



**MUSLIMS WOMEN  
ADVANCEMENT OF  
RIGHTS AND PROTECTION**

# NEWSLETTER

*February Edition*



## **OUR VISION**

A just society where women and girls realize, embrace and enjoy their full rights and dignity.

## **OUR MISSION**

Actualize and advance women's and girls' social economic, legal and civil rights

## **OUR MOTTO**

We educate women because it is smart. We empower women because it changes the world.

**2026**

*Produced by the Communications  
Department*

# Message from the Executive Director

## Our Thematic Pillars

- Women Peace and Security
- Women Participation in Leadership and Governance
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Women and Girls
- Institutional Strengthening and Growth

### “Dear Partners, Friends, and Supporters,

February was a month of growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact for the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP). Under the COSME Project, we successfully conducted Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions in Takaungu, Chonyi, and Dzikunze in Kilifi County in partnership with Plan International Kenya and Nawiri Africa. These sessions created vibrant platforms for community members, especially young women and men engaged in Gender Justice Journey and ecosystem restoration initiatives, to exchange knowledge, reflect on social norms, and strengthen their collective leadership in advancing gender equality and environmental sustainability. Seeing communities learn from one another and take ownership of change reaffirms our belief that sustainable development must be locally driven.

We are also proud to share encouraging progress from Lamu County. The re-establishment of a court in Lamu East, championed by the Lamu East Court Users Committee—of which MWARP is a committed member—is now underway. This milestone represents a significant step toward enhancing access to justice for communities in Lamu East, particularly for women and vulnerable groups who often face barriers in seeking legal redress. Access to justice is not just a service; it is a foundation for dignity, protection, and accountability.

In our continued efforts to prevent Gender-Based Violence, MWARP conducted a two-day Kilifi County Social Media Training in Malindi, equipping local influencers with skills in ethical and survivor-centered storytelling. The training focused on responsible digital advocacy, safeguarding survivor dignity, and amplifying prevention messaging. We are delighted that these influencers have since been actively sharing information on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) prevention and highlighting the realities and resilience of Adolescent Girls and Young Women across Kilifi County. Harnessing digital platforms for positive social change remains a powerful tool in shaping safer communities.

Additionally, MWARP facilitated a two-day Evidence-Based Approach Training on climate justice and action under the COSME Project. This training strengthened participants' capacity to use data, research, and community evidence to inform climate advocacy and restoration efforts. By grounding climate action in evidence and lived experiences, we are ensuring that solutions are not only impactful but also just and inclusive.

As we reflect on this month's achievements, we are reminded that progress is made possible through collaboration. We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners, community champions, and supporters who continue to stand with us in advancing gender justice, climate action, and access to justice. Your partnership fuels our shared vision of empowered communities where women and girls thrive with dignity and opportunity.

Together, we move forward.”

