



WELCOME TO

PAAV-GITOMBO COMMUNITY PRIMARY & JUNIOR SCHOOL

10 Great Years Making a Difference

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. -- 1 Thessalonians 5:18

ABOUT PAAV-GITOMBO

PAAV-Gitombo is a Christian nonprofit school located in Kiambu County, Kenya, under PAAV-International Ministries, a non-profit organization in Denver, Colorado.

Mission : Bringing Hope and Opportunity to the children of Gitombo and the surrounding areas through Christ-centered education and transformational ministries

Vision : To have future godly and educated leaders guaranteeing healthy families that positively impact the community

Motto : **“More than academics.”**

A MESSAGE FROM WANJI, THE FOUNDER

PAAV is the result of a thought that came upon me in 2003, when an organization presented at Denver Seminary where I went to school, and asked the students to consider child sponsorship. I laughed to myself and wondered which of the children in my village in Kenya would be singled out as a likely candidate. I thought loudly “The whole village needs to be adopted!” and wrote down “Project Adopt a Village”, a term that would later encompass my vision for Gitombo B, the small village where I grew up.

My father had always urged me to return to Gitombo and make a difference. It was only after his death in September 2008 that the vision crystallized and I began to see a way forward. This would be by “adopting” the community, empowering the people to ultimately transform the whole community. That kind of intentional community focus could only happen with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission statement to offer Christ-centered education,” clarifies that well. Through great faith the vision has come to fruition. With the help of donations from our US friends and our parents paying very discounted school fees, a lot has been achieved. Together we can achieve a lot!

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken Ecclesiastes 4: 12

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



“Other people helped me to get where I am and I feel compelled to make a difference in the lives of others.”

“Don’t forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.” (Hebrews 13:16).

Wanjiru Mukunga

Founder & President

PAAV International Ministries, Colorado

PAAV-GITOMBO FAITH JOURNEY

In 2010, Wanjiru traveled from the US to Kenya and called the Gitombo Community together. The community agreed on a three-tier focus to break the cycle of poverty. These three were:

1. Water.
2. Education.
3. Microfinance

Wanjiru struggled with how to start working on the above projects but God is faithful! Ten years later, through PAAV all have been tackled. Wanjiru returned to Denver, where she worked for Christian Living Communities (CLC). She started sharing her vision with her friends, who were very supportive of this initiative.

Wanjiru gave all these plans to God and there were some obvious DIVINE APPOINTMENTS. To start with, a non-profit had to be formed and Wanjiru didn't know how to go about it. However, one day, while at a CLC management staff retreat, in Keystone, Colorado, Wanjiru met Andy Stewart. As they introduced themselves and talked, Wanjiru learned that besides his work, Andy had a ministry in Uganda and was in the process of forming a nonprofit. God was at work. Following subsequent meetings, Andy took in Wanjiru's PAAV vision under the new True Impact Ministries (TI) with one vital condition: that nothing would be done before Andy and his TI team visited Gitombo. They visited Gitombo on their way to Uganda. Their visit energized the community! Water and Education were again highlighted as priority needs. A sponsorship program was started for children to attend boarding schools. The program started with 10 children from very poor families.

With water being the first urgent need, Wanjiru and her friends started to raise support. Sufficient funds were raised and an 820-foot borehole was done. In August of 2013, the community celebrated the water with ice cream, a gift that was donated by Dorothy, a godly woman, in her final days of life, who wanted her last gift, on earth, to go to the Gitombo Water project.

After the joy of piped water, Wanjiru and the community proposed starting a school. When she went back to Denver, she shared with her friends the joy of the community water and the idea of starting a school in Gitombo. In 2014, Wanjiru started the process of forming a non-profit organization she named as per her initial vision: Project Adopt A Village. PAAV International Ministries was registered in Colorado as a non-profit organization. One day a friend called Wanjiru and told her that her deceased aunt had left her \$2,000.00 to be given to a charity of choice! That donation was used to put up the mabati shack which became the first school in Gitombo B. Upon completion, three children were available to attend and a teacher was hired. However, the teacher often left the children in class while she went out looking for other children to join the school because more children meant that she would be guaranteed a salary! Upon hearing this, Glea, one of Wanjiru's friends, and known in the community, said she would pay the teacher's salary! The teacher stayed in class and more children joined in. Thanks to Mr Kamau Gathu who superintended this school project, together with Wanjiru's family.

