

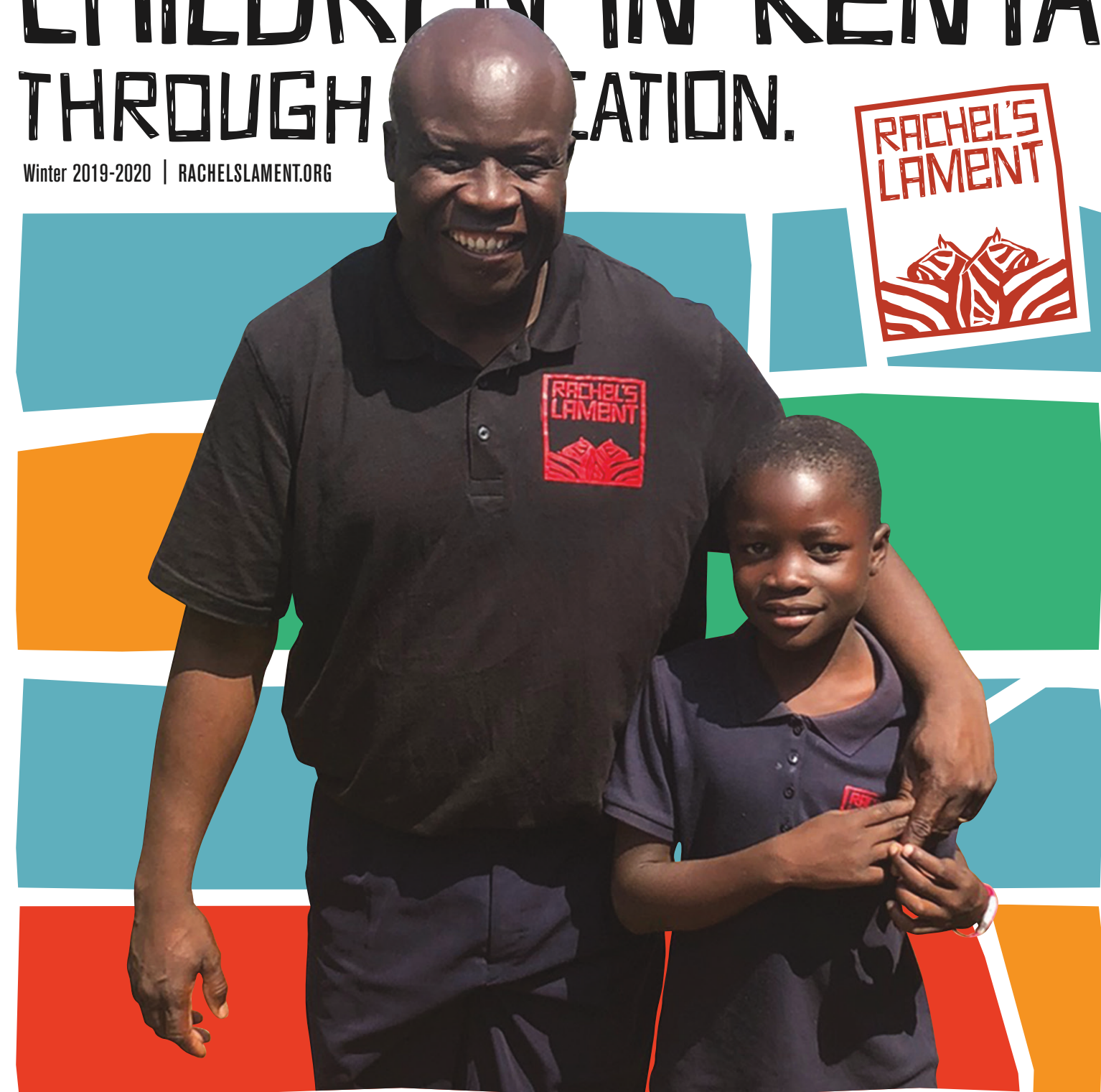
# RACHEL'S LAMENT

P.O. BOX 10792  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37939

"RACHEL WEeping FOR HER CHILDREN AND REFUSING TO BE COMFORTED BECAUSE HER CHILDREN ARE NO MORE."  
JEREMIAH 31:15

# PROVIDING HOPE, LOVE AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN IN KENYA THROUGH EDUCATION.

Winter 2019-2020 | RACHELSLAMENT.ORG



## DONATE

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

AMOUNT

EMAIL

## HOW TO DONATE

Rachel's Lament is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Complete this form and send a check to our donor team at the address below, or visit us online to make a secure donation through PayPal.

