

# POSITIVE YOUNG WOMEN VOICES.

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## ABOUT US

Positive Young Women Voices (PYWV) is a Community Based Organization (CBO) that endeavours to provide a space where the voices of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in their diversity, matter. The programs put in place have aided in increasing awareness to the plight adolescent girls and young women are facing and finding remedies to these challenges by offering sensitization trainings to the community at large and support groups for the key populations which include, AGYW, People Living with HIV (PLWHIV), Adolescents and Young People Living with HIV (AYPLHIV) and the LGBTIQ+ community.

PYWV is well equipped with a credible and diverse workforce, ranging from the Advisory team (the Board) to the volunteers who contribute majorly to the development of the organization and the actualization of its vision.

## VISION

Humanizing young women and adolescent girls in all their diversities.

## MISSION

Mentor and advocate for young women and adolescent girls in all their diversities. To advance their rights through access to inclusive healthcare, advocacy and social and economic empowerment.

## OUR PROGRAMMES

### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- HIV PREVENTION AND CARE.
- MENTORSHIP.
- LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND QUEER (LBQ) PROGRAMMING.

### RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

- PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE.

### SOCIO – ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT.

## CORE VALUES

These values are the foundational building blocks for our success



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



INCLUSIVITY



HUMANITY



TRANSPARENCY



## BOARD MEMBERS



Lucy Wanjiku Njenga  
Founder and Executive Director



Marylize Biubwa  
Advisory Board Chair



Ritah Anindo  
Advisory Board member



Marion Odwar  
Advisory Board Member



Gladwell Ng'ang'a  
Advisory Board Member



Lucy Muthoni Makau  
Board Member



## OUR TEAM



**Beryl Wafula**  
Socio-Economic  
Empowerment Officer



**Wanjiru Mbugua**  
Fundraising and Resource  
Mobilization Lead



**Aurelia Origi**  
SRHR and Advocacy Lead



**Lydia Odipo**  
Programs and Admin  
Coordinator



**Anne Mugo**  
Projects Officer



**Cynthia Katanu**  
Finance Officer



**Pili Mwita**  
Rapporteur and Research  
Officer



**Winnie Opana**  
Monitoring and Evaluation  
Officer



**Esther Aoko**  
Communications and  
Partnerships Officer

# PROGRAMS

## UPDATE

The programs put in place enable the organization to efficiently align its activities in coherence with the [Strategic Plan](#). This year, we shifted focus from engaging with the right holders primarily, to incorporating community stakeholders and duty bearers in our sessions to bridge the gap between the community leaders and the people they serve. The stakeholders in this context include, the local police, the area Chief, policy makers, religious leaders and Health Care Providers. This strategy will help in creating a platform where the concerned entities get to interact and deliberate ways, collectively, to make the systems better.

# KEY FIGURES

PYWV continues to deliver its services to the community and this is evidential through the results achieved over the years since its inception.

**2,961**

Adolescent girls and young women have been impacted as of 2023 progressively through our programs.

## MY TRIBE SUPPORT GROUP

**40** impacted in **15** sessions

## LBQ SUPPORT GROUP

**733** impacted in **28** sessions.

## Socio-Economic

## Empowerment

**40** impacted in **16** sessions.

## Mentorship

**985** school-going girls have been impacted through the school outreach program and events held throughout the year, i.e., international events and the community outreach program.

**1,163**

Adolescent girls and young women have been reached through the Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls program in **39** sessions.

**2,061**

Community members and stakeholders have been reached cumulatively in **10** Community outreach sessions and **12** Community dialogue sessions.



## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS.

PYWV aims at enhancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of AGYW in their diversity. We intend to achieve this by providing the necessary services and resources to improve access to quality healthcare. We recognize and embrace the unique differences in the health needs of young girls and women, therefore using an inclusive approach in addressing these needs.

## HIV prevention and care

We engage with the community stakeholders, duty bearers and right holders in dialogues and outreaches within the community in order to create awareness on how to care for PLWHIV and those affected by HIV as well as the preventive measures that can be implemented.



# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



Our goal remains to increase the rate of adolescent girls' retention in school and help in the fight against period poverty. In order to achieve this, there is need to advocate for the menstrual health and hygiene of young girls in their diversity. We began a crowdfunding initiative dubbed, **Adopt a Girl**, to help revamp the distribution of sanitary towels and dignity kits to school going girls. This has made the accessibility of sanitary towels to these young girls easier.

