



**Nice Place
Foundation**

Dream. Learn. Lead.

www.niceplacefoundation.org

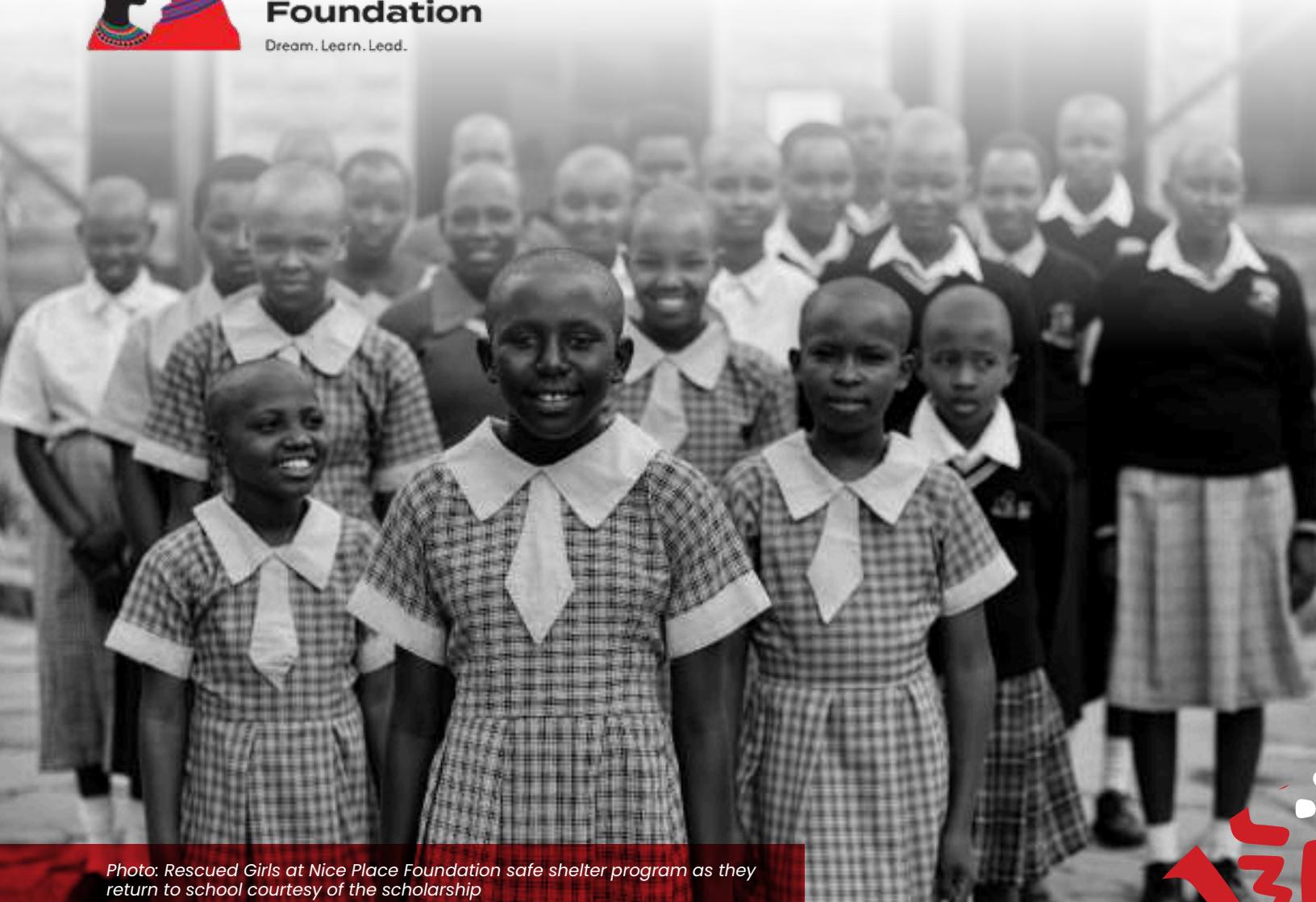


Photo: Rescued Girls at Nice Place Foundation safe shelter program as they return to school courtesy of the scholarship

