

# WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW AT PHOTO START THAT IS WORTH SHARING

## Q2-Q3 2022

We invested in translating our curriculum and we now have programs in Iraq and Bolivia, serving as anchor partners in MENA and South America.

## NOW

- **Dec. 2022:** Photo Start has been nominated and after several assessments, will be advancing to the final round for a Kenyan service award for **Integrity and Inclusiveness** at the **Utumishi Bora Awards (UBA)** award ceremony. **Stay tuned!**
- **Photo Start was granted consultative status at the United Nations;** we are very much part of the call to action to revolutionize education in the 21st century. We combine STEAM (science, tech, engineering, arts, math) concepts, digital media skills, technical skill development, career exploration, and self-expression and empathy building- all through teaching the business and art of photography.
- **In Rwanda** helping students learn job-ready skills and gain professional exposure; Won a grant from US embassy and asked to expand programming to the largest community center in Kigali by local officials.
- **In Uganda,** We just graduated our first class of trainers in Uganda; national press and government ministry officials were in attendance since this is the first time the Directorate of Industrialization in Uganda will be granting a new skill certification, and our graduates from this program are the first to sit to qualify to receive it! [MUST CONFIRM exact details, but the graduates from this program have a unique status, because of how established our partner is on the ground.]

# SUCCESS STORIES THAT EXEMPLIFY THE IDEALS AND MISSION MY GRANDPARENTS INSPIRED

## DRIVER TURNED TRAINER, LIFE TRANSFORMED





### Trainer Spotlight

ZACHARY MUTHOGA

#### How did you become involved with Photo Start?

I started as a driver and the first day I drove the team to class, I saw Jeri's camera and got interested. I asked to see it and Jeri allowed me.

Then I asked to join the classes and she said I was welcome. And just like that, I was not only the team driver, but also a Photo Start student.



Z. Muthoga @ Kilbagare Charmers, Sep 2021

#### How has the Photo Start program changed your daily life?

I had no reason to get out of bed in the morning. Now I'm motivated to wake up early to go teach and learn. I am learning from my teammates and the students every day.



My life is so much more interesting now. Working with Photo Start has woken up the curiosity in me to learn and explore. I feel like a small boy again with a bright future ahead of me.

\*Jeri, named above, is our Global Head of Instruction

STUDENT> NYT, Mentor, Teacher, and Success!

## STUDENT BECOMES TEACHER

SARAH SUNDAY MOSES



We met Sarah through our partner, the Akili Dada Foundation. As a refugee from South Sudan, she and her family made a new home in Nairobi, Kenya. When we met her, she showed real talent and promise in our classes.

With help from our network, in 2018, Sarah was chosen to participate in The New York Times special multimedia feature "This is 18". Her photographs depicting a day in the life of her two teenage subjects were featured online and in print. She also received an award for her photographs in the "Girls' Voices for Change" international photography contest. Later, her work was added to a New York Times bestselling photography book also called "This is 18".

During her gap year, Sarah was also able to support herself with her earnings as photographer. Even better, she has returned to teach and mentor other Photo Start students. Her success and example is an inspiration to our students and to us.

STUDENT- Skills > earning, Role Model



## SUCCESS STORY

### MARKSON OMBATI

Markson, a 19-year-old from our partner Team Kibagare Warspark in Kangemi, Kenya, was one of three students selected to work on a Photo Start local football assignment.



Photographing a fast-paced football match meant quickly learning how to work with the varying lighting conditions, freezing moments, capturing emotions, and delivering a body of work that encapsulates the mood and energy of the game. This was definitely an exciting learning experience for them.

One of the opposing team's match organizers was so impressed with his images, they offered Markson a paid job to shoot future matches for the entire season. That small turn of events seemed to light a fire within the trainees who were there, both on and off the pitch, giving them hope that they too can earn from this craft!

## STUDENT > NEW ENTREPRENEUR

CALL OUT FROM BELOW

### **How, if at all, has your view of the future changed now that you have completed the Photo Start program?**

I literally had no idea what to do with myself before Photo Start. Now I'm running a business and I have big plans for my future.

### STUDENT SUCCESS STORY



Lewis Shigungu – Nduguz 4 Dada

#### **Do you remember the first time you held a camera in your hand? Were you excited, nervous, scared, or how did that make you feel?**

I had never held a camera before Photo Start. It felt like a fantasy to have a camera in my hands because I never expected to have such an opportunity in my life. I was very nervous at first.