At the end of 2015, the school had 25 children ready to move to Grade 1, but it faced a significant challenge: there was no land for expansion. The school did not have permission to build on the county-owned property designated for a water project. The team that gathered at Mr. Wahinya Gathu's home in 2015 was tasked with finding a way to accommodate the 25 children.

Divine Intervention: God provided a solution where there seemed to be none! Remarkably, Mr. Kamau Gathu learned that a property on the western side of Gitombo B was for sale. This property included a large house that had been abandoned for many years. However, the asking price was astronomical, leading Wanjiru to initially dismiss the idea of purchasing it. The breakthrough came through her mother, who visited the property and encouraged Wanjiru to reconsider. She pointed to the house and said, "There is your school."

When the owner found out the property was intended for a school, he became excited and decided to sell the land specifically for this purpose, bypassing his assigned brokers. Wanjiru returned to Denver, trusting her family to manage the sale, though she wasn't sure how everything would work out. Back in Denver, she convened the PAAV Board, and they unanimously agreed to support the proposal—a significant step of faith! Fortunately, within a short time, the \$50,000 needed was raised, and renovations began. The projects were extensive and costly, taking considerable time. The community rallied together to clear and clean both the interior and exterior of the deserted house. God proved faithful. By January 2016, the school successfully relocated to the newly named SOMA House.

Over the years, various developments have taken place, including the digging of pit latrines, the construction of semi-permanent classrooms, activity rooms, storage facilities, and a concrete water storage tank for rainwater harvesting. New toilets were built, transitioning from mud-pit latrines to Asian-style water closets and urinals. Additional land was acquired, and teamwork flourished!

The school has grown significantly, hiring more teachers from other counties and the surrounding areas. It is now registered as PAAV-Gitombo Community Primary & Junior School, serving 185 children from Pre-primary to Grades 1-8, along with 25 sponsored children in secondary schools and colleges.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



FIRST LEARNERS 2014



PAAV-GITOMBO, 2024

PAAV-Gitombo is a Christian school whose motto is "more than academics." PAAV has brought high quality Christ-centered education closer to the children of Gitombo while at the same time creating employment opportunities for many parents in our school and community

We started Junior school in 2022 when the school was officially registered in Kenya as PAAV-Gitombo Community Primary and Junior School.

The Junior School academic block, Imani House, was constructed with the help of donations from the US. That support has also made possible the construction and equipping of both the science and computer laboratories, a library, music and home science rooms.

All of our children have the opportunity to learn the Bible, Music, Drama, engage in Indoor Board Games, and Sports. Some of our children have been identified to be very good at chess, playing piano and the descant recorders.

Over the weekends, we provide Sunday School for the children, Bible Study for the youth and parents.



GRADE 7 CLASS, IMANI HOUSE, 2024



185 LEARNERS, 2024

Computers

The school has a computer lab and computers are taught from Grades 4 – Junior School. Introducing and teaching computers to children is one way of giving them an advantage in an already overcrowded job market. Kenya has also gone digital in various aspects of government service provision making computer literacy a necessity.



Science lab

The science laboratory is a mandated requirement for Junior school by the government.

This has been a very costly venture but we are thankful for the support of donors.

The laboratory is proving to be of great benefit to some of our learners who are interested in the study of science subjects.



School Library

We have a small and congested library. Through the library, the school fosters a reading culture among our learners. We have books in English and a limited collection of Swahili storybooks.

We have seen our learners get an interest in reading. This has helped improve their reading and speaking skills.



Baraka House, Dining & Community Room

Baraka House was constructed after a donation by Barbara from Ireland. Before then, the children ate outside. It was constructed next to the original owner's man cave "Thingira" which we converted into a kitchen. "Baraka" means "Blessing" in Swahili.

Initially, some children came to school with food while others had no breakfast and came to school hungry. God took care of that. While in the air on a Lufthansa flight, Wanjiru was seated next to a pastor in charge of distributing food to poverty-stricken areas in Kenya. They talked. Out of that divine encounter, the whole school enjoyed free lunch for two years! At the end of it, we put in place a Meal Program. Today the children get two meals a day. Through cow donations by two families in Denver and Frankfurt, the children can enjoy milk in their porridge.

