

**2020**

# IMPACT REPORT



**PAVING A PATH TO SUCCESS**

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## MISSION

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Our mission is to empower youth in Ghana to be change-makers in their communities.

## VISION

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We envision a nation of globally minded youth empowered with education, self-confidence, and relevant skills that allow them to reach their full potential.

## OUR CORE VALUES

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Curiosity - Courage - Accountability  
Trust - Kindness - Respect - Fairness - Joy

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ellen Berenholz	Togbe Samuel Azemala
Lola Ibrahim	Mama Atroto
Brooke Bees	Killian Edem
Amber Haggerty	Terence Tienaah
Brian MacDonald	Nafisa Adams
Sal Berenholz	
Ralph Kerr	

# NAVIGATING OUR PATH IN 2020



Dear Friends,

2020 challenged us with a global pandemic, natural disasters, a movement to address racism and inequalities, and an overall feeling of anxiety in facing the unknown. With your support, we found our resiliency as we coped with the reality of how to stay safe and healthy in body and mind, and helped others to do the same.

Once the basics of safety were covered -- everyone safely at home with PPE -- we developed a plan to keep our team connected and our students engaged and learning. We recognized the economic impact as a charitable organization and took steps to ensure that we were not only surviving but thriving.

Fortunately, our students were already adept at communicating online, so when we pivoted to virtual learning our students were ready. Ongoing technical challenges -- such as internet data, unstable networks, and faulty electronic devices -- were, and remain a constant challenge.

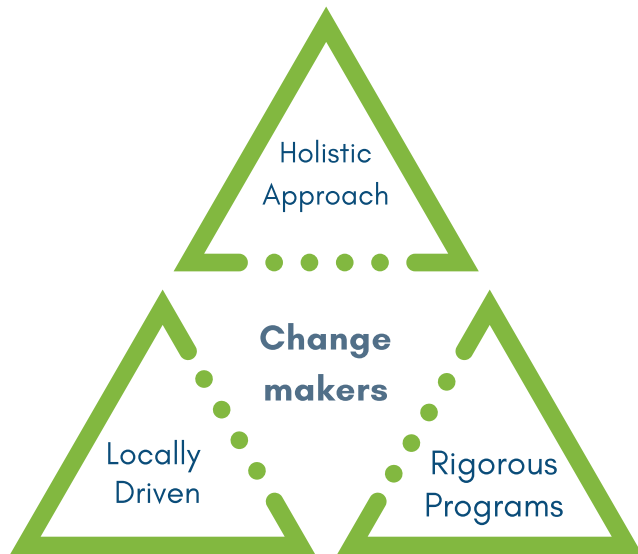
We took the months our team was sequestered to explore new areas of creativity and to have critical conversations about race, equity, and justice with our students. We asked them to do things they never did before, and many of them were delighted to discover that thinking "outside of the box" could lead to self-discovery and success.

We delivered services to rural communities and in the process provided students opportunities to grow and learn. Throughout our commitment has never wavered: Empowering youth in Ghana to be change-makers in their communities.

Thank you again for helping to make this possible.

Ellen Berenholz  
Founder and Executive Director

## OUR METHODOLOGY



We make decisions based on:

Needs **of the youth**

Support **of the parents & community**

Commitment **of Pagus: Africa stakeholders**

## OUR FOCUS AREAS

### EDUCATION



- planning for school & career
- funding for school-related fees
- computer training
- math & literacy classes
- creative arts classes

### LEADERSHIP



- community-project management
- emphasis on core values
- verbal & written communication
- public speaking

