



Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Fall 2011

A Celebration of Thanksgiving

The Form 4 graduation of 2011 was a joyous event! It was a day to give thanks for new graduates as well as to celebrate the achievements of the class of 1999.

On September 25, fifty-seven girls graduated from Form 4 at MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). It was the largest graduation gathering of family and friends in the history of the school.

To add to the usual graduation festivities, there was a surprise appearance of nine members of the MGLSS class of 1999. These students were members of the first class at MGLSS who began their studies in 1995 when the school was under construction.

They returned to MGLSS to give thanks to their former teachers, the school administration, and to OBA and their sponsors.

... Continued
on page 2



Form IV Graduating Class, September 25, 2011

In their remarks they said that without the opportunity of a education provided by their sponsors they would not have had doors opened to them. Each of these young women also had received post-secondary training and was working in her chosen profession.

This first class of 1995 was recruited while MGLSS was still under construction. The students studied in a classroom during the day and at night that classroom became their dormitory. They were taught by the first headmistress Jane Tellekson Juten, and

Names of people in photo—once the photo is decided.

Lalalala

lalalalalalalal

teachers Abby Bowen Jorgenson and Majorie Har-dison. Jane had been a volunteer teacher at the neighboring Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, and Abby and Marjorie had been teachers at an international school in Germany. These amazing young women recruited students, prepared curriculum materials, taught, and also fundraised from family and friends in the United States.



Post-Secondary Scholarship Fund

Only 3% of all students in Tanzania attend colleges and universities, but since 1999 more than **30%** of MGLSS graduates have received a post-secondary education. This year **69** graduates are attending teacher college or university. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please help us reach our goal of \$150,000 to fund these students for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Gifts of any amount are welcomed. Checks should to Operation Bootstrap Africa with post-secondary on the memo line. 🌍

As a second class was being recruited in 1996, Operation Bootstrap Africa was asked by the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) if they could administer the scholarship program. Tanzanian teaching staff was added as more girls entered and eventually a Tanzanian, Maria Laiser, was named headmistress.

Jane, Abby and Marjorie all returned to the

United States in the late 1990's. Their dedicated service in the establishment of the school paved the way for MGLSS to become the outstanding school it is today.

Through Facebook, graduates of MGLSS have organized an alumni club. Pictured are members of the class of 1999 with several other alums at the Form 4 graduation. 🌍

MGLSS Graduates Enrolling at Concordia College



The resumption of a scholarship program at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, will enable two recent Form 6 graduates of MGLSS to enroll at the college. The two students, Naserian Soipey and Klai Namuyata (*left*), will travel with interim director Diane Jacoby and a delegation of OBA supporters when they return from Tanzania in January.

Through a creative partnership between Concordia and Oak Grove, a Lutheran high school in Fargo, ND, Soipey and Namuyata will prepare for college by taking computer and English classes before enrolling at Concordia in either summer or fall of 2012. Leaders at MGLSS and the North Central Diocese identified Soipey and Namuyata as being very motivated and gifted students who will benefit from higher education and bring enhanced skills for service back to Tanzania.

Concordia inaugurated the “Maasai Scholarship” program at the urging of alumni David and Eunice Simonson, who spent their missionary careers among the Maasai and who were instrumental in building MGLSS. Dr. Per Anderson, associate dean for Global Learning, says Concordia intends to enroll one graduate of MGLSS each year. A scholarship fund named for the Simonsons supports the Maasai students at the college.

Nine women from MGLSS have enrolled and graduated from Concordia since 2002. Some graduates are now pursuing master's and Ph.D. degrees in areas such as healthcare and business management. One graduate has taught at MGLSS, one is completing medical school in Tanzania and another, after completing her MBA in the United States, is an accountant for the Walter Reed Program in Mbeya, Tanzania. 🌍

I Thessalonians 5:18 – In everything give thanks . . .

From the Interim Director

We give thanks to all of you who through your gifts have insured that hundreds of students have access to education in Tanzania and Madagascar. “Blessed to be a blessing” – that defines our OBA donors!

We give thanks for new leadership at MGLSS with the appointment of Dr. Seth Msinjili as head of school. Dr. Msinjili (*right with Form IV graduates*) is the former head of school at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School and also coordinates the OBA post-secondary program.

We give thanks that mountain water is again flowing to MGLSS through a newly constructed pipe from Olarash village.

We give thanks for dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators at our partner schools.

We give thanks for lives of the late Rev. Luther Simonson and Richard Kvamme, who passed away earlier this year. Both men were instrumental in the founding of OBA in 1965 and served on the OBA Board.

We give thanks to the board of directors of OBA for their faithful leadership. We appreciate the service of Susan Swenson and Chenar Howard who have completed terms on the board and we welcome two new board members, Gary Floss and Shea McAdaragh.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours! 🌍



Diane Jacoby
Interim Director



Partners in Mission



23rd Annual Fergus Falls Walk

It was nearly 100 degrees, but that did not stop the determined walkers at the 23rd annual Fergus Falls Walk on June 7. The walkers raised more than \$9,000 to renovate a boys' dormitory (pictured below) at Ketumbeine Primary School. Ketumbeine village is located in a remote rural area in northern



Tanzania and many children board at the primary school since it is too far for them to walk. The walk has been supporting projects at Ketumbeine since 2000.