Baraka House has been a blessing for all the children by giving them a new dining experience where they eat at the table and acquire social skills, through eating and praying together as a family.



BARAKA HSE & KITCHEN



MEAL TIME AT BARAKA HSE

Sunday School and Bible studies

Sunday school, staff Bible study, and meetings are held in Baraka House. The staff have their Bible study every Wednesday evening. Our teachers take turns teaching Sunday school.



SUNDAY SCHOOL, 2024



STAFF BIBLE STUDY

Sports

The school children have sports every Friday afternoon. Our school field is about half a kilometer from the school compound.



NETBALL AT TUMAINI SPORTS FIELD

On Saturdays, the school children and the community children come together for sports on the school field. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community children who would otherwise be playing on the road. This is unsafe but there was no other field in Gitombo. They play football and volleyball after which a teacher leads them in reading scripture, a hymn and prayer.

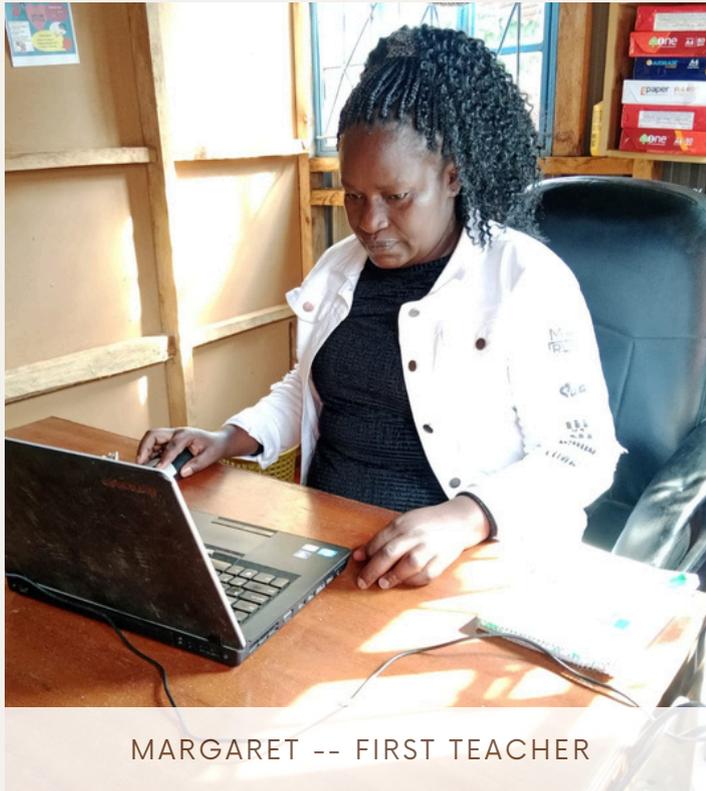


SATURDAY SPORTS AT TUMAINI

Our Staff

PAAV-Gitombo has competent staff members who are very passionate about our mission and who go the extra mile in their dedicated service to the children. All of our first teachers came from the local community.

Meet our first teacher



Teachers

Most of the teachers are from all over Kenya and are graduates of various Colleges and Universities.



TEACHING STAFF AT PAAV GITOMBO

Non-Teaching Staff

Almost all the non-teaching staff are from the community. A majority of them are parents at school. Therefore, being employed at PAAV provides them with the honor of educating their children and thereby transforming their families. Doing Bible study and other training provided at the school has made a huge difference in their lives.



