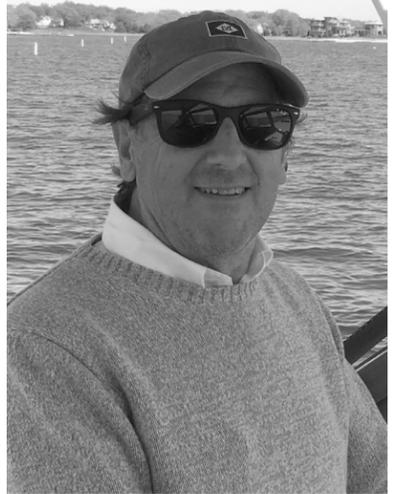




The  
Sasamani  
Foundation  
2020 Annual Report



# Letter From the Founder



Dear Friends,

2020 was a year of numerous and often difficult challenges. The Sasamani Foundation is fortunate to have a wonderful and dedicated team in Tanzania and in the US to bring inspiring and impactful programming to East Africa. Our staff and boards, in Tanzania and in the US, interns, volunteers, donors, and friends continue to build on successes, even in challenging times.

The Sasamani Foundation was honored to be recognized by the local district government in Bagamoyo, Tanzania for our ongoing excellence in serving the educational needs of the community.

At a time when many local NGOs struggled, The Sasamani Foundation was fortunate to receive record support, allowing us to provide uninterrupted service to the community of Bagamoyo.

Thank you to all who supported our organization during this challenging year. It has been a joy and privilege to work together to achieve positive, impactful, and lasting change.

Our best wishes and hopes for a brighter year, in all ways.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew M. Halsey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Halsey, Founder

# Letter From the Executive Director



Dear Sasamani Friends,

I am grateful that, despite its challenges, 2020 was a successful year for the Sasamani Foundation. The support of new and loyal donors and the dedication of our staff and Boards in Tanzania and the US enabled Sasamani to positively impact the communities we serve and respond to the pandemic.

More than ever, we saw the importance and positive impact of our work:

- The tailors in Sasamani's employment program sewed facemasks for the community in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, including for the District Hospital staff. This emergency initiative not only provided help to protect the community but also provided the tailors an opportunity for additional work during challenging times.
- The 75 students in Sasamani's education program stayed safe and performed well in their national exams. The proportion of Sasamani sponsored students in Universities and Colleges dramatically increased. 2.5% of all girls in Tanzania enroll in tertiary education. By contrast, 99% of age-eligible Sasamani sponsored students are enrolled in tertiary education.
- Although we postponed the Women Leading Change program to 2021, we organized virtual coaching sessions throughout the year for Women Leading Change alumnae to connect and support one another.
- Six Connecticut College students served as virtual interns in the summer and the fall. These talented and passionate interns developed a tool to measure the impact of our education program and a plan to optimize our online communication. Their valuable recommendations have already been implemented.

My first year as Sasamani's Executive Director was an unusual one. I feel inspired to be working together with such a passionate and strong team of staff, beneficiaries, volunteers, interns, board members, and donors in the US and East Africa. For 2021, I am hopeful to continue Sasamani's progress to empower women and girls in East Africa to shape their own futures—a mission so close to my heart.

Asante Sana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Frolich-Rienstra'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tialda Frolich-Rienstra, Executive Director



## Vision

**We envision a future in which all possibilities for women and girls in East Africa are equitable and attainable.**

## Mission

**The Sasamani Foundation's mission is to increase access to education and employment opportunities by removing barriers that disproportionately affect women and girls in East Africa, empowering them to shape their futures and thereby cultivating happier, healthier, and more prosperous communities.**



# Educate

## About The Program

The surest road out of poverty is education. The Sasamani Foundation provides holistic student sponsorships that focus on building self-reliance.

A \$30 monthly or \$360 annual donation covers a student's school fees from middle school through university and ensures each student's basic needs are met such as room and board, hygiene supplies, school supplies, transportation, and access to a social worker. Each sponsor is linked to a student or multiple students. The Sasamani Foundation encourages and facilitates the exchange of letters between students and sponsors.

## Milestones 2020

- The 75 students participating in our education program returned to their schools in July after the stay-at-home order was lifted.
- The Sasamani staff, the students, and their teachers worked closely together to ensure academic achievement during this difficult time.
- 19 middle school graduate students took part in the national exams. 17 of them performed very well and will continue their education at the high school level. Two students will proceed their education at the technical college.
- Over 500 students from Sasamani's three partner schools participated in a career initiative organized by the Sasamani Foundation. Facilitated by a local partner, the students learned about career opportunities, the path to success, and how to overcome obstacles on their journeys. The feedback we received from students and teachers alike was extremely positive.
- Sasamani received a Certificate of Appreciation for Education Development from the Bagamoyo District Council. The Sasamani Foundation was amongst 24 winners from hundreds of participants.