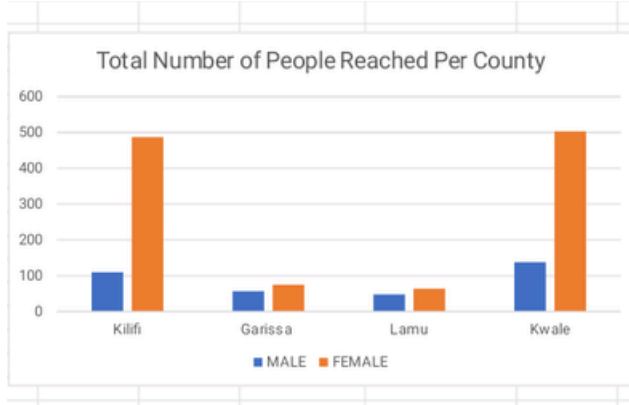
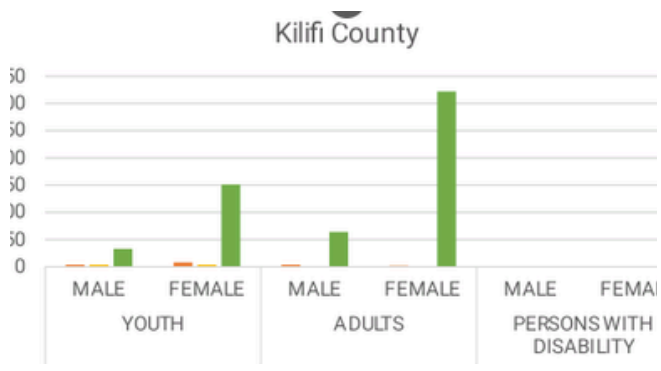
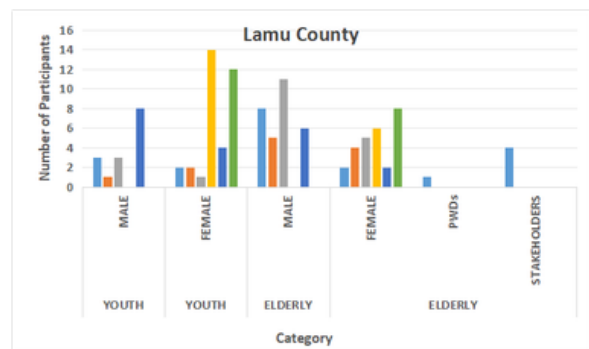
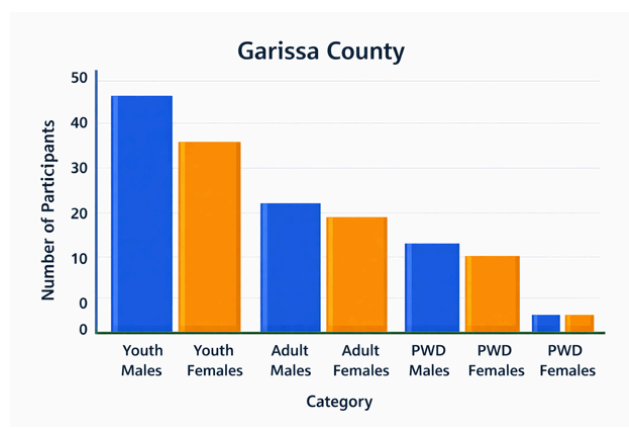
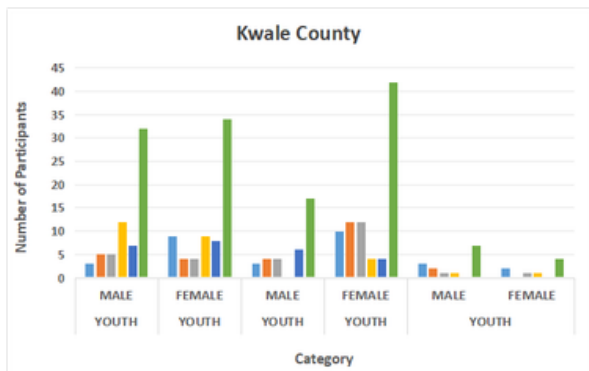
**Rahma Gulamu, Shujaa 2025**

Executive Director

**Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection**

# Reaching New Heights: February Engagement Highlights

In February, MWARP's programs continued to create meaningful impact across Lamu, Kilifi, Garissa, and Kwale Counties. Through our diverse activities, from skills development and financial literacy trainings to advocacy and community dialogues, we engaged communities, empowering women, caregivers, and youth with knowledge, practical skills, and platforms to amplify their voices. Each interaction strengthened community connections and reinforced our commitment to advancing gender equality, climate action, and civic participation.



# THEMATIC PILLAR

## 1: WOMEN PEACE

### AND SECURITY



#### **From Dialogue to Commitment: Kwale Youth Speak, Leaders Listen**

On 5th February 2026, the energy in the room was unmistakable. Young people from Kwale County gathered not just to talk, but to be heard. MWARP convened a high-level policy dialogue with MCAs under the Kujenga Amani Project.

With confidence and clarity, the youth presented a bold Policy Brief on peacebuilding, one grounded in lived realities. They spoke about land disputes tearing families apart. They highlighted the pain of SGBV survivors with limited safe spaces. They addressed the growing concern of youth crime and substance abuse. They challenged intergenerational exclusion and called out tribal and religious tensions that continue to divide communities.

And this time, leaders listened. MCAs responded with concrete commitments:

Supporting youth-led land succession guidelines to reduce conflict.

Budgeting for two SGBV safe houses to protect survivors.

Rolling out the Biashara Fund to expand youth economic opportunities.