Annual Report Jan - Dec 2024 Reflections

Facts and figures do not always change hearts, stories do

Nice Lengete, Founder Nice Place Foundation





Jane Nkoitai, the sixth-born in a family of 11 siblings (4 girls and 7 boys), was born in the small village of Samai in Kuku Ward of Loitokitok. Like other Maasai girls and women, Jane witnessed her sister painfully undergoing FGM. At the age of 13, her sister pleaded with women who were mocking her when she cried out in pain, as she was considered weak. *"I saw one lady, dressed well, Nice Nailantei, teaching girls. She was a Maasai girl with the same identity, and she had made it in life. She motivated me a lot," said Jane.*

One day, Jane's father informed her that her grandmother would come for her so she could undergo the cut (FGM) in order to be considered a woman. Jane was afraid and had no alternative and like Nice, Jane ran away from home, even though she had nowhere to go.

She went to school with nothing – no groceries and no toiletries including sanitary pads – and with no transport, she walked 60 kilometers, passing through rivers and forests with wild animals risking her life!

On reaching her school, Rombo Girls Secondary, she gathered the courage to explain her predicament to the School Principal who called Nice Lengete and Nice gave her refuge at Nice Place Foundation.

Jane was the first beneficiary of the Safe Shelter and Scholarship program, providing her with a safe home.

"The training made me strong and courageous. I can stand in front of people, teach, and advocate against these harmful practices. I can now share my story to teach others and help them, just as I was helped by Nice and Nice Place Foundation and other partners.

I am now an agent of change in my community thanks to Nice and her Nice Place Foundation!

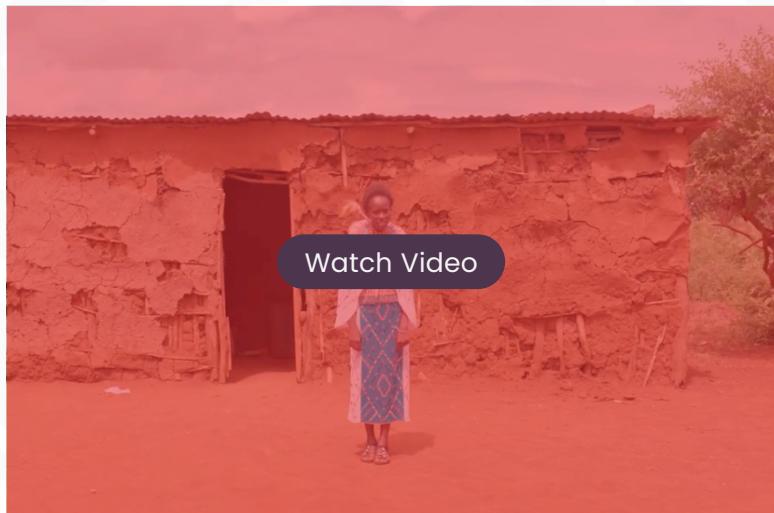
I can now say the future of other girls is bright, thanks to Nice Place Foundation, our donors, partners and Postcode Lottery!