**Timiza Ndoto Zake Fund** drive has seen one more girl being taken through secondary education. So far, the fund has supported two girls to complete their Form Four secondary education in Ruai Girls Secondary School and Starlight Secondary School respectively.







## Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer (LBQ) PROGRAMMING

PYWV commits to addressing the health needs of the queer community among our right holders. There is a gap in accessing quality healthcare services for this group of individuals as they are not considered when policies and laws are being formulated and implemented. We sensitize the right holders on the effects of the existing retrogressive policies in exercising their human rights, in general, and linkages in accessing quality sexual and reproductive health and rights services.



SOL BALLERS BASKETBALL TEAM



## SUCCESS STORIES



**Wamboey**  
- *Right*  
*Holder*

I joined positive young women voices as a podcaster. I wanted a place where I could be creative and expressive so a friend of mine introduced me to the organization back in 2021. I got the opportunity to attend some LBQ sessions and other sexual and reproductive health and rights activities. Through those engagements and being an active participant, I was given an opportunity to be a right holder of PYWV under the we lead program which connected me to an opportunity in 2022 to attend an international conference on family planning which was held in Pattaya city, Thailand. PYWV gave me an opportunity to record SRHR-themed podcast episodes which pushed the hideout podcast to get more listeners and recognition from different organizations and we got nominated for the best podcast. Through different engagements as a PYWV right holder I got different opportunities from

different organizations that also led me being selected as one of the people who attended a workshop in Senegal as a Training of Trainers on scorecard in 2022.

In January 2023, I applied for an opportunity to be one of the Young Emerging Leaders at Y+ Global as a volunteer at PYWV and I was selected. The program went for a whole year which also made me attend the Women Deliver Conference in Rwanda and ICASA 2023 in Zimbabwe. Positive Young Women voices has had a huge impact and influence in my life because through the engagements and activities, I have gotten opportunities from other organizations because they see the work PYWV is does in the community. Recently, I was given an opportunity to volunteer as part of the Communication department and I believe I'm going to grow and my communication skills will also be improved. As their mission says it mentors and advocates for young women in all their diversities, I have been able to use my voice and the spaces that I have been into to remind people that they are not alone and the importance of awareness creation when it comes to advocacy. I enjoyed the LBQ sessions because I got to understand more on the importance of taking care of our sexual and reproductive health.

Positive Young Women Voices gives you wings to fly and it exposes one to opportunities, it's our duty as young advocates to take the opportunity and run with it.

I'm excited for 2024. I hope this year is going to be bigger and better!



My first time interacting with PYWV, was at an activity held at PCEA Dandora. I'd been invited to attend one of their Violence Against Women and Girls sessions. At that point I didn't know what to expect during the session. At that time during the COVID-19 pandemic things had been nosediving for me. Struggling with my sexuality, taking care of 2 small kids and my sick mum. I wasn't in any way ready to engage in conversations of any kind. Up until then I'd never attended any advocacy dialogue. I realized after the session that many women and youth are also struggling. I attended a few more sessions before I learnt of the opportunity to volunteer with PYWV. I submitted my application and was called for an interview a few months later. When I was chosen to be part of the volunteer team, I was ecstatic. I'd finally found a place to learn about advocacy from others as well as sharing my own story. Doing community dialogues, outreaches and VAWG sessions we engaged many key populations like teen moms, political leaders and the LGBTQI+ community. I learnt a lot about accepting my true self and my sexuality.

During a LGBTQI+ session I learnt that many other queer persons out here are mothers, doctors even teachers too! I'd never thought I'd be part of such a diverse group. The more sessions I attended with the LGBTQI+ even after my volunteer time ended at PYWV, the more accepting myself became easier.

Being part of PYWV opened advocacy opportunities for me in other organizations too, like Athena and LVCT, not just in Nairobi but other counties too. Now I can boldly stand before a crowd and speak on issues affecting our communities. Follow and gather success stories to show that advocacy is not just talk but also bringing change and progress to others. My time at PYWV may have ended but my advocacy journey is still going strong.

Thank you PYWV, you opened doors for me that I strive everyday to uphold and maintain. ~ **Jade** (*Right Holder*).

## RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

### PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE.

Violence against girls and women has ravaged the society with its effects adversely affecting the livelihoods and development of girls and women. **Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (PEVAWG)** is at the heart of our advocacy and remains to be our stronghold. We have engaged our right holders directly in dialogues and trainings on the different forms of Gender Based Violence so as to equip them with the relevant skills and knowledge to advocate for their rights.

PYWV partnered with like – minded community-based organizations, such as the Kibera Social Justice Centre, Making a Difference Sisters, Slum Peace and Empowerment Centre and Dada for Dada, who are working towards dignifying the rights of the girl child. We have been offering them trainings that enable them to identify the different forms of violence, i.e., physical, sexual and psychological violence, their effects and sustainable strategies to ameliorate this plight.





## COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PYWV has engaged the community through the community outreach program. This initiative was a precursor of the Community Dialogue program, its aim was to disseminate information and awareness to members of the community who are not direct stakeholders. In the community dialogues we engaged men, women and girls of all ages in conversations around violence, conflict, steps to take for conflict resolution and how unresolved conflict can turn into violence that can have devastating effects.



PYWV at Kinyago Police Station



Community dialogue in Dandora Phase 3



Community dialogue in Dandora Phase 4

## RIGHT-HOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

### MY TRIBE

There have been measures employed by PYWV to enhance the capacity of AGYW through My Tribe support group in their advocacy. Through our collaborations with like – minded organizations we have been able to help address the needs of AGYW living with HIV. The support group continued to enjoy food basket gifts from the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS – Kenya Chapter (ICW-K) that helped afford healthy meals to promote good nutrition which is vital in improving the effectiveness of medication and the adherence of its uptake.

### LBQ PROGRAM

As we shifted our focus to stakeholder engagements, the SRHR program conducted a successful dialogue with Health Care Providers from the 5 phases in Dandora to discuss and promote the diverse SRHR needs of lesbian, bisexual and queer persons in accessing quality healthcare without stigmatization. There were different outcomes from this session as we delved deeper into what Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE) means. The session ended with an understanding from the Health Care Providers on the critical health needs of the queer community.



Engagements with Health Care Providers and duty bearers





## SOCIO – ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Through the Socio – Economic Empowerment program, 100 young women have been trained on financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. The program uses a customized financial literacy and entrepreneurship training manual, [Gender Inclusive Financial Literacy Training Manual](#). Partnerships that have been instrumental in the activities [SOMO Africa](#) and [AMANDLA MEK Foundation](#).

