

# Operation Bootstrap Africa

# *Dignity*

Fall 2013

## **The MaaSAE Girls School Marks Its 600th Graduate!**

In the early years of the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS), few would have dreamed that one day more than 600 girls would have graduated from the school. Of those graduates, more than 300 have also received scholarships to continue their education at vocational schools, colleges and universities.

Graduates whose own lives have been transformed are now transforming their extended families and communities. They are working in all sectors . . . education, healthcare, business, tourism, and with nonprofit organizations. Many are now married with families of their own. These motivated young women are outstanding role models for another generation.



The goal of educating young women from the most marginalized groups in northern Tanzania is being achieved by committed OBA sponsors who provide the financial support to make this amazing school possible.

**A new class of girls is entering MGLSS right now. Will you help one of them reach her goals by becoming an OBA sponsor? A sponsorship is \$900 per year (\$75 a month) or \$450 for a co-sponsorship. Call the OBA office at 612-871-4980 for more information.**

Congratulations to the 48 students in the 15th graduating class at the MaaSAE Girls School!

# ALMC Nursing College Update

An OBA fundraiser was held on June 20, 2013 in Minneapolis to benefit the new nursing college to be established in Arusha, Tanzania. Dr. Mark Jacobson, Medical Director of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center spoke of the dire shortage of nurses in Tanzania and the importance of the new nursing college. Generous OBA supporters responded with total donations of more than \$40,000. Eunice Simonson was honored at the event and also stressed the importance of nurses' training. A nursing scholarship has been established in her name.

## How can you help?

- Provide a one-time gift towards startup costs
- Provide an annual \$1,000 gift to the Eunice Simonson Nursing Scholarship Fund

Donations may be made by check payable to OBA or donate online at [www.bootstrapafrica.org](http://www.bootstrapafrica.org)



Fifteen future nursing school students who are graduates of the MaaSAE Girls School are currently completing a pre-nursing curriculum and volunteering at the Monduli Hospital while awaiting the opening of the nursing college.

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## 2013 Lakes Area Walk, Alexandria, MN

Members of churches in the Alexandria area held their annual OBA walk on October 5. Despite the cold, rainy weather, the walk raised more than \$10,000 towards the construction of a dormitory for special needs girls at the Ilboru Primary school in Ilboru, Tanzania. This dorm will house girls who are unable to walk safely to school by themselves each day. The dorm is anticipated to house 20-30 students.

Two previous walks have benefited the school and supplied funding for the construction of two classrooms. The Special Needs Unit at Ilboru Primary School makes Ilboru one of the few schools providing education for mentally disabled and deaf children in the city of Arusha. Nearly 60 children are now attending classes at the school.



# The New Plaster House Is Dedicated

The Plaster House was officially opened on October 26 at the new site located in Ngaramtoni, a suburb of Arusha, Tanzania. Plaster House is administered by the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC). Church and community leaders, medical staff, patients and their families, and many guests gathered to celebrate the opening of this innovative facility.

The Plaster House is a rehabilitative center for children who have had orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, or neurosurgery (“plaster” refers to cast). Short-term volunteer surgical staff, such as teams from Exempla Health Care of Colorado, perform many of these surgeries at ALMC. Most of these children require specialized post-operative care that is not available in their rural areas. The new facility will house up to 100 children and provides 24-hour care from a dedicated staff of caregivers.



Dr. Mark Jacobson and Sarah Rejman celebrate the opening of the new Plaster House.

Plaster House was conceived by Sarah Wallace Rejman, ALMC occupational therapist, and has provided service to hundreds of children since it opened in 2008. The Plaster House previously occupied rental space which was inadequate in meeting the needs of the young patients.

The new Plaster House, designed by architect John Kraft, is both self-sufficient and energy efficient. The



new center will still follow the premise of ‘high love-low cost’ healthcare. It will also be the base for the Rehabilitative Surgery Outreach program and a developing rehabilitation therapy center.

OBA was one of several organizations that funded the new facility, which is constructed on land owned by the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Thank you to the many OBA donors who supported this important project that will impact the lives of so many children.



## Upcoming OBA Trips to Tanzania

Several exciting OBA trips are being planned for 2014!

The first trip has tentatively been set for May 13-25. It will include the Form 6 graduation at the MaaSAE Girls School, visits to OBA school and health projects, and also an animal safari. The approximate cost is \$5,000.

A second trip is planned for late October, 2014.

Please contact the OBA office, 612-871-4980, if you are interested in one of these trips.



**A thousand thanks** on behalf of our OBA partners in Tanzania and Madagascar and those they serve. This past year you donated to new projects such as the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) Nursing College, as well as to ongoing projects such as the MaaSAE Girls School. Each gift touched the life of an African student whether it was for school construction, scholarships, or providing necessary school supplies.