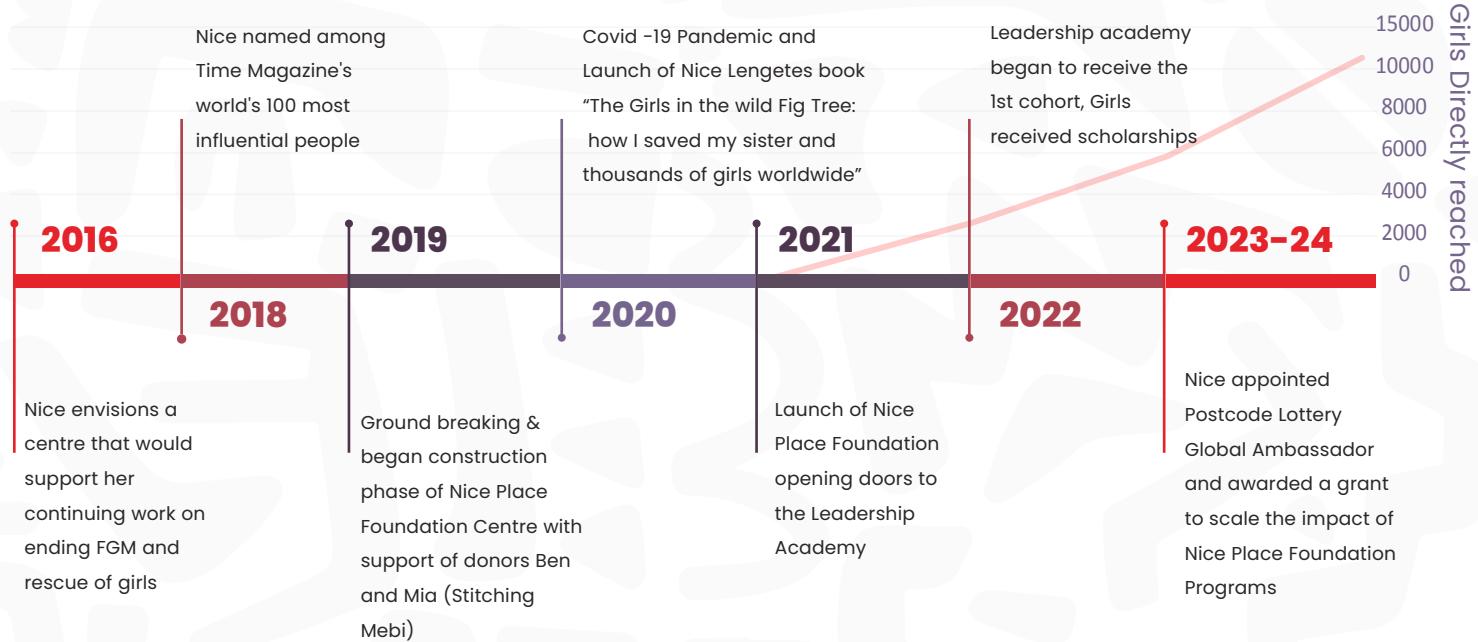
Jane is currently part of Nice Place Foundation scholarship program going on with her college studies pursuing a child protection and community development course. She intends to continue educating her peers and community to abandon the harmful practices using her story as a tool of leading change to promote equality and social justice. Through her 'Nice clubs' established at the schools within her community, she has become a champion of change to be emulated by other young girls.

Like Jane, many adolescent girls need a ladder through shelter, knowledge on sexual reproductive health and rights as well as education through secondary and university or Vocational Training as the ultimate equalizer, one girl at a time. This is the vision Nice Place foundation, a community facing woman-led grass-root organization and the Post Code Lottery are committed to



When you want to go fast, go alone; when you want to go far, go together, Africa Proverb.

Starting with community investments, to global partnerships, the journey and impact of Nice Place Foundation has embraced this philosophy.





The stories that tell the story....

Ann Lemayian:

A story of shelter, love and reintegration

9-year-old Ann Lemayian endured significant hardship due to her mother's severe neglect and substance abuse. Her mother, herself a



victim of inequalities and social injustices leading to substance abuse failed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for her. While Ann's two siblings were taken by their father, Ann was left behind despite knowing and loving her own father, who had divorced her mother.

When Ann's mother fell ill and was hospitalized, Ann was left under the care of her mother's former partner, who was similarly entangled in substance abuse which led concerned neighbors to bring this situation to

the attention of the children's officer of the Government of Kenya who works closely with Nice Place Foundation where Ann found a home, food, clothing, emotional support, and basic education and eventual re-integration with her father.