Transforming MCA offices into youth information and opportunity hubs.

The dialogue proved that when young people are given space at the decision-making table, solutions begin to take shape.



#### **Voices Rising at Lamu Fort: Highlighting Unpaid Care Work**

On 12th February 2026, the historic walls of Lamu Fort witnessed more than just a gathering, they held space for reflection, courage, and commitment to community transformation.

MWARP convened a powerful Religious Leaders Dialogue, bringing together faith leaders united by one purpose: shaping a more just, peaceful, and inclusive Lamu County.

As the conversations unfolded, it became clear that this was not an ordinary meeting. It was a moment of truth and shared responsibility.

Discussions centered on:

- ◆ Social protection
- ◆ Gender-responsive approaches
- ◆ Peacebuilding and inclusion

In a powerful shift from dialogue to action, leaders reflected on an often-unspoken issue within communities, the unequal burden of unpaid care work. Together, they explored how places of worship can become platforms for raising awareness about redistributing care responsibilities within households, promoting balance, and affirming shared accountability.

By the close of the dialogue, collaboration had deepened, and a renewed sense of purpose filled the room. Faith leaders left not just informed, but inspired, ready to use their influence to nurture peaceful, inclusive spaces and champion positive social change across Lamu County.



# THEMATIC PILLAR

## 2: WOMEN

### PARTICIPATION IN

### LEADERSHIP AND

### GOVERNANCE



#### **Airwaves of Change: Taking Rights & Education Advocacy to the Community**

On 13th February, the voices of advocacy echoed across the airwaves as MWARP, through the RITAI Project, hosted a live radio talk show on Risala FM.

The conversation was more than just a broadcast, it was a bridge between information and opportunity. Listeners tuned in as MWARP unpacked key issues around rights and education advocacy, emphasizing the importance of empowering young people with knowledge and access to opportunities.

The talk show also created excitement around the upcoming Career Day Event, highlighting how such platforms guide learners in making informed academic and professional choices. Through engaging discussions and call-ins, the session allowed community members to ask questions, share experiences, and better understand their role in supporting youth education.

#### **Where Voices Met Action in Garissa**

From 9th–11th February 2026, MWARP Garissa Office, under the RITAI Project and in collaboration with the County Gender Department, turned conversation into action during a three-day Community Engagement and Policy Dialogue in Garissa Township. Community members from Township, Waberi, Galbet, and Iftin wards gathered in one space, each carrying lived experiences, questions, and hope. The dialogue created a rare and open platform to unpack access to information, strengthen citizen–duty bearer communication channels, and deepen understanding of social accountability, while boldly confronting GBV and FGM through policy-focused discussions.

As stories were shared, so were solutions. Representatives from the Garissa Police Gender Desk, County Health Department, CSOs, and Human Rights Defenders stepped forward to demystify reporting procedures, clarify survivor support services, and outline referral pathways and legal protections. What began as dialogue gradually transformed into collective resolve—community members left not only informed, but empowered with knowledge on where to report, how to seek support, and how to hold systems accountable.

#### **Before the Budget Speaks, Citizens Speak**

On 14th February 2025, MWARP, in collaboration with the Kwale County Community of Practice (KCOP), brought together Civil Society Organizations for a Pre-Public Participation Forum to review the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). The meeting created a space for honest reflection on the FY 2025/2026 performance, as well as projections for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028, budget ceilings, and sector priorities. As participants navigated through the figures, concerns emerged around inconsistencies in reporting, unrealistic revenue targets, complex technical language, and the county's heavy reliance on national government allocations.

Yet the dialogue was not only about raising red flags, it was about shaping solutions. CSOs proposed strengthening digital revenue collection through EPR receipts to reduce leakages, simplifying the CFSP to make it more accessible to citizens, and exploring alternative financing options such as Office Development Assistance (ODA) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). The forum reaffirmed that meaningful public participation begins before decisions are made, ensuring budgets are transparent, practical, and responsive to community needs.