### HEALTH

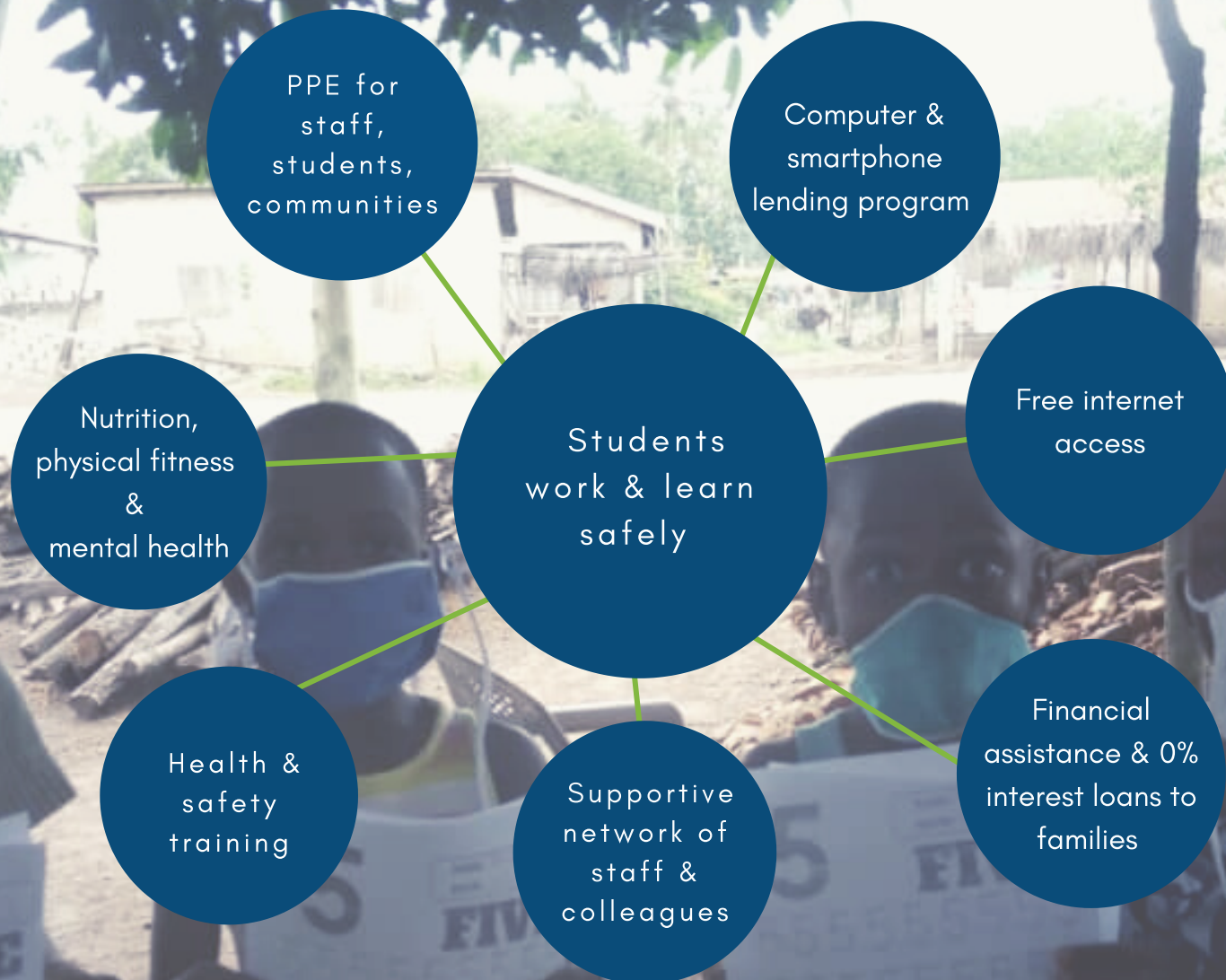


- clean hands & clean water
- nutrition & exercise
- mental health
- sexual & reproductive health
- COVID safety & provision of PPE



Pagus Center for Achievement works in concert with other NGOs, governmental organizations, and private entities to create meaningful impact in Ghana while working towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.





## COVID RESPONSE

Pagus Africa's COVID 19 response was swift, effective, and holistic – following best practices to protect staff, students, and communities.

# 2020 CORE PROGRAMS

## PATH TO SUCCESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Thanks to our donor-sponsors, 23 students from junior high through university benefited from financial support for their education, internet access, practical training on topics relevant to their lives, mentorship, and participation in community development activities.

Students learn to document their experiences in writing as well as through photography and other media.

Despite the lock-down, students further developed academic and workplace skills including finance, health, global issues, and creativity.



## CREATIVE ARTS CLASSES

At the start of 2020, Pagus began teaching Creative Arts classes at two community schools: Wayanu and Agbokorpe.

Ghana Education Service tasked our team with developing lessons aligned with the national curriculum and delivering classes twice a week to primary school children. These classes helped build skills and confidence as students had a creative outlet in a supportive environment.



