

## *Every Story Matters*

### **MAMA ROSE AUMA**

My name is Mama Rose Auma. I am 69 years old and want to share with you how my life has changed in ways I never thought possible.

Before I joined the Partners for Care adult education program, my world was very small. I never had the chance to go to school as a child and could only speak my mother tongue. Swahili and English felt like mountains I could never climb. I was shy, afraid, and dependent on others. I felt left behind and sometimes, invisible.

One day, I heard about the adult literacy classes in our community. I was nervous, but something told me to try. The first days were difficult—I was the oldest in the class, but our teacher, Eunice, was so patient and encouraging. She taught us not just letters and numbers, but also how to believe in ourselves.

Slowly, I began to read and write in Swahili. I learned some English words too. With each lesson, my confidence grew. I started talking to more people, made new friends, and even helping my grandchildren with homework.

The biggest change came when I realized I could start a small business with my new skills. I opened a shop selling clothes and learned how to make detergents to sell as well. Once again, the support from my teachers and classmates gave me courage.

Now, my shop is busy every day! People in my neighborhood come to me for both clothes and cleaning products. I feel proud and independent.

Teacher Eunice visited my shop recently and could not believe how far I have come. I showed her my products and the money I have saved. Smiling, she told me she was proud of me which made my heart full. **If not for education, I would still be afraid to talk to people. Now, I feel seen, respected, and hopeful for the future.**



**To all the donors who made this program possible, I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.** Your kindness has given me a second chance at life. You have helped me find my voice, my confidence, and my independence. May you be blessed for believing in people like me.

**Because of you, I am not just surviving—I am thriving.**

~ Mama Rose Auma

*Thank you for changing my life!*