# THEMATIC PILLAR

## 2: WOMEN

### PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



#### Seeds of Ambition: A Day of Inspiration in Garissa

On 14th February 2026, the MWARP Garissa Office stepped into a space buzzing with youthful ambition and possibility at the Career Path and Youth Entrepreneurship Forum organized by the Garissa County Students and Youth Association in collaboration with The National Polytechnic. The day was lively with curiosity as young people engaged educators, entrepreneurs, and development partners in honest conversations about career choices, skills development, and the bold leap into self-employment. Stories were shared, questions were asked, and dreams felt a little more attainable as practical pathways to success were unpacked.

For MWARP, the day was more than participation, it was a reaffirmation of purpose. Being honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation reflected years of walking alongside young people through advocacy, mentorship, and community engagement across Garissa County. As the forum closed, there was a shared sense that the seeds planted in those conversations would grow into businesses, careers, and empowered voices shaping the county's future.



#### Lungalunga CSOs Shape the County Budget

On February 16th, 2026, MWARP convened a Pre-Public Participation dialogue with CSOs from Pongwe Kikoneni, Vanga, Dzombo, and Mwereni Wards in Lungalunga Sub-County to review the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP). Participants voiced concerns over last year's underperformance, unrealistic revenue targets, heavy reliance on national funds, and the complex technical language that made the document hard to follow. The conversation was animated, with CSOs sharing firsthand experiences of how these challenges affect local planning and service delivery.

As the dialogue progressed, attention shifted to solutions. CSOs recommended simplifying the CFSP language, digitalizing revenue collection using EPR receipts, and prioritizing high-return investments to improve county revenue. By actively engaging in this discussion, the participants not only highlighted critical gaps but also helped shape a more transparent, inclusive, and effective approach to Lungalunga's budget planning.



#### Community Insights Shape NADCO 10-Point Agenda

At the Mokowe Command Centre, MWARP participated in the Public Participation Forum on the 10-Point Agenda National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) Report, bringing together government officials, MCAs, CSOs, and community members. The forum focused on listening to the people and gathering practical inputs to strengthen the report's implementation.

Key outcomes emerged: stakeholders identified gaps, proposed actionable recommendations, and prioritized community-driven solutions to enhance governance, accountability, and public service delivery. The forum successfully translated diverse voices into concrete steps, ensuring the 10-Point Agenda reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities it is meant to serve.



# THEMATIC PILLAR 3: SEXUAL & GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



## Empowered Voices: Communities Advancing Gender and Conservation

From 24th–26th February 2026, MWARP, alongside Plan International Kenya and Nawiri Africa, brought together passionate community groups in Kilifi County for Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions. Held in Takaungu, Chonyi, and Dzikuze, these gatherings provided a vibrant platform where participants could openly share their experiences in the Gender Justice Journey, mangrove protection, and forest restoration. Stories flowed freely—about how local initiatives revived degraded areas, empowered women in leadership, and strengthened community resilience.

The sessions went beyond discussions, turning lessons into actionable insights. Participants left with practical strategies to tackle challenges, replicate successful approaches, and deepen collaboration. By exchanging real-world experiences, they strengthened their collective impact, ensuring that forest conservation and gender equality efforts continue to grow sustainably in their communities.



## Amplifying Voices: Kilifi Influencers Step Up

From 19th–20th February, Malindi came alive with energy and creativity as MWARP hosted the Kilifi County Social Media Influencers Training under the TIMIZA Project. Over two intensive days, local influencers delved beyond the basics of content creation, learning to tell stories that spark change. They explored how to highlight the experiences of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) and share critical messages on preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), ensuring their content resonated with audiences and drove meaningful conversations. By the end of the training, participants were no longer just content creators—they became storytellers with purpose. Equipped with skills in platform-specific strategies, audience engagement, and data-driven insights, these influencers are now ready to amplify voices that often go unheard. Their newfound ability to translate insights into impactful social media campaigns promises a stronger, more informed community, where stories of resilience, advocacy, and prevention reach far beyond Malindi's borders.

## From Learning to Earning: Women Transforming Livelihoods.

At the bustling Lamu Waterfront, MWARP's Skills Development Training under the Scaling Care Innovation Project came alive with energy and ambition. Women and caregivers gathered, eager to enhance their livelihoods, immersing themselves in practical lessons on basic entrepreneurship, value addition, and hands-on livelihood skills. The atmosphere was electric as participants not only learned new techniques but also exchanged experiences, creating a sense of solidarity and shared purpose among small business owners.