Faith Tekenet's Story:

A wife in exchange for alcohol

In her own words, "My name is Faith Tekenet. I am a 15-year-old Maasai girl from Ewuaso Kidong' village in Kajiado West. I am the second born in a family of eight children. Currently, I am a student at Rombo Girls Secondary School and a beneficiary of the Safe Shelter and Scholarship Program at Nice Place Foundation.

I completed my primary education in 2022, but unfortunately, my parents could not afford to raise my secondary school fees. My mother, an ornament artisan and trader in the local market and the sole family breadwinner bought food for the family. On the other hand, my dad is a substance abuser, and the little money he gets from his menial casual jobs is spent on alcohol. My grandmother, out of concern for my well-being, assumed full responsibility for me.

After completing my primary education, I had to go back to my parents' home, knowing that my grandmother had done the best she could to support me. Unfortunately, my parents were not in a position to pay my high school fees of 460 Euro a year and my father, in exchange for alcohol, offered me as a wife and I had no



choice but to get married forcibly at age 13. My childhood was taken away by a man older than me; I was devastated.

Two weeks into my marriage, my grandmother came to my rescue reporting the situation to the police which successfully led to the arrest of my father and my then 'husband' to answer in court.

It's the children's officer in Kajiado West who placed me at Nice Place Foundation where I found a home, safety, emotional support, basic needs, and many friends who are also survivors like me.

I am now in secondary school under a scholarship program and have the chance to compete with other girls thanks to Nice Place Foundation and Postcode Lottery.

My dreams of becoming a journalist to expose injustices will now come true. A Nice Place is a safe haven not only for me but also for other girls at the rescue center.

Photo: A happy Faith Tekenet (pictured) after

being enrolled at Rombo Girls secondary school courtesy of Nice Place Foundation safe shelter and scholarship program.

Felister Rapaine:



From fear to self-esteem

In her own words, "I'm Felister Rapaine, a student at Maasai National Polytechnic Kajiado, taking a Diploma in Child Care and Protection courtesy of a Nice Place Foundation Scholarship program. I just want to say thank you for the guidance and counseling provided to me when I was at Nice Place Foundation safe shelter. I'm grateful I healed from childhood traumas after being offered counseling, and I am now courageous with high self-esteem. I am confident in completing my education and pursuing my dream to take care of children in need just like me. This would not have been possible without Nice Place Foundation, the Postcode Lottery and donors who sponsored my education. Thank you."

*Leadership is not about titles or positions ,
its about one life influencing another',
Simon Sinek*

At a Nice Place Foundation, we believe in the Hummingbird Effect, using our community knowledge to trigger change at scale by converting young girls to leaders and creating a chain of influence.

So far, with the help of Postcode Lottery, our donors and partners, a total of 600 girls have been trained as leaders and ambassadors of Nice Place Foundation. These girls are now equipped to lead and advocate for change at the community level impacting thousands of others.





Nice Place
Foundation. Thank
you very much"

*Go to the people,
live with them, learn
from them, love
them, start with
what they have,
build with what they
have, but with the
best leaders, when
the work is done, the
task accomplished,
the people will say,
'We have done this
ourselves' Lao Tzu*

This change is ecosystem-wide as Hon. Martin Moshisho, Deputy Governor of Kajiado County, shared:

"In our culture, one of the elements that need to be shed off is any practice that holds back the girl child. Some traditions are deeply ingrained and retrogressive, but through Nice Place Foundation, these girls are reclaiming their dreams. They are learning and preparing to lead. For too long, the Maasai community has not fully embraced women's leadership, but through education, women are empowered to effect positive change. I am here to inspire the cohorts because we believe that both the county and national governments have a responsibility to support projects that positively impact development, such as Nice Place. The County Government of Kajiado recognizes and appreciates the efforts of our partners who have supported

The philosophy of change at Nice Place Foundation is in the value and power of communities and during the implementation period, Nice Place Foundation conducted **18 school outreaches** in secondary schools within the project area reaching a population of over 15,000 of students, teachers, parents and local leaders for community ownership for the change. This included more reaching young people with information aimed at ending harmful cultural practices, gender-based violence, ensuring gender equity, promoting social justice and emphasizing the importance of education. Through these outreaches, the team engaged students in discussions on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR), prevention of teenage pregnancies, drugs and substance abuse, school dropout prevention, and the significance of joining the leadership academy after completing secondary school.