**“During COVID-19, it was so rewarding to see students identify the way towards achieving good academic performance and solve their issues. Understanding one’s strengths and weaknesses are important towards goal attainment, especially for the students from vulnerable families.”**

— Gladness Kulola, *Education Director*

# Employ

## About The Program

When women work, communities are uplifted and economies grow. The Sasamani Foundation employs a group of women tailors to sew school uniforms and a collection of bags. With the income earned, the Sasamani tailors have invested back into their businesses, paid for their family's education expenses, and purchased land. The women gained confidence in themselves and their abilities through the program.

The bag collection, including pouches, backpacks, totes and duffels, is available for purchase on The Sasamani Foundation's website. By buying a bag, donors support the tailors' salaries and fund a school uniform for a school child in Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

## Milestones 2020

- 23 school uniforms were sewn by the tailors for Sasamani sponsored students.
- The six tailors in the employment program continued to be part of the program, despite the challenges the pandemic brought.
- 1,000 facemasks were sewn by the tailors in the employment program for three community groups: the local district hospital, the orphanage homes and for Sasamani beneficiaries and their families.

**“Through the facemask initiative we could support the community in Bagamoyo to protect themselves from the virus, but the initiatives also brought the tailors additional work during difficult times.”**

— Elias Mmbaga, *Employment Director and Managing Director.*





# Empower

## About The Program

The Women Leading Change initiative is a leadership program specially designed for East Africa's emerging women leaders. In collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, we designed this program to build specific skills and mindsets necessary to lead change in East Africa.

Women Leading Change gathers influencers and experienced educators from academic institutions such as the London Business School (UK), the University of Pennsylvania (US), the University of Agder (Norway), and the University of Dar es Salaam Business School (Tanzania). This international team collaborates closely to develop a culturally relevant curriculum.

Our graduates will maximize their potential and lead positive change, economic growth, and create a prosperous future for their families, their community, and their world.

## Milestones

- In April, after four months of planning efforts and due to the escalating global pandemic, we postponed the in-person summer program from 2020 to 2021.
- We partnered with the Amani Institute to better balance Women Leading Change facilitation with East African voices and experience.
- Throughout the year we organized virtual group coaching sessions for program alumni to support one another and pivot their strategies given the changing global landscape.

**“The Women Leading Change models the best practice in international development—don’t assume, ask questions, and believe in others’ capacity to solve their own problems. The Alumni groups turned to this powerful process during the virtual sessions to support one another and connect back to their purpose.”**

— Erica Mohr, Sasamani Board Chair and Coaching Facilitator

# Embrace

## About The Program

We partnered with Connecticut College's Community Action program and annually provide students with the opportunity to intern with Sasamani, supporting the operations of our organization and contributing their unique talents and perspectives towards our mission.

Sasamani's internship program brings our interns, tailors, students, staff, and board together to work towards a common goal of education and empowerment. In doing so, we hope to foster a new generation of young people who are passionate about making responsible, sustainable, and empowering change.

## Milestones

- Six Connecticut College students served as virtual interns in the summer and in the fall.
- The students developed a tool to measure the impact of our education program and a plan to optimize our online communication strategies. Their valuable recommendations have already been implemented.



## Meet Our 2020 Sasamani intern: Meera Narayanan-Pandit

**Name:** Meera Narayanan-Pandit  
**From:** Boston, MA  
**School:** Connecticut College  
**Major:** Environmental Science and Chemistry  
**Future Plans:** I want to be a doctor.

### What are you most proud of in 2020?

I was proud of myself for finding new opportunities to challenge myself. For example, I was so proud to be chosen as a virtual summer intern for Sasamani because I learned so much about effective communication, non-profit strategy and teamwork in a new virtual age. Additionally, I am proud that I was elected to some leadership positions at Connecticut College such as the, VP of the Athletes of Color Coalition.

### What are you looking forward to in 2021?

I am looking forward to more opportunities that allow me to help others in underserved communities. I am hoping to spend my summer

both interning and volunteering for organizations in the Boston area that help underserved individuals and address problems such as homelessness, poverty, and hunger.