## VISIT US ONLINE

Our website is ever-growing and a wonderful way to learn more.

[RACHELSLAMENT.ORG](http://RACHELSLAMENT.ORG)

## SEND YOUR CHECK

Thank you for donating to Rachel's Lament. Your gift provides an education for children in need.

RACHEL'S LAMENT  
POST OFFICE BOX 10792  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37939



## FRIENDS GATHER TO REMEMBER “MAMA REENIE”



As many of you know our beloved founder, Reenie Gieselmann Ernest (“Mama Reenie” to her Kenyan friends and Rachel’s Lament students), passed away on September 13, 2018. The news of her passing spread throughout Western Kenya, and many of her close Kenyan friends expressed their condolences. Her death was especially difficult for those friends who could not attend her funeral halfway across the world. They wanted to have a memorial service to honor Mama Reenie and her ministry to so many children in Western Kenya. The memorial service

was held on June 9, 2019 at Rondo Retreat Centre, in the quaint chapel that overlooks the Kakamega Rain Forest. The sanctuary was packed with friends, old and new. The ceremony was filled with both Swahili and English hymns that were so dear to Reenie. Many shared testimonies about Mama Reenie and her service in Kenya. The stories reflected upon how she had not only helped them, but had helped send their children to school as well. Education is taken seriously in Kenya because many families do not have the means to send their children to school. One of Mama Reenie’s

beloved friends, Elikea, shared stories of their many walks through the forest together. Elikea’s two sons, who are also sponsored by Rachel’s Lament, spoke about how grateful they were for their sponsorship and for the help that Mama Reenie had provided. Losing Mama Reenie has been difficult for her family and friends, near and far, but knowing that she impacted the lives of so many in Kenya shows us all that her legacy will continue to live through the children and other people that she has helped through Rachel’s Lament.

CARRIE WALLACE

## PAYING IT FORWARD

In the mid-1990s, Reenie Gieselmann Ernest was introduced to a family of eight orphaned children - the Mulimas - whose parents died due to complications from the AIDS virus. Before Rachel’s Laments inception, Reenie took care of these children by sending them to school. As the eldest son of the family, Raiton Mulima took his role as head of the family seriously by “paying it forward” to his brothers and sisters. He graduated from Uganda Christian University, and afterwards put himself through graduate school to get his MBA. Raiton expressed interest in helping our current students, and asked what he could do. He bought school shoes for all of our elementary school students in July 2019. Mama Reenie had



hoped when she started Rachel’s Lament that the sponsored students would pay it forward by educating and helping their own families. Raiton is living proof that Mama Reenie’s hopes and dreams are coming true for her Kenyan children.

CARRIE WALLACE

COVER – Timothy Kalawayi with first grader, John Clinton Anami

## ABOUT RACHEL’S LAMENT

Reenie Gieselmann Ernest founded Rachel’s Lament in 2000 after spending many years as a missionary in Western Kenya, near the Kakamega Rainforest. Through her years as a missionary she found that one of the greatest needs in this region of Kenya was to help orphaned and destitute children go to school. School fees are expensive and out of reach for many Kenyan families, especially for orphaned children. Reenie built this mission from the ground up through faith and determination. Rachel’s Lament is still working to bring education to the needy children of Kenya. When students are sponsored by Rachel’s Lament, their educational, spiritual, and physical wellbeing is of utmost importance. We work on a whole child approach, by ensuring that all of our student’s basic needs are met so that they can be fully successful in school. Rachel’s Lament runs solely on donations from our supporters. Please follow us for the latest updates via Facebook, Instagram, or [rachelslament.org](http://rachelslament.org).

