

My Visits to Destiny Garden School – 2016 and 2024

Alana Hanks, Colorado, USA



photo i Alana, Meredith and Vanessa

We were welcomed warmly and enthusiastically by Jacob, Brenda, Boaz, and everyone at DGS. It's incredible work that they are doing providing so many students with an education, life lessons, community, meals, and so much more. I felt such connection with the school and with Jacob, Brenda, and Boaz, that I've stayed in touch with them for over 10 years now.

During this time, I've held many fundraisers in my community in Colorado in order to support DGS in various ways. I've also rounded up a number of people who have (and many still do) sponsor DGS students as well as a handful who were continuing onto boarding high schools.

I travelled back to Kenya and Destiny Garden School in September of 2024, this time with my husband, Jake.

Leading up to this trip, I held a successful fundraiser to bring playground equipment to the school. We had an opening ceremony of the playground while we were there, and it was the most magical, amazingly joyful, and rewarding collective effervescent time I have ever experienced. The amount of joy, laughter, and excitement from the students and the faculty and staff was incredibly contagious and filled me up for days and days.



photo ii: Alana, Jake with Jacob and Brenda



Jake and I both felt our hearts pour wide open for the children, for the teachers, and for everyone who makes Destiny Garden School what it is. They are our Kenyan family, and it's rare that a day goes by without me thinking of DGS, of the students, of Jacob and Brenda and Boaz and his family. We feel connected to them even when we are geographically so far away. I am incredibly inspired by the work they are doing, and I truly desire to go back in the next couple of years and bring others with me who haven't yet been there.



If you're looking for a powerful, meaningful, and heart-felt volunteer experience that will stay with you for decades to come, Destiny Garden School and the people who run it, are AMAZING. I highly recommend that you gift yourself the experience of volunteering with them. You may find that a decade later you return and feel more connected than ever. I just wish I could visit them and spend time there more frequently. While you'll be volunteering to help the school, to work with the kids, to raise money, and to utilize your skill sets in whatever way possible, I guarantee that you'll feel like the reward of the experience was a gift unmatched.



I'm forever grateful to know Destiny Garden School and to have experienced time there on 2 different occasions so far. It was very cool to see what had changed during that decade as they continue to grow the school and build and upgrade buildings. They are making such a difference in hundreds and hundreds of children's lives as well as the student's families and the entire surrounding community. Destiny Garden School has changed my life. It can change your life too.

Warmly,

Alana Hanks
Silt, CO