Photo: ongoing school outreaches targeting adolescent girls with information in Kimana and Elerai girls respectively

Nice Health Clubs

As a model of local ownership, school established a Nice Health Clubs, with several students trained as Peer Educators to serve as Trainers of Trainers and continue sensitizing their peers. School leaders received further training on leadership and personal development at Nice Place, fully equipping them to support other students. A total of **15,000 students** benefited from information during these school outreaches, and ongoing mentoring will strengthen these clubs to ensure sustainability.

Education, the ultimate equalizer

Access to education is a human right but not every girl has that right. Our partnership with the Postcode Lottery and other donors has enabled over **300 girls** to receive Nice Place scholarships to access education at primary, secondary, vocational/tertiary levels with 45 students pursuing university education. These scholarships are coupled with mentorship and leadership training.



Photo: scholarship beneficiaries during school holiday at Nice Place foundation after a mentorship session

International Day of the Girl child

With the theme for 2024 'Girls vision for the future' we joined the world in commemorating the day in Kimana Girls by creating a platform where girls showcased their talents and reinforced our commitment to empower them realize their dreams, addressing their challenges to overcome education barriers. Close to 2,000 girls participated and got inspired to complete their education for future.





Large scale change starts inside out

At Nice Place Foundation, we collaborate closely with communities to identify sustainable solutions that address the underlying causes of the challenges faced by girls.

During the period of implementation, we conducted **28 community dialogues** targeting elders, morans (young men), and women's groups to discuss the impacts of harmful cultural practices on girls and women of reproductive age. These sessions also included training for women's groups on entrepreneurship, livelihood diversification, and initiatives to change socio-cultural norms while supporting girls' education. In total, the dialogue sessions reached 4,300 individuals both male and female.



Photo: community awareness and outreach

Sports as a tool for community change

Our community engagement extends to sports as a tool for change for young people.

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Nice Place Foundation in partnership with football Kenya federation organized the 'Nice Super Cup' soccer tournament, 2024, bringing together 23 youth teams from Kajiado. The objective was to actively involve men in efforts to end violence against women and girls, engage youth in raising awareness, and mobilize the community to combat GBV. Over **5000 youth** actively participated in the tournament, contributing to heightened awareness and increased male involvement in ending practices such as FGM/C, child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence. Use of media (local radio Mayian FM, mainstream media Citizen Television, Radio Jambo were used to reach a larger audience with information to end GBV.

Over 1 million people were reached through media engagement including social media.



Photo: 'Nice Super Cup 'Youth engagement in soccer tournament to end GBV during commemoration of 16 days of activism against GBV (2024)





Find the people where they are

Tuesday 6th February was a market day in Kajiado and also the International Day for End-FGM and we mobilized activities at the local market, reaching over 3,600 individuals and thousands others through media on local radio and TV to reach over **1,000,000** listeners and viewers across five counties in Kenya and southern Tanzania as well as additional outreach through social media platforms.



Photo: Assistant County commissioner, Kenney Changudo addressing parents in Kimana market during international day of zero tolerance to FGM, 2024 with girls raising awareness

In the words of the Assistant County Commissioner, Republic of Kenya, Kennedy Changudo

"The tools used to cut girls affect them negatively and should stop. We are here today to say no to FGM; girls should be empowered just like the boy child. Empowering a girl empowers society as a whole. It is crucial to empower the girl child; our constitution is very clear on gender equality. Early marriage is a criminal offense, and the government will take-action by the law. We have empowered women through leadership positions, and this is a step towards gender equality and we appreciate the efforts of Nice Place Foundation and partners in ending harmful practices that hold girls back."

