation, resume writing, job interview preparation, workplace readiness, business fundamentals, and community engagement.

### THE RESULTS WERE POWERFUL.



Graduates of the Girls With Books! Skills For Success program



Each student in the program now has access to a Chromebook, thanks to the shipment of 60 donated devices to South Sudan.

We graduated our second class of 30 students and registered another 30 students who began training in early February, 2026. Due to high demand, we are now arranging two sessions to accommodate every eager learner, despite limited space.



## Growing Access to Education

In 2025, we enrolled 10 new students across South Sudan and refugee camps in northern Uganda, bringing the total number of girls supported by GWB! to 116. In 2026 we will increase that number to 150, due to increased support.

We also expanded our reach by adding two new partner schools:

- Kigumba Intensive
- St. Charles Lwanga

Through these partnerships, even more girls are gaining access to safe, supportive educational environments.

## Building Leadership & Healing

### Girls Leadership Circles

Our Girls' Leadership Circle Program continued to flourish, bringing together girls from different tribes to build friendships, foster unity, and discuss global issues. The program has inspired other educators to adopt similar models, amplifying its impact beyond GWB!.



### Professional Pathways

We built a partnership with South Sudanese Women Intellectuals (SSWI), creating pathways for our graduates to establish professional relationships with successful South Sudanese women, both in-country and throughout the diaspora. These SSWI mentors will also help graduates expand their career opportunities.



### Trauma Healing



In 2025, we introduced a powerful four-day Trauma Healing Session in Juba, open to all students in our program. In a region deeply affected by conflict, this space for reflection and healing was transformative, offering emotional support to the girls who are deeply affected by conflict, including high levels of gender-based violence.



A group picture after the four-day Trauma Healing Session

## Honors & Recognition

Girls With Books! was honored with two significant recognitions:

- 2025 Organizational Honoree by World Denver
- Participant in the 69th United Nations Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

These accolades affirm the global relevance of our mission and the strength of our community.

GWB! honored the Rotary Clubs of District 5450 with special recognition at our annual dinner event.

Because of you, girls who once faced limited options are now gaining education, leadership skills, digital literacy, professional networks, and the confidence to shape their own futures. **Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are not only educating girls; we are building leaders, strengthening communities, and creating lasting change.**



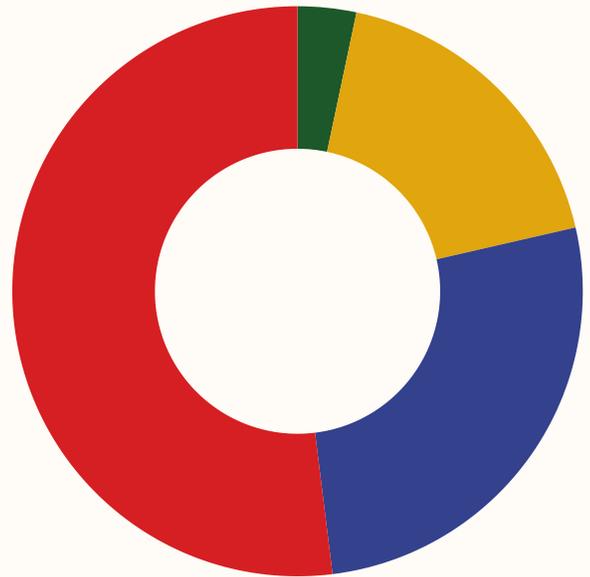
# 2025 FINANCIALS

## Financial Summary\*

Income: \$320,209  
 Expenses: \$267,791  
 Net Income: \$52,418

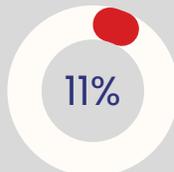
## 2025 Revenue

● Clubs, Orgs, Groups    ● Fundraising Events  
 ● Individuals & Families    ● Foundations



## 2025 Expenses

Programs  
 Administration  
 Fundraising



\*990 tax return available on request

## Our Team

### Executive Director

Micklina Kenyi

### South Sudan & Uganda Team

Josephine Wsuk  
 Celina Grace  
 Ceaser Tambua  
 Victor Ambrose  
 Beatrice Kiden  
 Salome Mario

### Advisors

Dr. David S. Bassiouni  
 Dr. Peter Van Arsdale  
 Steve Werner

## Board of Directors

Ray Stranske, Board Chair  
 Omuu Abalu, Director  
 Elizabeth Achulo, Director  
 Jim Broyles, Treasurer  
 Dinah Frey, Director  
 Lee Ann Huntington, Director

Angela Koenig, Secretary  
 Donna Lester, Director  
 Stella Lunyaramoi, Director  
 Lily Ribiero, Director  
 Ken Scott, Director  
 Dr. Lawrence Wongo, Director

## Core Volunteers

Rotary Clubs of Denver Southeast, Denver Metro South, Golden, and Evergreen, all in Rotary District 5450  
 Golden Mill Restaurant  
 Community leaders in South Sudan and Uganda  
 Educators, parents, and alumni  
 South Sudanese Women Intellectuals Forum (SSWI)

GWB!  
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