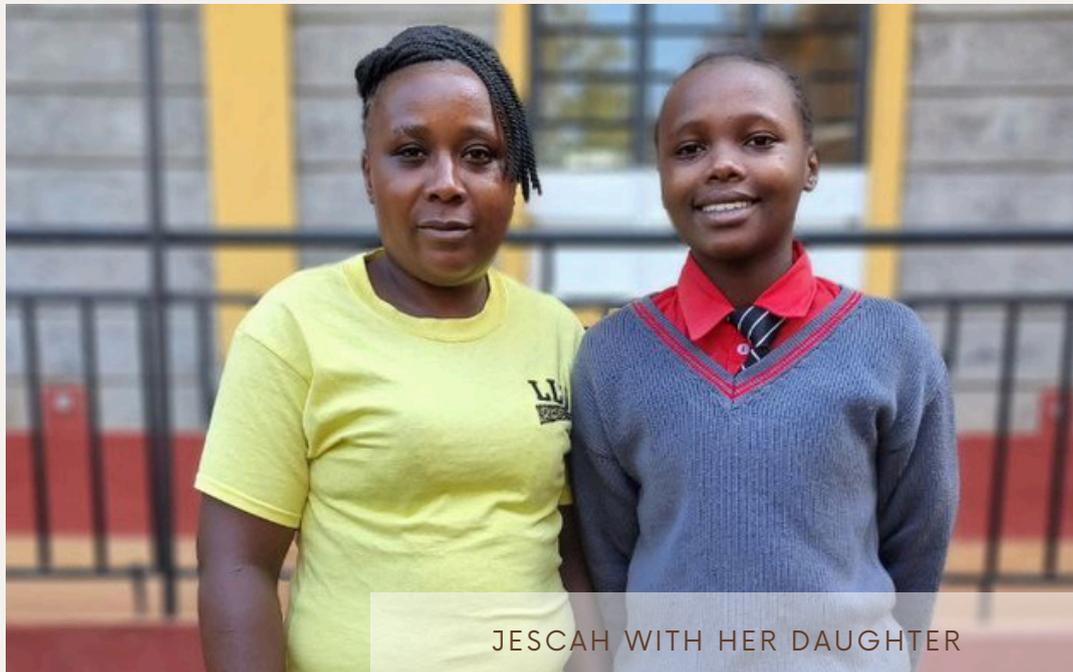
STAFF MEMBERS WITH THEIR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN

Testimonies from some of our parents

I have been employed at PAAV since 2014. My child was among the first students at PAAV-Gitombo in 2014 and now she is in Grade 8.

Through the Bible study, I have grown spiritually, and I now lead my family in reading scripture and praying at home. I have seen my home being transformed as I have grown.

Jesicah -- Hospitality Dept. head



JESICAH WITH HER DAUGHTER

I was employed in 2017 as the second non teaching staff at the school. My husband had disappeared when my children were very young, we still do not know where he is. I have since become the sole provider for my family –two boys and two girls. I am so thankful for my job at PAAV as it helps me to support my family. My oldest daughter is graduating next year as a special education teacher. PAAV has become my family. I am truly thankful to God for the director’s leadership through Bible studies, and the core values that we are taught to embrace in everything. I have become a strong woman and mother.

Elizabeth -- Housekeeping Dept. head



ELIZABETH WITH HER CHILDREN AT PAAV

Uniforms

Our uniforms department is headed by two grandmothers. They make all the children's uniforms. Rachel sews while Miriam knits using donated machines. We buy the sports uniform but we hope to sew them at school in the future. Our children love their uniforms, it serves the critical role of equalizing them, regardless of background.

At present, these two grandmothers are training other younger staff members to learn tailoring and knitting. Recently, Shadrack, one of our sponsored students in college has come to do his attachment in the department. We thank God for the people who donated the sewing and knitting machines.



MIRIAM WITH HER GRANDCHILDREN



RACHEL WITH HER GRANDCHILD

Administrative Staff



“ Hello, I have been the Operations Manager at PAAV-Gitombo since 2023. I was born, raised, and educated in Gitombo, though I had the chance to attend high school and university elsewhere. Growing up, I experienced firsthand the issues facing our community—lack of clean water, poor quality of education, and food shortages. These experiences give me a deep appreciation for PAAV’s mission.

Working with Wanjiru at PAAV has inspired me to drive meaningful change in this community.

James Macharia
Operations Manager - PAAV-Gitombo



“ I joined PAAV in 2018 after graduating from college. I enjoy my time with the learners and can attest to their growth. Through God’s Grace, I have been proud to lead an able, competent, and dedicated group of teachers as we have done our best to help our learners.

I will always hold PAAV in a special place in my heart.