By the end of the session, participants were walking away with more than just knowledge, they gained actionable strategies to improve their businesses, from refining products to managing resources effectively. The training sparked meaningful conversations about the day-to-day challenges of running small enterprises, and together, the women explored solutions that could turn obstacles into opportunities. Many left inspired, confident, and ready to implement their new skills to grow their businesses and strengthen their economic independence.



## Empowering Women to Master Their Finances

On 11th February 2026, MWARP brought a transformative Financial Literacy Training to life. The room buzzed with energy as women entrepreneurs and caregivers gathered, eager to gain practical tools to take charge of their financial journeys. Through interactive sessions on financial planning, record keeping, profit calculation, and accessing credit, participants gained hands-on knowledge that immediately felt relevant to their daily lives and businesses.

By the end of the training, the impact was clear: women left equipped not just with financial skills but with renewed confidence in managing their enterprises. Many shared plans to streamline their bookkeeping, better calculate profits, and confidently approach financial institutions for credit. Beyond numbers, the session fostered a sense of empowerment, enabling these women to envision a future where their financial decisions drive stability, growth, and independence for themselves and their families.

# THEMATIC PILLAR 3: SEXUAL & GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



## **Catalyzing Change: Youth Leading Gender and Climate Action**

Over three dynamic days, MWARP brought together dedicated changemakers from Kilifi and Kwale Counties for the Evidence-Based Advocacy for Gender and Climate Leadership Training under the COSME Project. The training created a vibrant space where participants connected, exchanged ideas, and forged lasting networks with other organizations committed to gender equality and climate justice. Through collaborative sessions, they explored practical strategies for advocacy, strengthened their climate leadership skills, and learned how to engage communities using evidence-driven approaches.

By the end of the training, participants were empowered with the tools to influence policies and lead inclusive climate initiatives in their communities. Many left with actionable plans to implement advocacy campaigns, drive local climate solutions, and amplify the voices of women and youth in decision-making spaces. The workshop didn't just build knowledge, it nurtured a movement of informed, confident leaders ready to turn gender and climate goals into tangible community impact.



# THEMATIC AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND GROWTH



## **Reflecting on Impact: Voices from the Amkeni Wakenya Project**

In a spirited gathering in Kwale County, MWARP convened a Focus Group Discussion to evaluate the journey of the Amkeni Wakenya Project, funded by UNDP Kenya. The room buzzed with energy as Members of the County Assembly, project beneficiaries, and county budget stakeholders came together to share their experiences. Stories flowed of real change, community members spoke of improved access to services, stronger civic engagement, and tangible progress in local initiatives. The dialogue highlighted the successes of the project, revealing how inclusive participation and targeted interventions had created meaningful impact across the county.

The discussion also served as a critical mirror, helping participants assess areas needing improvement. Stakeholders identified gaps in implementation, challenges faced by beneficiaries, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration in future projects. From these reflections, practical recommendations emerged, aimed at shaping more effective programming and influencing policy engagement. By the end of the session, it was clear that the Amkeni Wakenya Project had not only delivered results but had also sparked a culture of learning, accountability, and continuous improvement among all involved.

## **Bringing Justice Closer to Lamu East**

MWARP accompanied the Registrar of the Magistrates' Court and her team on an impactful visit to Faza, where they engaged directly with members of the Lamu East Court Users Committee. The focus of the dialogue was clear: the re-establishment of a Kadhis Court in Lamu East. For community members, accessing justice often meant long journeys, high costs, and delayed hearings. This initiative, championed by the Court Users Committee with MWARP's active involvement, promises to transform that reality.

By restoring the Kadhis Court locally, residents of Lamu East will now have justice within reach. Cases can be heard faster, travel costs will be reduced, and the overall efficiency of legal processes will improve. Beyond convenience, this move empowers the community, ensuring that legal services are more accessible, affordable, and responsive to the needs of the people, reinforcing the principle that justice should truly be close to home.



# STORIES OF CHANGE



### Communities Leading Change Through Peer-to-Peer Learning

Under the COSME Project, a powerful wave of transformation swept through Takaungu, Chonyi, and Dzikunze in Kilifi County. In partnership with Plan International Kenya and Nawiri Africa, we successfully conducted Peer-to-Peer Learning Sessions that brought together community members, especially young women and men participating in the Gender Justice Journey and ecosystem restoration initiatives.