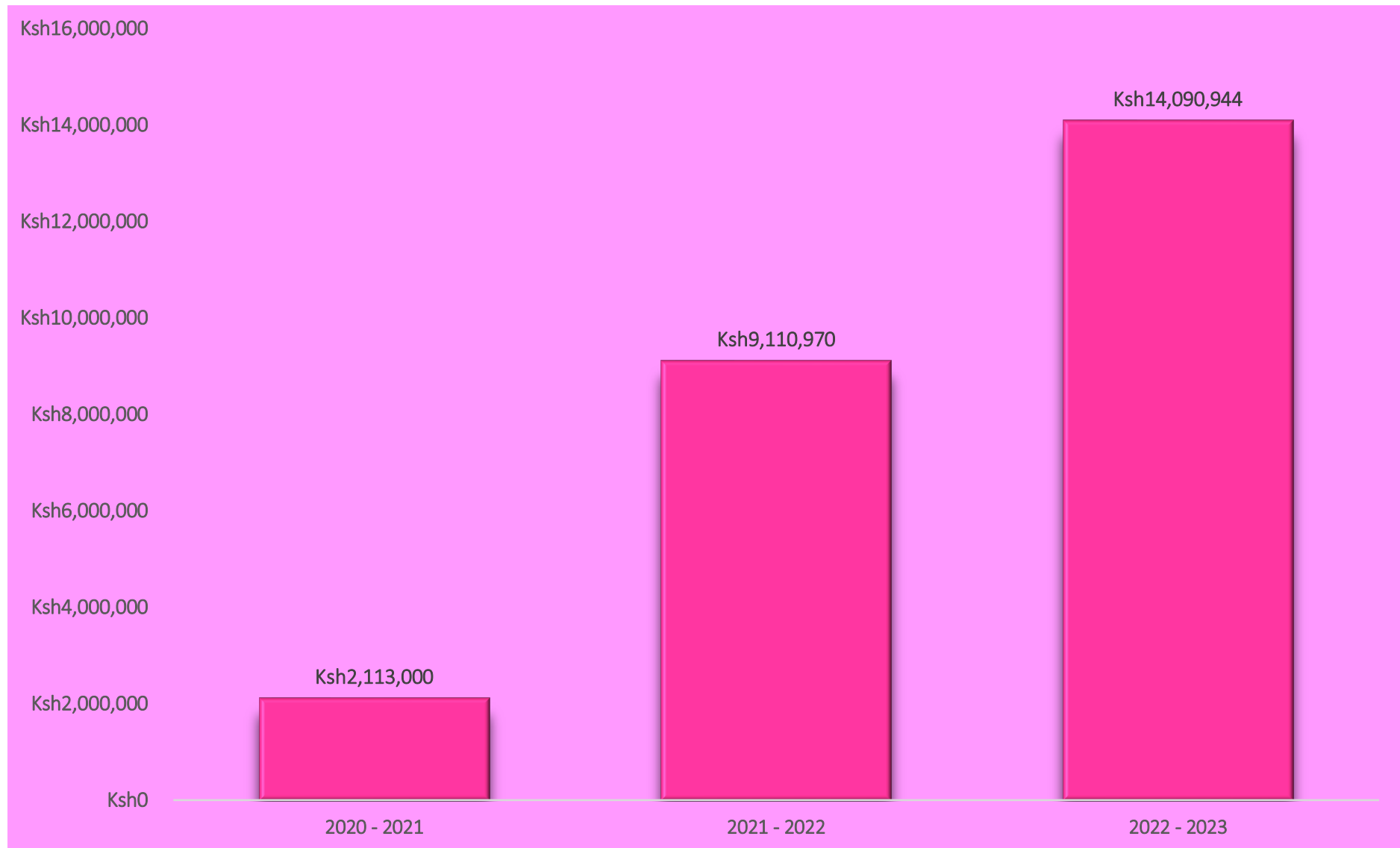
In the first cohort of 20 young women, 5 of them were awarded with seed grants to start their businesses according to the business plans they had developed from the training.





## FINANCIALS

### PYWV BUDGET 2020 – 2023







## COMMUNICATIONS.

The Communications department advances our advocacy efforts through the online campaigns conducted on X spaces, namely, [#KnowYourSRHRPolicies](#) and [#WhatItMeansToMe](#) the main aim for these campaigns is to fill the knowledge gap that exist regarding policies and laws, we seek to give a voice to the diverse groups affected by policies that negatively impact their sexual and reproductive health and rights, primarily.

Through the two campaigns, we were able to reach 1500 people who joined our conversations on different social media platforms. The impact we have continued to create is evidenced by an increased following in our social media handles, currently we are at 5000 followers on X (Twitter).



PYWV's newsletters provide regular monthly updates of the activities and projects carried out during the month. See the link below for our Rights and Advocacy website page.

Rights and Advocacy: <https://www.pywv.org/Rights>

### Esther Aoko; MAPUTO PROTOCOL AT 20: 20 YEARS OF BROKEN PROMISES TO AFRICAN WOMEN

By: Anne Mugo Aug. 1, 2023



### Our Liberty is Collective; We Remain In Solidarity with the Queer community in Kenya.

LBA Womxn support forums, Financial management skills, My Tribe support forums, Adolescent's SRHR and more...

POSITIVE YOUNG WOMEN VOICES 28 FEB 2023



### In Many Ways, We are Investing to End GBV in our Communities!

Girls Summit, Economic Support, Community Dialogues, Engagement with Service Providers, Digital Campaigns, Safety and Security workshop and Psychological Support

POSITIVE YOUNG WOMEN VOICES AND AURELIA 30 NOV 2023



### Addressing the Compounded Threats to Adolescent Girls and Young Women's Livelihoods & Safety.

The Triple Threat, Menstrual Hygiene Day, PEVANG Trainings, Conflict Resolution Dialogues, Support Forums, Mentorship Sessions, Art Exhibitions, Queer Centered Conversations, Digital Advocacy and more