#### **How do you envision yourself using the skills you have been exposed to through the program?**

My photography and event planning business is totally dependent on the skills I have learned, so I'm already putting them to good use. I also want to use my skills to help and improve my community by getting involved in community projects.

#### **Are there other life lessons you have learned through photography?**

Photography requires a lot of discipline, and that same principle applies to life as well. The other big lesson I have learned through photography is that things are not always what they seem—take a closer look and the thing you thought was all bad may have a lot of hidden gems in it.

#### **How, if at all, has your view of the future changed now that you have completed the Photo Start program?**

I literally had no idea what to do with myself before Photo Start. Now I'm running a business and I have big plans for my future.

#### **Why do you think the camera is such a powerful tool for learning?**

The camera gives you the opportunity to communicate without words. It also helps you preserve memories and gives a different perspective to moments and life in general.



## JOB TRAINING! New program, Rwanda, immediate feedback

"I liked photography, but, unfortunately, I did not have the capacity to help myself learn it, [so this class] became an opportunity for me."

Storytelling skills coupled with photography will help me to adapt to the labor market."

Dorcas Uwera finds it worthy to acquire hands-on skills in photography and storytelling to access employment.



"Photography is vital for the life skills, here, we learn different techniques of photo shooting, and as long as the media sector is being developed, these skills can help us to tap into the labor industry."

Desire Rudahunga Nzitunga, guitar teacher at Club Rafiki who chose to learn photography in this class because it is an added value to his knowledge.



"Since I started, the good news is that some people in the industry started contacting me to give me jobs!"

Madjidu Nzabonimp, age 22, stopped his schooling in 2018 yet, through this programming partnership, he is finding work opportunities.



## COMMUNITY IMPACT

### 1. Ex-Gang x police team up to beautify Nairobi community

## CASE STUDY - KIBAGARE WARSPARK

TURNING LOCAL YOUTH INTO STEWARDS OF SUSTAINABILITY



#### 01 SERVE



Our students are former gang members who recognized a need and hosted a trash clean-up in their home of Nairobi, using their new skills to document their efforts.

#### 02 BEAUTIFY



Our students invited a local police station to join their efforts and improve their community by collecting trash from the streets.

#### 03 CONNECT



They used their new skills to document these efforts and made new connections with police officers.

#### 04 TRANSFORM



The police were so impressed by our Photo Start students demeanor, leadership, and their skills. The police want their own program now!

#### 05 GROW



Photo Start programming promotes more positive community relations and so much more.



## 2. Ex-Gang > Social Enterprise!

PHOTOSTART.ORG

### OUR DREAM REALIZED

Photo Start began with a simple dream: give young people the skills needed to access opportunities and create a bright future for themselves. That dream has come true in a big way!

Last summer we introduced you to our first graduating class with Ndugu's 4 Dada in Kibagare, Kenya.



Post-graduation, our Kenya Community Engagement Officer, Stephen Nzusa, helped the group apply for a YWCA start-up business grant. They were awarded the grant, enabling them to attend a class on business development and financial management. With the funds received, **they bought a new camera, created business cards, and started Kibagare Photography Services!**

These young people saw an opportunity, took action, and became heroes to our younger Students. We wish them much success on this new adventure!

## RECENT NATIONAL SUCCESS- RWANDA

**COUNTRY SUCCESSES-** Example new program in Rwanda (ALSO SEE “Photo Start 10.22. RWANDA Updates”)

**In just a few months-** this pilot has been recognized by the US Embassy, Local and municipal officials and the largest community center in Kigali.

**Students are also reporting this is already connecting them to job opportunities!**

### RAPID SUCCESS

- Completed our first program; graduated 24 students
- Launched 3-month intensive program (17 students)
- Were featured in popular Rwandan publication, Rwanda Inspire
- Developed a relationship with Rwanda's largest city, Kigali, for program expansion opportunities
- Asked by municipal officials to expand offerings to the largest community center in Kigali
- Connected students to events around the city to shadow photographers for real-life experience
- Along with Hands of Mothers Rwanda, received a grant from the US Embassy to begin a new cohort in January 2023

AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

Wow!

U.S. Embassy in Rwanda

AS SEEN IN

**The Inspirer**

The news you need to live better

CONGRATULATIONS!

### IMPACT