

Leaders behind the masks

"The true test of leadership is how well you function in a crisis " - Brian Tracy

*"Anyone can lead when the plan is working.
The best lead when the plan falls apart " - Robin Sharma*

*"Leaders think and talk about the solutions.
Followers think and talk about the problems" - Brian Tracy*

*"In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams" -
African Proverb*

When thinking about these quotes, each is so meaningful, especially now when we have seen each one come to life as we find our way through COVID-19. Functioning well in a crisis certainly doesn't sound easy, and.... we can say with certainty that it isn't. But, the **leaders behind the masks** make it happen! Even though our regular activities stopped functioning under our normal plans as we supported the Ministry of Health's call for social distancing and preventing spread, our team is still functioning **at a distance**. When our normal ways of conducting activities fell apart from the presence of COVID-19, our teachers stepped up to the plate in finding alternative ways to serve our girls and their families! They did not just sit around and talk about the problem of COVID-19 existing and the doom and gloom that came with it, instead **they devised creative solutions** to still be of help to others.

Teacher Michelle quickly found an alternative to maintaining the connection with each of our Shining Scholars and Girls Empowerment participants with a weekly check in call from home, she facilitated the food/supply drops to our place that have been re-packaged and distributed to our girls and their families (using distancing and no contact measures). Our long time vendors we have relationships with ensured we could pull the pallets of supplies for our girls even when there were limits in general. Last, but not least, our Maridadi Skills Teachers re-purposed our skills space within an hours' time. They went from making the most beautiful sandals in the world to using our machines and supplies to begin making masks to serve our participants, their entire household and the community at large. The natural skill sets of Teacher George and Teacher Bernard are seriously unmatched! 570 masks were made and distributed for free! Every Shining Scholar,

Shining Brighter, Girls Empowerment girl, and Women's Empowerment lady received a mask for herself then enough for every person in their household.

In all of this something else happened..... building bridges! Joining the Pamoja Circle has brought us in direct touch with so many other organizations serving in and around Kibera- 22 and counting! We are grateful to have had the chance to co-create this opportunity with La Femme! We have been able to share ideas, practices and even policies with one another- bridges were built and discussions were all about solutions. If one is experiencing something, it is likely someone else already has or knows another contact to help. We have even been able to support one another's work in the community during this time of COVID-19 by teaming to serve even more. Now is not the time to build dams, it is never time for that. **So back to the leaders behind the masks... who are they?** While each organization has their leaders behind the masks, here are ours below. Thank you for being the leaders that you are. You shine every day in the community!

Maridadi Skills Teacher George

Maridadi Skills Teacher Benard

Shining Brighter Jane Arum

Shining Brighter & Girls Empowerment Coordinator Michelle Akoth

Boda Supply Transport Sahal & Team

the
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