POSITIVE YOUNG WOMEN VOICES 31 MAY 2023





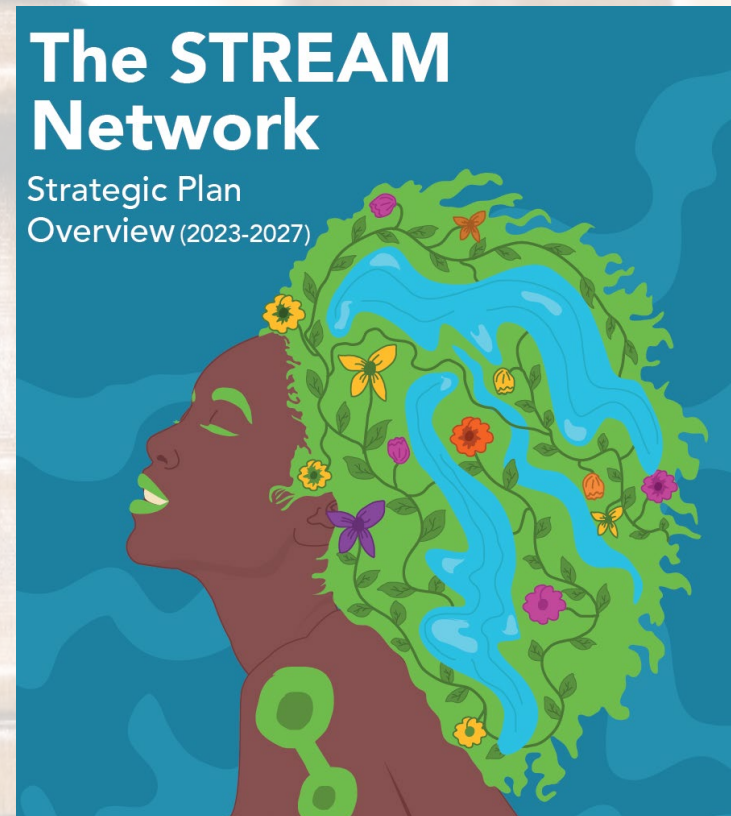
## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Fostering strong partnerships is crucial for organizational growth, success and the impactful actualization of our vision and mission.

**Y+ Kenya** is a youth- led network that advocates for the rights of young people living with and affected by HIV. The network is made up of youth-led and youth-serving organizations that work together to promote impactful and sustainable solutions for HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights across Kenya.

The **STREAM network** (Stepping Stones Trainers Engaging with Activists Movements) is a consortium comprising of organizations and individuals advocating for the right of PLHIV. The STREAM Network was created out of a 4-day meeting held in Nairobi, hosted by Positive Young Women Voices, bringing together feminist women's rights activists, living with HIV, from Argentina, Cameroon, India, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, UK/Ireland and Zimbabwe; as well as long-term Stepping Stones female and male practitioners from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The **Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027** launched in December 2023 provides the guidelines for our activities and our continued collaboration.

We have been able to donate pads to other organizations such as Kariobangi Social Justice Centre, Big Family CBO and Dandora Creative Arts, Culture and Sports center. Additionally, PYWV managed to form collaborations with like-minded such as **Reproductive Health Network Kenya (RHNK)**, **LEHA Kenya** and **Médecin Sans Frontières (MSF)**, where our AGYW in their diversity are able to access SRHR and Mental health (therapy).



PYWV PARTNESHIPS 2020/2024



| <i>PARTNERS</i>                                   | PARTNERSHIP PERIOD | PROJECT TITLE/SUPPORT ON  |
|---|--------------------|---|
| <i>AMANDLA A – K Foundation</i>                   | 2023 to date       | Socio – Economic Empowerment  |
| <i>ICW – K</i>                                    | 2021 - 2022        | Beneficiary food distribution   |
| <i>Literature Africa Foundation</i>               | 2023               | PEVAWG/ My Body, My Health, My Life                                       |
| <i>National Syndemic Disease Control Council</i>  | 2023               | Sensitization meeting on the Triple Threat                                |
| <i>Nala Feminist Collective</i>                   | 2021               |   |
| <i>Salamander Trust</i>                           | 2023               | IIPC on C -19 effects on women and girls living with HIV and LBQ persons. |
| <i>Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation</i> | 2022               | PYWV Strategic Plan Launch  |
| <i>SOMO Africa</i>                                | 2023               | Socio – Economic Empowerment – Training of Trainers                       |



# DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

We appreciate our donors for investing in our communities.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## OUR SOCIALS



@GirlsWomenPower



@p.y.w.v



@Positive Young Women Voices