*"...I vote this program should continue and expand so other schools also benefit. Making crafts brings realization and meaning to a child's life, especially those with low self-esteem. Art is something they could run to whenever they are feeling sad and it will make them feel happy in the end."*  
- Akrah Wisdom, student teacher



## EDUCATION BY THE HOUSEHOLD

During COVID we transitioned from teaching children in the rural communities by skill or grade level to grouping them according to household bubble.

Our Path to Success student-teachers and staff learned new classroom management techniques to help them in this unique environment.

## COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUBS

From pre-school to junior high school, students in rural communities were eager to take part in free and fun activities offered by Pagus:Africa.

Path to Success students organized youth clubs to creatively engage younger children after school. They plan activities that help children learn and grow to become strong, happy, and healthy members of their communities.



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CLUBS

Club members select topics and activities that interest them. This helps instill ownership and empowerment. One of the topics that we discussed was responsibilities of youth in the community and how gender was reflected in those responsibilities.

## LITERACY CLUBS

Literacy clubs bridge the gap between the students' desire to excel at reading and what is provided in the classroom.

Our program uses phonics and fun activities like Reader's Theater to build understanding and a passion for reading.

*"Girls' club has taught me how to keep myself healthy by practicing personal hygiene." – Mariella, club member*



# ON MY PATH TO SUCCESS

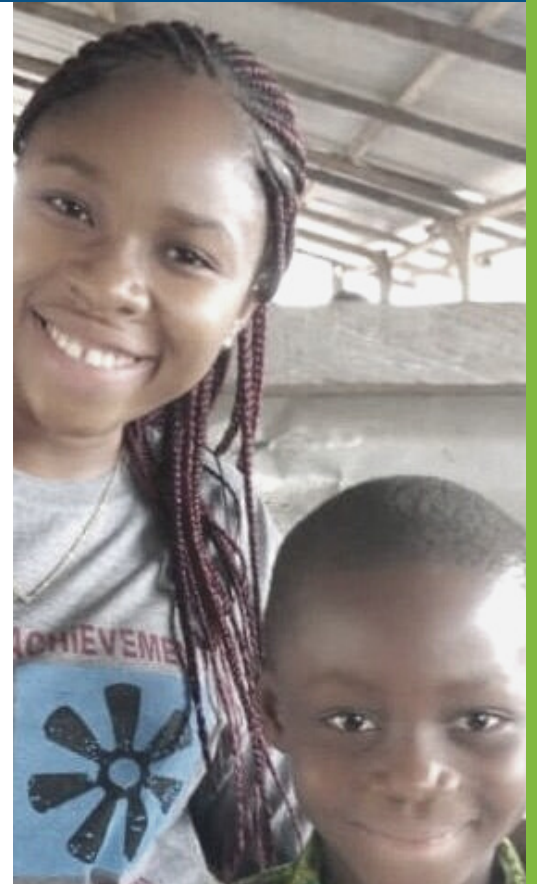
*By Charlotte Ohene*

I joined the Path to Success student internship program in September 2019. I was a high school graduate that had a dream of becoming a diplomat, but I needed support and help to build my skills.

My goal was to be able to influence a group of people without worrying about how large the crowd would be. Initially, I had very low confidence - I could not feel my face when talking to a single elderly person or even look people in the eye!

As part of my path to success I was required to write essays and take photos and videos. All this helped me figure out what I wanted to say to others. The staff took time to correct my mistakes so I could develop my skills and become a powerful speaker.

My experience has allowed me to facilitate sessions during club meetings; I join my colleagues to share ideas, and I regularly give presentations. All these contribute to my public speaking skills and my newfound comfort sharing my ideas among people.