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Brinice Wikhunza

I want to thank Rachel’s Lament for sponsoring me from primary school to secondary school and now through university. My experience with Rachel’s Lament has been awesome. I have made many friends especially through going to the Christian camps put on by Trinity Fellowship. The camps that Rachel’s Lament sent me to revive my Christianity through the daily devotions and bible study. Rachel’s Lament supports my academics financially, and I am very grateful. That sponsorship is the greatest gift I have received. Education is the key to success, and I can confidently say that I will be successful in the future because of Rachel’s Lament. I am studying veterinary medicine at the University of Nairobi, thanks to Rachel’s Lament. I have loved the courses and experiences I have had in the big city, Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. My dream is to help other Kenyan children with no means to pursue their goals in life.



BRINICE WIKHUNZA

## MINISTERING TO THE CHILDREN: Timothy Kalawayi

Rachel’s Lament was an idea of Reenie Gieselmann Ernest after she began to see the needs of the Kenyan people. Almost everyone requested assistance in sending their children to school. Mama Reenie began this mission with a lot of faith, prayers, and help from some amazing people in Kenya. Timothy Kalawayi has been a part of Rachel’s Lament since its inception. I explain to people that we call Timothy, “Baba Timothy” because he is like a father to our children. (Baba means father in Swahili). Timothy would visit schools with Mama Reenie and would help her with making sure that the needs of the students were met. In 2007 Timothy became a full-time employee of Rachel’s Lament. Since that time, Timothy has made sure that our students are fully taken care of, and he continues to encourage our students during the good times, and the difficult times. Timothy and his wife Eunice have four children of their own, most of whom are grown and leaving home to start their lives as adults. Feeling the pains of an empty nest, Timothy and Eunice have volunteered to take in several Rachel’s Lament students, and are mentoring and caring for these young children, including the newest Rachel’s Lament student, Diana Akitsa (see below). This is just one of many shining examples of the kindness that Timothy has shown towards our students over the years.



Timothy Kalawayi with kindergarten student, Maurine Tietie

CARRIE WALLACE

## NEWEST STUDENT: Diana Akitsa

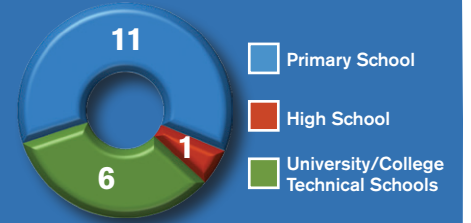
Diana Akitsa came from a very difficult background. She is a full orphan who was really struggling. She has a medical condition commonly known as Elephantiasis, which results from the spreading of a parasite through a mosquito bite. Diana was not taken to the hospital when her condition began, so it only got worse. Through divine intervention, she was brought into our lives, and we were able to take her on as one of our sponsored students. Since Diana was much older than her peers in her 6th grade class, it was difficult to find a supportive school. However, Timothy and Eunice Kalawayi volunteered to not only keep Diana in their home, but to arrange for her attendance in Timothy’s former primary school.



CARRIE WALLACE

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Although there has been a slight inflationary increase in per-student cost in 2018/2019, overall costs actually decreased due to the number of graduates. However, as students advance from primary to high school to higher education, individual and collective costs will continue to rise in the coming years.



**\$1,450** represents the current average cost per student.

**\$26,100** currently meets the needs of 18 children. Costs include tuition, supplies, clothes, food and mentorship.

Please consider helping these children have a reason to hope.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen Bullock, *Secretary*  
 Russ Buchanan  
 David Carter, *Director*  
 Mary Fran Darwin, *Treasurer*  
 Hal Ernest, *Member Emeritus*  
 Robin Leonard  
 Jenny Schnell, *Social Media Specialist*  
 Carrie Wallace, *Field Operations Executive Manager*

## MAILING ADDRESS

Rachel’s Lament  
 P. O. Box 10792  
 Knoxville, TN 37939

## CONNECT WITH US

[rachelslament.org](http://rachelslament.org)  
 Instagram: @rachels\_lament  
 Facebook: @RachelsLament  
 Twitter: @RachelsLament

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

[info@rachelslament.org](mailto:info@rachelslament.org)