In addition, during the Day of the African Child on June 16th, 2024, under the theme "Education for All Children in Africa: The Time is Now." We brought the community together and had children express their views through spoken words and poems, urging participants to listen to their voices. Approximately 1,280 individuals were reached with vital information during this event.





Partnership with Ajira digital

A 3 months apprenticeship program that provided young girls with skills and opportunities to thrive in the digital economy through online-enabled jobs such as email marketing, content creation, graphic design, and web development.

A total of 45 girls benefited.

The future is as bright as the hopes of the girls of Nice place Foundation

In order to build sustainability at Nice Place

Foundation, we have established a sustainable five-acre agricultural farm using irrigation from natural underground streams which produces organic vegetables all year-round, demonstrating commitment to sustainable farming practices.

Our next plan is to develop a Nice Place Eco-Lodge to take advantage of our location next to the tourism circuit of Amboseli National Park and Mt. Kilimanjaro. This initiative aims to not only serve as a vacation destination but also generate funds to empower girls and young women, provide a hands-on training in hospitality and ensure long-term sustainability.





Nice Place Farm as a sustainability venture

In order to build sustainability at Nice Place Foundation, we have established a sustainable five-acre agricultural farm using irrigation from natural underground streams which produces organic vegetables all year-round, demonstrating commitment to sustainable farming practices. Throughout the year 2024, the team utilized the land to produce assorted vegetables, maize, beans, pumpkins, green grams, tomatoes enough to feed the girls with a spill over to 2025. The surplus produced were taken to the nearest Kimana market for sale.

The farm used both piped water from the

center to a tank directly to the farm and flow to water as irrigation as well as utilize rainfed during the short rains (November and December) and long rains for March-May. Plans are underway to drill a borehole and install drip irrigation (courtesy of our donors) to ensure there is sufficient water throughout the year to produce the food for the girls.

The farm had great outcomes including:

- Cutting down on the cost of vegetables by at least 80%
- Improving the nutritional value for the girls
- Act as a learning for the girls imparting them with skills on agricultural as well as environmental conservation



Photos: Girls trained to monitor and harvest kales in the farm (left) and cabbages getting towards harvesting





Reflections from the Founder and Postcode Global Ambassador, Nice Lengete

Redeeming shattered dreams, impacting lives of girls and young women together with Postcode Lottery, our donors and esteemed partners

As Founder of Nice Place Foundation, it's the greatest honour of my life to be the International Postcode Lottery Ambassador and to have an opportunity to change the lives of millions of girls using my story and in partnership with you, our donors and esteemed partners.

Nice Place Foundation is on a journey to transform the lives of adolescent girls and young women who are at risk of or have experienced FGM/C, child marriage, and other forms of gender-based violence. By providing safety, protecting their rights to education, and empowering their voices and agency, we aim to ensure they lead dignified lives. Those whose dreams were shattered due to harmful cultural practices, educational inequalities, poverty, and patriarchal beliefs are finding

redemption at our safe center. This would not be possible without the support from the Postcode Lottery family, our donors and esteemed partners.

At Nice Place Foundation, we believe we can work together with you to break the cycle of human rights abuses, end the silence of those affected, provide safety and comfort, nurture talents, and build skills for future leaders and ambassadors of change.

I wish to thank the Postcode Lottery, our donors and esteemed partners for the support in making our work at Nice Place Foundation possible, ensuring our girls and young women can indeed dream, learn, and lead! With you by our side, we know that even as we do this work ourselves, we will never walk alone.





Thank you Ben & Mia, our Nice Place Foundation Family, we are forever grateful!

Photo: Ben & Mia with Nice Place Leadership Academy Girls during graduation (July 26, 2024)





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Foundation**

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Thank you

Postcode Lottery

Amref Flying Doctors

Stitching Mebi

Stitching Saphir

Ajira Digital

Safaricom Foundation

Individual donors & partners