Samuel Kivwalu
Head Teacher
PAAV-Gitombo Community School



“ I’m Jesciah Chiteri, the personal assistant to the Director and a parent at PAAV-Gitombo Community School since April 2022. In this role, I’ve gained valuable experience in school operations, supporting the Director and ensuring effective communication with staff and parents. Working with Wanjiru has been spiritually enriching, as her devotion to God deeply inspires me. I’m proud to contribute to the school’s mission of improving children’s lives through education, and it’s rewarding to know my work supports that important goal.

Jesciah Chiteri
Personal assistant to the Director - PAAV-Gitombo

Sponsorship Program

The sponsorship program that began in 2010 has helped about 25 children in the area to attend boarding schools and colleges in Kenya. Upon finishing secondary school the children are offered the opportunity to be in a 4-6 months Mentoring and Career Guidance Program at school, which we call the “PAAV Boot Camp”. During this time these young people work in different departments at school. The bootcamp has helped them to be better people, disciplined, transitioning them from a sheltered life in boarding school to being independent before they are posted to different colleges. During this time, PAAV helps them apply for Government student loans and other financial aids. Thanks to James Macharia Kiarii who works tirelessly at this!

Currently, there are 11 students in various colleges in Kenya. Seven will be graduating next year (2025) with qualifications in business, Community development, plumbing, motor vehicle engineering, and fashion and design.

The students are encouraged to join the Youth With a Difference (YWAD) Bible study and Fellowship Group. The goal is for these young people to become good role models to our children both at school and in the community.



SPONSORED CHILDREN WITH THEIR PARENTS, 2018



YWAD BIBLE STUDY GROUP, 2024

Testimonies from some of the sponsored children:

Joseph

I am Joseph and I have many siblings. My father died when I was quite young and my mother had no way of educating all of us. I was one of the first children from Gitombo to be sponsored in 2010 in a good boarding school.

I am thankful for being pushed to finish my high school education. Through the "PAAV Bootcamp", I started working in the kitchen and I felt that it was a good place to be and applied for a job there. I am now employed in the school kitchen and my life has been turned around.

I hope to be a chef in the future and be able to build my mother a house.

Through Bible studies, I am learning more about God & myself.



JOSEPH IN THE SCHOOL KITCHEN

Shadrack

I am Shadrack currently pursuing a Fashion and Design course. I am currently on industrial internship in the Uniform Department. I enjoy learning from the grandmothers. I hope to be a top fashion designer in the future.

My involvement with the YWAD has helped me to be a better young man.



SHADRACK AT THE UNIFORMS DEPARTMENT

The Pillars Program

The Pillars program is an empowerment initiative aimed at improving the standards of living of the parents at our school. PAAV partnered with Get-Hope-Global, CO, an organization that provides faith-based business training programs to different countries. We use their training materials for training men and women in the pillars program. Through this program, the members are provided with micro-financing for small businesses.

The Pillars meet every Sunday afternoon for Bible Study. Currently, they are studying the Book of Exodus after they finished Genesis. Besides Wanjiru, Samuel the Head Teacher, has enjoyed the fellowship while teaching these men and women! The Small Business training is now taking place during the week and some staff members have joined. Through this program, PAAV is transforming families in the community.



PILLARS BIBLE STUDY GROUP



Challenges and needs

Land & Construction

Land has always been a challenge. As the school grows, we continue to buy land whenever possible. Gitombo is densely populated. Land is typically inherited and subdivided among sons, who pass it down to their own sons. So, getting a parcel of land to purchase is itself a great opportunity.

Construction - As the school grows so does its need for new buildings.



Water

The school gets water from two wells and harvesting rainwater. A 40,000-liter concrete tank was built and other tanks donated in the last ten years.

We are still water challenged especially during the dry seasons. More water storage facilities are needed.



Other Needs

The school is dedicated to offering our learners the best education as per the CBC curriculum. To do this we need support getting textbooks, computers, sports equipment, laboratory equipment, musical instruments, drama props, and food for the learners.