RESOURCES &  
FINANCIAL  
MANAGEMENT

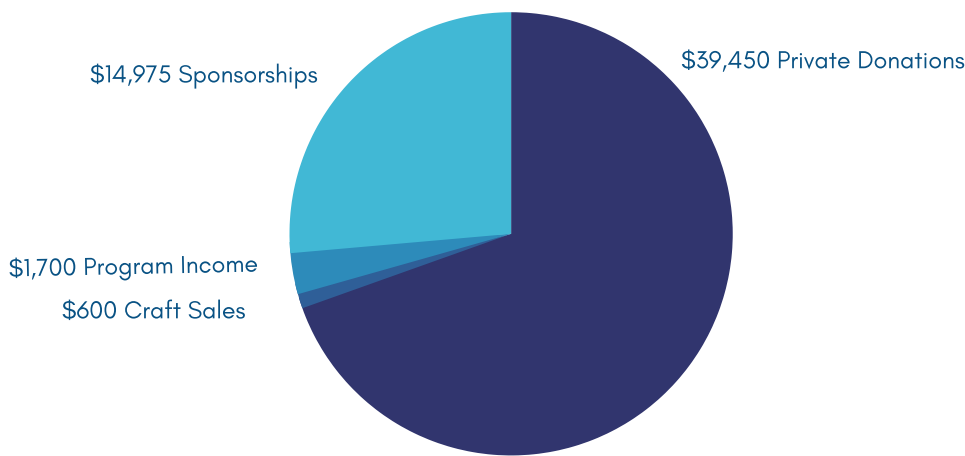
## FOCUSING RESOURCES

Pagus, Inc's revenue is almost exclusively generated from private donations.

Our budget for income generation fell short of our goal, but reductions in spending due to school closures and staff reduction offset that loss and helped us to reach our goal for financial sustainability.

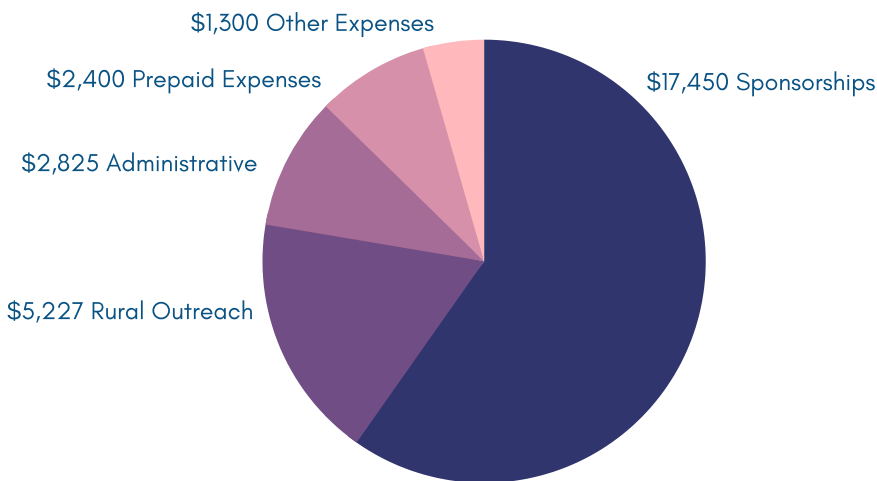
## INCOME 2020

**\$56,720 Total Income**



## SPENDING 2020

**\$29,202 Total Expenses (reductions due to COVID)**



# HELP US PAVE THE PATH



We are enormously grateful to our donors and the organizations that work with us to help youth reach their full potential. Your support helps young people to change their world through engagement in effective and engaging educational activities.

Here is what your ongoing support can mean in the coming years:

## **Pagus Center for Achievement Campus**

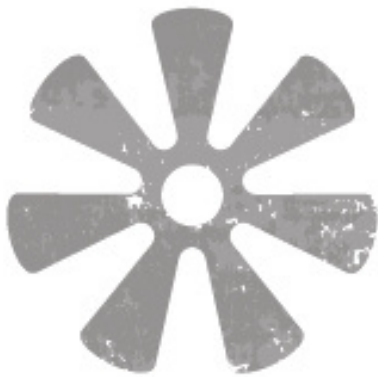
The move to the Pagus Center for Achievement campus, purchased in 2018, was delayed by COVID. As of December 2020, work resumed on the renovation and a new move-in date is on track for May 2021. The new Center will provide space for our students to work safely at a social distance and after the pandemic, will be able to accommodate as many as 35 students.

## **2021 Goals**

With your support we will:

- Raise \$60,000 for programs that boost literacy and other essential programs to improve the lives of students in surrounding communities
- Raise \$30,000 for our capital campaign to improve our facilities with an electric generator and a new roof
- Raise \$6,000 to add three more scholarships
- Raise \$6,000 to provide a laptop for each path to success student

**CENTER FOR ACHIEVEMENT**



**PAGUS:AFRICA**

**Paving a path to success**

**LEARN MORE: [INFO@PAGUSAFRICA.ORG](mailto:INFO@PAGUSAFRICA.ORG)**

**[PAGUSAFRICA.ORG](http://PAGUSAFRICA.ORG)**

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