### How did Sasamani make a difference in your life in 2020?

Sasamani allowed me to deepen my appreciation and advocacy for women's empowerment, education, and opportunities. Through my time with Sasamani, I learned so much about how educating women can lead to a lifetime of more opportunities



## Meet Sasamani Graduate: Siaba Ally Kinunda

Name: Siaba Ally Kinunda  
From: Bagamoyo, Tanzania  
School: Dodoma University  
Major: Biology  
Future Plans: To be a health researcher

**“In 2020, I was proud of doing my field practical, concerning health research particularly around Malaria vector studies. In 2021, I’m looking forward to getting employment after finishing my studies in August 2021.”**



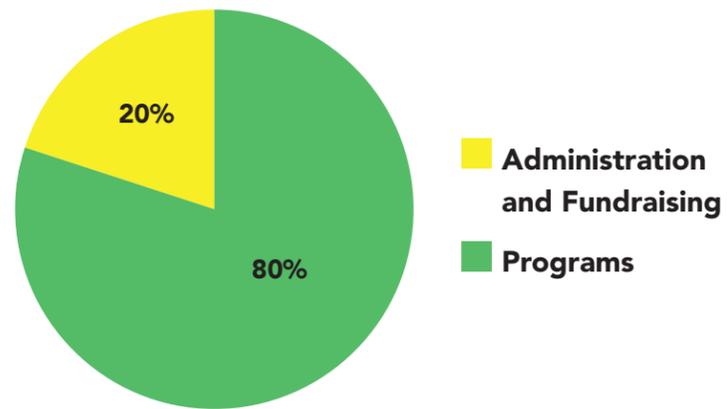
## Meet Sasamani Tailor: Mwanahamis Ally

Name: Mwanahamis Ally  
From: Bagamoyo, Tanzania  
Profession: Tailor  
Future Plans: Learn new sewing techniques and start farming.



**“2020 has been a great year as I was blessed with a baby girl. I also experienced a wonderful time working on Sasamani sewing projects. I didn’t expect to have much to do in my workplace due to Covid-19 but I could work on the facemasks and it felt good that not only I was able to contribute to my family but I also helped to protect my community from the coronavirus.”**

# Financial Statements



## Donations & Income

Covid-19 Emergency Campaign	\$1,391
Women Leading Change	\$7,662
Education Program	\$24,158
Grants	\$15,000
Unrestricted Donations	\$87,520
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$135,731</b>

## Expenditures

Program Expenses:	\$99,471
Administration & Fundraising	\$24,691
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$124,162</b>



# Thank You

## Donors & Volunteers

We are extremely grateful for all of the generous donations we received in 2020 from almost one hundred donors. We are also very proud to have worked with such passionate volunteers who contributed to Sasamani's success in 2020.

Through the support of our highly valued donors and volunteers, we were able to further our mission and achieved a positive impact in 2020 by supporting women in East Africa on their way to becoming more self-dependent.

## Ways to Give

Especially in this challenging time globally, we seek your (continued) generosity to support The Sasamani Foundation's initiatives. There are various ways to empower women and girls in East Africa to shape their futures thereby cultivating happier, healthier, and more prosperous communities:

### 1. Empower a student to achieve their dreams

The surest road out of poverty is education. Sasamani commits to support students from middle school through university. A sponsorship covers education, room and board, school supplies, a school uniform,

health insurance, hygiene supplies, and access to a social worker. A sponsorship also offers the opportunity for one-on-one correspondence directly with the sponsored student.

### 2. Inspire emerging women leaders to lead change

When you invest in a woman, you invest in lasting social change. Sasamani and the University of Dar es Salaam collaborate to deliver the Women Leading Change program for high-potential, mid-career women in East Africa. Donations to the Women Leading Change program contribute to scholarships for participants. As a scholarship sponsor, you can correspond directly with the emerging leader you support, learning first-hand how her life is impacted.

### 3. Provide dignified employment opportunities

Sasamani's employment initiative generates steady and fair wages that help tailors lift themselves out of poverty while doing something they love. Their hand-crafted bags are available in our online shop, and 100% of the profits are redirected to Sasamani's education program. We are also pleased to coordinate the purchase of larger quantities and/or custom-made bags.

### 4. Help to break the cycle of poverty in East Africa

Unrestricted donations support our mission across all programs and cover critical operating costs including the salaries of our passionate and dedicated in-country staff.

### Tax deductible donations of any kind are gratefully accepted by:

*Check:* mail to PO Box 315, Old Mystic, CT 06372.

*Credit Card:* via our donation webpage at [www.thesasamanifoundation.org/support-us](http://www.thesasamanifoundation.org/support-us)

*Venmo:* @Sasamani

**Many thanks for your consideration to provide women and students in East Africa with opportunities and hope for the future.**

## Contact Information

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