Testimonies from around Gitombo



“Hello, my name is Njoroge. I was born and grew up in Gitombo. I have 7 siblings. None of us were able to finish school due to a lack of school fees. An uncle helped me to become his apprentice in masonry. It was hard work as I had to wake up early and go long distances to make the day pay. Today, I look back and I am so happy that I kept at it. Later, I was supported to do a masonry course. Since graduation, I have worked in many places including Nairobi. When I was asked to come help renovate the house at PAAV, I was curious as to how that would turn into a school, since it had been a home with bathrooms, kitchens, and other small rooms! I am proud of PAAV for this great work and thankful for allowing me to work on the remodeling project. We have had to knock down walls, enlarge rooms, to make classrooms. I know every corner of this wonderful building!

I have also been amazed by the many changes on this property. Over the years I have been involved in most of PAAV’s projects, being the lead contractor in the construction of both semi-permanent houses and permanent ones like Baraka, Bidii, and Imani Houses. At present, we are constructing a three-level building which will house classrooms, a Chapel, a Library, and offices. This construction is special to me in the sense that I have had 4 boys working under me. These are boys straight from boarding schools with little exposure or knowledge of the construction industry. I am so glad that I can mentor them under the PAAV Mentoring and Career Guidance “Boot Camp” Program. This has started us off on an Apprenticeship program for the future!

Being part of PAAV has changed me as a man, and has greatly benefited my family. I lead the Pillars Men Group. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of PAAV in the community especially through men. Meeting with young men has opened my eyes to the many challenges men face as fathers. PAAV has provided ways for us men to be transformed through small business training and Bible Study.

I enjoy our weekly Bible Study, which has strengthened my faith. This ministry has grown me into a position of leadership earning me lots of respect in the community too. I’m a father of three, with my youngest son in vocational school. My grandson attends PAAV-Gitombo. My prayer and hope for the future is having more godly families, and that no child lacks education due to financial challenges. Thank you to all of you who have supported this mission. I am a different man because of PAAV.”

Njoroge
Grandparent & Builder

Testimonies from around Gitombo



"My name is Hannah Wanjiku Mukunga. Wanjiru is my daughter. I'm incredibly proud of her hard work and dedication. The vision for a school in Gitombo was something I shared with her father, my late husband, Mr. Mukunga Kibe. He would be amazed at all the progress and want to be involved. That's why, despite my age, I always try to help.

When Wanjiru returned to Kenya, I was proud she took up our vision and made it a reality. Ten years later, the transformation amazes me—it has surpassed what our community ever imagined, and for that, the people of our community love her. The school began in a small iron sheet shack with just a few children and one teacher. Today, it has grown to over 150 learners and 20 teachers, with proper buildings and facilities. The school filled a critical gap in Gitombo, bringing hope for a brighter future.

We give thanks to God for all that He has done through PAAV-Gitombo and we pray to him for even more.

Wanjiru's Mother

Vision For The Next Ten Greater Years

Senior School

Our first Junior school Grade 8 class will be graduating to Grade 9 in 2025. Junior School will transition to Senior School in 2026 to Grades 10-12. This will mean more land and additional construction.

Teacher's Housing

Building houses for teachers is essential for attracting and retaining qualified educators. In Gitombo B, teachers often struggle to find good quality housing, and a lack of accommodation can deter them from staying long-term. Providing housing would give teachers stability and encourage them to invest in the community, ultimately improving not only the quality of education, but of the community too!

Clinic/Dispensary

When a child or anyone else at school gets hurt, it takes time to travel to get them care. A clinic will take care of that. This service will also help the local residents.

Vocational/Apprenticeship/Skills Development

Most of our children may not pursue university education due to financial constraints and other factors. Doable vocational and apprenticeship programs would offer them practical skills in trades such as carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, or agriculture, leading to self-sustaining lives in the future.

Transition in Leadership

There is a great need to nurture new leadership to carry PAAV's vision forward. Therefore, We need to invest in leadership training as part of PAAV's transformative ministries in Kenya and beyond.

We look up to God for more land, buildings, food, books, Music and sports equipment for our growing school ministry.

Yours or Family Giving

You or a family, may plan on giving a monthly donation to help provide books, stationery, and food. Your gift will leave a lasting legacy as you make a difference in the lives of many children.

Your support will be long remembered and serve as an inspiration to others. God bless you!

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9: 8



"ASANTE SANA"

“Education is the key. Thank you for being a part of our journey as we educate the children, transforming families and the community”

Donate to make a difference in Gitombo

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