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Newsletter



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Empowering Healing: GHRM's Plans for a Medical Clinic

Wherever there are girls in need, you will find **Gladwell Wachira** hard at work. A champion of the girls and young women of Kenya, her efforts have saved hundreds of girls from the injustices and dangers facing them. Always looking to improve the lives of her people with new ideas, she has recently unveiled her latest project: **a brand-new local medical clinic**. Gladwell was inspired by the hardships she has observed for new mothers, and the clinic will provide resources to aid in their struggles. Her vision also includes providing a safe space for trauma victims and health resources for the community.

Gladwell's inspirations

The initial idea of this project came to Gladwell in her younger years as a rescuer, where she witnessed firsthand the dangers facing new mothers. Numerous escapes and rescues resulted in her performing deliveries in extremely adverse conditions. **"Helping with deliveries in the middle of the forest, that's what has been pushing me to want a clinic,"** she explained in a recent interview. **"We need to see those babies come out in the healthiest way possible."** A sanitary and well-equipped clinic could make this dream a reality.

The Clinic as a Safe Space

Ambitions for this clinic go beyond maternity services—with the creativity and passion that she has always exhibited in her previous projects, Gladwell plans to use this to combat a host of other health threats to her people. One of these threats is the emotional trauma that burdens many of the girls she works with. **"The clinic will for one help us deal with the gender-based violence cases, because they need counseling, they need a safe space,"** Gladwell explained. Mental health presents a very real and often overlooked danger, and the counseling and therapy provided by this clinic will help to transform the lives of these victims.

Outreach to the Community

With over **10,000** people in the **17** surrounding Namasare villages and no other clinics within **35 kilometers**, Gladwell's vision does not stop at Girls Hope Rescue Mission; she also plans to open parts of the clinic to the public. **"We will also deal with the community,"** she explained enthusiastically. **"There are so many cases like malaria where people die because of not getting the right treatment at the right time."** This will save and improve the lives of countless individuals who otherwise would not have access to the care they need.

A 2020 study by the World Health Organization found a mortality rate of 500 deaths in every 100,000 births in Kenya, nearly twice that of the global average.

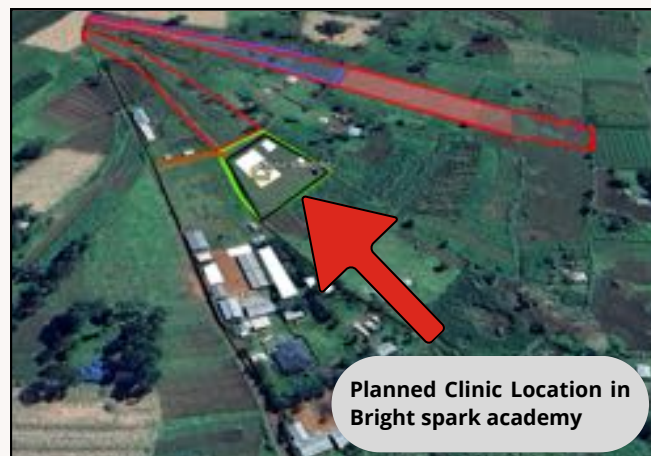
After building and opening their new school in about two months, the Girls Hope Rescue Mission has proved its efficiency in tackling projects of this magnitude. The clinic is projected to open in **early 2025**. Once this project is complete, it will become a building block towards the amazing future Gladwell envisions for both the girls and her community at large.



Clinic planning

The nearest medical support is over an hour away by car when the roads are passable. In 2024, Bright Spark Academy lost one of their teachers to untreated Malaria due to no access to medical treatment. Domestic violence against wives and children often results in horrendous unattended medical needs. Because of these issues, **GHRM plans to build a medical clinic**, which will be built on land owned by the Girls Hope Rescue Center. A new access road will be built; a secure compound fence will be installed; and nursing quarters, toilets, and shower facilities will also be provided.

See the location map on the right for details.



Expansions of Bright Spark Academy and its Second Year

Opening for the second year in **January 2025**, Bright Spark Academy has been a haven for the girls and young women living at GHRM, as well as the local village children. Within their first year of opening, about **500 children** were attending BSA. the school has provided housing, clothing, medicine, counseling, support, and education. Gladwell's goal is to empower students through education and skill development. Last year, GHRM received donations that facilitated developments such as more dorms and housing, more security, more classrooms, and improved dining. Brand new uniforms are now available as well.

Future Plans

The next steps GHRM is taking to expand Bright Spark Academy include a new curriculum and new amenities. The school looks forward to adding facilities and programs for **grades 7, 8, and 9** during 2025, which will allow children to go to school without having to make a **5 km** trip. The new curriculum will include farming, vocational, and computer science training. New toilets and showers, as well as teacher's offices.



New Bright Spark Academy Uniform

StarLink

As of April 2024, an internet connection through a Starlink satellite has been installed at the compound. This new **125-megabyte-per-second** connection has allowed Bright Spark Academy students access to unlimited data with little latency.

Recent Student Success with Starlink



Kevin (pictured on the left) was rescued by Gladwell when he was 11 years old and now attends one of the top boys' schools in Kenya. He and Gladwell discussed how previously students had to **"access libraries and sit at the feet of expert mentors"** to be able to learn what they now can learn online with ease. Through the Pathway program at Brigham Young University and the new StarLink addition, he and all the other students now have access to vast amounts of information and knowledge through the internet to further their education. In **2025** BYU Pathways will be available to all those who wish to join.

