



Giving Opportunity to Children

*GO Campaign improves the lives of children around the world.
We partner with local heroes who are having the greatest impact on the most vulnerable children.*



GO'S LOCAL CHAMPION OF CHANGE

**Spotlight: Augustine Githaiga
Kawangware Slum, Nairobi, Kenya**

Augustine Githaiga (aka Agosto) has lived his entire life in Kawangware, a slum in the western part of Nairobi. As a young boy, he would peddle the illegal alcohol his mother made in exchange for her allowing him to attend school. When the money ran out, he left home and fought to stay in school – often at the expense of eating.

Kawangware is a squatter settlement and a bleak place to live and breathe. There is no evident form of physical planning and the infrastructure is in complete disarray. The youth and children spend their time in total idleness, exposing them to extreme behaviors. Most residents live on less than \$1 a day, and the staggering unemployment rate results in rampant crime. Agosto not only beat these odds, but he has become a role model to all.

Agosto has dedicated all his adult years to tirelessly working to improve the living conditions and the personal well-being of the children, youth and adults in his community. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of Kawangware Vision Center (KVC), an organization that provides children with basic needs and empowers marginalized youth through youth-led economic activities.

GO was introduced to Agosto by a fellow grantmaker and after violence erupted in Nairobi in December 2008, GO gave Agosto a grant to continue providing services for the 300 youth who rely on KVC for their basic needs and to organize a peace-building and reconciliation seminar. The seminar was followed by an open discussion that ended with a communal declaration, "Together forever, divided we fall!" Several GO supporters and Board Members have visited Agosto and KVC and all have returned with stellar reports.

Despite his qualification to work as a businessman in Nairobi, Agosto chooses instead to mentor children and educate youth with employable skills, such as the youth-led micro-business he spearheads that uses recycled materials to make eco-friendly paper products which are sold to hotels and tour companies. The profits from this sustainable small business help run KVC. Youth are taught business skills so when they start their own businesses, which is the ultimate goal, they will know how to manage them efficiently. As demand for the products has continued to increase, Agosto fundraised to build a larger sustainable 'green' community center that will house the micro-business, employ more youth, and provide a safe place for younger children to gather and receive basic services. Thanks to a \$26,111 grant from GO, KVC was able to break ground on the new Center in April 2011. GO will continue to raise funding for the Center and support Agosto's visions that are transforming the Kawangware slum.

GO Campaign is transforming communities, one child at a time. A full listing of our projects and their impact is available at GOcampaign.org