Westwood Lutheran – New desks for Mlimwa Primary School

The classrooms were new, but the students were sitting on the floor. The congregation of Westwood Lutheran in St. Louis Park, MN, knew that new desks were a priority for the 900+ students at Mlimwa Primary School in Dodoma. By the time the congregation's mission team paid a visit this summer, the desks were constructed and in place at the school (see left). Westwood Lutheran Church has had a long relationship with its partners in Dodoma. The church has supported classroom construction, desks, and other school improvements through OBA.



13th Annual Lakes Area Walk – Alexandria, Minnesota

How do you construct a new classroom in Tanzania? Start walking! On October 1, eighty-four walkers of all ages walked 3 ½ miles and then celebrated at First Lutheran Church with a picnic lunch.



The walk raised more than \$8,500 towards the construction of a new classroom for Olchoki Primary School. More than 1650 students currently share only 13 classrooms at this school. Construction will be underway next month. Many thanks to all those who participated! 🌍

“Thank you for sponsoring me”

The recent letters to their MGLSS sponsors were carefully written and decorated. One sentiment was repeated over and over . . . “I’m the first girl in my boma to go to school”, “No one in my family has ever had a chance to go to secondary school”, or “I’m the only girl in my village to ever be chosen for secondary school”.

One wrote, “When I think of the village where I’m from, I’m thinking of the Maasai girls who are getting married rather than going to school and I’m really feeling hurt. With your sponsorship I will prove it one more time that I’m willing to study to the highest level. May God bless you.”

Another girl had made this poignant reflection, “When I went home for a visit I saw the girls my age are now married with babies. That would have been me.”

***Sponsors make a difference!
Will you become a sponsor for a member of the
incoming class of 2012?***

The annual cost of sponsorship is \$900 per year. Students attend MGLSS for four years (Forms 1-4) and some students continue at the school for Forms 5 and 6. The \$900 cost covers all expenses at the school for the student. Student sponsorships provide operating expense for the school which includes teacher salaries, food, uniforms, exam fees, books, medical care, and other student needs. Your \$900 sponsorship may be paid annually, in two installments, or monthly (\$75). Co-sponsorships are also available at \$450 (\$37.50 monthly).

***Help us meet our goal of sponsoring the
new class of 2012!***

Support a student individually

Support a student with members of your family

Support a student through combined donations from a church group, book club, or civic club

Support a student(s) with a congregational donation



***Penina Julias,
Esther Lepapa,
Esther Koipapi***

Projects in the Box



*Sabina Paulo,
Raheli Emanuel,
Esupat Paulo*

*Looking for a unique
alternative
holiday gift?*



*Donate a monetary gift to-
wards a*

project below and OBA will

*acknowledge your gift with a
holiday card to the recipient.*

\$15 will purchase a secondary school textbook

\$25 will purchase a box of 100
primary school student notebooks

\$40 will purchase bedding for a dormitory
bunk bed

\$50 will purchase a school desk (*seating for
three*) for a primary school

\$200 will purchase supplies for a secondary
chemistry classroom

\$300 will provide a month's worth of medicine
for MGLSS students

New Plaster House for Children

Dr. Mark Jacobson inspired donors from coast-to-coast to support the construction of a new Plaster House during his summer visit. Dr. Jacobson, who is the medical director of the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) in Tanzania, described the children who will be served by this new facility.

The Plaster House (plaster is the British term for a cast) will provide a safe place for children to recuperate following surgery at ALMC. Teams of surgeons from the United States volunteer their services several times a year to provide life-changing operations on children of all ages. In Minneapolis, Dr. Jacobson spoke at Edina Lutheran Community Church on June 23. All donations were matched by a generous donor from Ohio. Construction of the new facility will begin soon.

Thank you to all those around the U.S. who have fundraised for OBA with walks, sales, and other events. We appreciate your work and welcome you to send us pictures and information about your project. 🌍



We're Moving!

Don't worry... we're not going far. As of December 1st, OBA's central office will be in a new space at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Please send all correspondence after that time to:

**Operation Bootstrap Africa
625 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 110
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415**

*And , as always, come visit us in the new office.
We'd love to see you if you're in town.*



Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2038

122 West Franklin Avenue
Suite 306
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Dignity is a publication for friends of Operation Bootstrap Africa, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to helping people help themselves in a variety of educational programs in Africa.

In partnership with African communities and organizations, Bootstrap provides support and assistance to project and programs based on locally-established priorities.

Gifts to OBA are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. OBA may assess up to 10% for administering these gifts.

Website: www.operationbootstrapafrica.org
Email: info@operationbootstrapafrica.org
Phone: 1-888-755-1318

Operation Bootstrap
Africa Board of Directors