What began as structured learning sessions quickly evolved into vibrant spaces of reflection, dialogue, and inspiration. Participants openly exchanged experiences, challenged harmful social norms, and shared practical strategies for promoting gender equality while protecting their environment. Young people who once saw themselves as beneficiaries began embracing their roles as change-makers and community leaders.

Through these engagements, conservation efforts became more inclusive, and conversations around gender justice grew stronger and more practical. Participants demonstrated increased confidence in advocating for equitable roles at home and within community restoration initiatives. The sessions strengthened collaboration among local groups, reinforcing the understanding that environmental sustainability and gender equality are interconnected.

Most importantly, the communities took ownership of the process. By learning from one another, they built solutions grounded in local realities and shared experiences. This reaffirmed a powerful truth: sustainable development is most impactful when it is locally driven, community-led, and rooted in collective leadership.



### Harnessing Digital Voices to Prevent SGBV in Kilifi County

In Kilifi County, digital platforms are becoming powerful tools for social transformation. Through a two-day Social Media Training held in Malindi, the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) equipped local influencers with practical skills on ethical, survivor-centered storytelling to strengthen efforts in preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

The training emphasized responsible digital advocacy, safeguarding survivor dignity, and crafting prevention messages that inform without causing harm. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions on how to amplify community voices while upholding respect, consent, and confidentiality when sharing sensitive stories.

The impact has already begun to unfold. Trained influencers are now actively using their online platforms to share accurate information on SGBV prevention, challenge harmful norms, and spotlight both the realities and resilience of Adolescent Girls and Young Women across Kilifi County. Their content not only raises awareness but also encourages community dialogue and collective responsibility in addressing violence.

By transforming social media spaces into channels of education and advocacy, MWARP has strengthened a network of informed digital champions committed to building safer communities. This initiative demonstrates that when influencers are equipped with the right knowledge and values, their voices can drive meaningful and lasting social change.

**MSITUPIGE!**  
Nafunene, Nafuelewane

**STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

CREA  
Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection

### Restoring Access to Justice in Lamu East

In a significant milestone for the people of Lamu County, the long-awaited re-establishment of a court in Lamu East is now underway. This achievement follows dedicated advocacy efforts by the Lamu East Court Users Committee, of which the Muslim Women Advancement of Rights and Protection (MWARP) is a committed and active member.

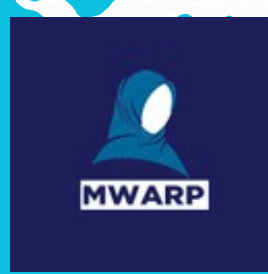
For years, residents of Lamu East, especially women and vulnerable groups—have faced immense challenges in accessing legal services. Long distances, financial constraints, and procedural barriers often denied many the opportunity to seek justice. The absence of a local court not only delayed case resolution but also discouraged survivors of gender-based violence and other injustices from pursuing legal redress.

The re-establishment of the court marks a transformative step toward bringing justice closer to the people. It signals renewed hope for timely case handling, improved protection mechanisms, and strengthened accountability systems within the community. For women and marginalized groups, this development means safer reporting spaces, reduced logistical burdens, and a stronger assurance that their voices will be heard.

This milestone affirms a powerful truth: access to justice is not merely a service, it is a foundation for dignity, protection, and equality. As the court becomes operational, it stands as a testament to what collaborative advocacy and community commitment can achieve.

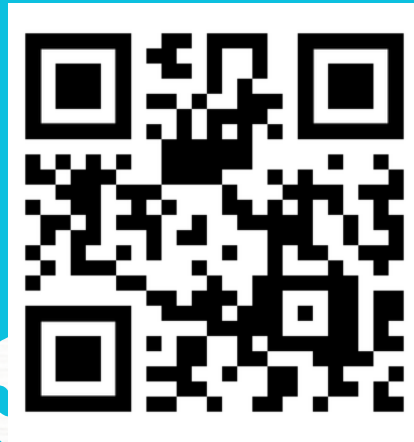
# NEWSLETTER

## ISSUE 2



### Follow Us

For more information  
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*Produced by the Communications  
Department*