In this issue we will highlight the work of several OBA partner congregations around the United States who have each donated more than \$10,000 over the last two years. Each of these churches has their own history with OBA. Some have been supporting OBA

since its founding in 1965 and others have become more active after a trip to Tanzania where church members saw the need for educational projects first-hand.

It is hard to believe that OBA will be entering its 49<sup>th</sup> year of service! In the months to come we will be looking forward to planning OBA's 50th anniversary in 2015. We welcome your ideas as to how we can celebrate this important date.

OBA is blessed to have such faithful donors! As we enter this holiday season, we express our sincere appreciation for your gifts. Please share the OBA story with others and encourage them to become part of the OBA family.

With gratitude,  
Diane Jacoby, Interim Director



### **Operation Bootstrap Africa Board of Directors**

Back left to right: Diane Jacoby (Int. Director), Steve Studt, Hazel Reinhardt (President), Jean Wahlstrom, and Gary Floss  
Front left to right: Ward Larson, Morrie Kershner, Carrie Hefte, and Shea McAdaragh

# Congregational Support of OBA Programs

**Approximately 25% of OBA support is given through churches across the United States.** Churches support OBA in a variety of ways. Some churches have OBA as a recipient in their annual budget, some donate through a church foundation, and some commit to supporting student scholarships. Others fund specific needs or raise funds through walks or Christmas giving. We appreciate the support given to OBA through our faithful church sponsors across the country!

**First Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls, Minnesota** was one of the first churches to support OBA. First Lutheran is the home church of the late Rev. David Simonson and wife Eunice. It was in northern Minnesota where Rev. Simonson organized a group of businessmen to fundraise for the first OBA classrooms in 1965. Many First Lutheran Church members have traveled to Tanzania and there have been three youth groups who have spent time at the MaaSAE Girls School.



Pastor Stensvaag with a goat purchased at a live auction offering at Olarash Lutheran Church

Pastor Paul Stensvaag, has accompanied his young parishioners to Tanzania and has seen how mission trips change lives. Next July another group of young people will travel to Tanzanian for an experience of a lifetime.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton, Minnesota** has had a strong Tanzanian mission focus for more than a decade. In addition to their support of OBA projects, they have a close relationship with their sister congregation in Iringa, Tanzania. These strong bonds are reinforced with bi-annual trips to visit their Tanzanian partners.



More than 150 desks were recently supplied to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School by Christ the King Lutheran

In the past year the congregation has supported student scholarships and projects at the MaaSAE Girls School, health projects such as Plaster House and the new ALMC nursing college, and special projects and student scholarships at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania.

On the East Coast there is congregational support for OBA from several churches in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Once again, the common thread is often a trip to Tanzania which prompts members to seek ways to support educational and health projects.

At **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania** members support five students at the MaaSAE Girls School. Their support originated with a young member who sold Christmas ornaments to support an OBA scholarship.

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At **Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester, Virginia** the congregation has been inspired by member Dr. John McAllister who has made numerous trips to Tanzania in support of medical programs at ALMC, Selian, and the Plaster House. This small congregation with a big heart supports the work of OBA through their alternative Christmas gift program, support of the MaaSAE Girls School, and on-going support of medical projects. Last year ten church members traveled to Tanzania with OBA and another trip is being planned for 2015.



Winchester, VA supporters gather to learn more about new opportunities for mission through OBA

Halfway across the country in **Kalispell, Montana** is the congregation of **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**. The church has been a long-time supporter of OBA and its members provided funding for a number of the original buildings at the MaaSAE Girls School.

Member Larry Passmore has made many trips to the school and was instrumental in getting the school farm established, including shipping three tractors for the school. The estate of the late Rev. H. Peder Waldum provided funding for the beautiful chapel at the school that bears his name.

Today the congregation continues to support a wide variety of projects through OBA including MGLSS scholarships, the new nursing college, and special farm projects.

OBA receives support from a large number of churches in the state of **Washington**. One of these churches, **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Bellevue**, is home to former ELCA missionaries, Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen. Jean and Marv served at the MaaSAE Girls School (MGLSS) for twelve years, retiring in 2010. They

inspire their fellow church members, as well as those in neighboring congregations, to give to Tanzanian mission projects.

St. Andrew's members especially support the work of MGLSS through sponsorships and special projects at the school, including science textbooks and medical care for students. OBA's post-secondary program receives funding from the congregation for several students from MGLSS who are continuing their education.



At Christmas, a complete uniform is "sold" to those at St. Andrew's who wish to outfit a new student at MGLSS

Another Washington church, **Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bellevue** has a member with strong ties to Tanzania. Beth Elness-Hanson, was a teacher at MGLSS and now travels with her students from Trinity Lutheran College (Everett, WA) to visit MGLSS, Maasai churches, and experience Maasai culture.

The Cross of Christ congregation provided funding for the construction of a large water tank, located on the mountain above MGLSS. This tank stores water to be used for both the school and the neighboring village of Olarash. Church members also support the Eric Hanson Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to children of Tanzanian evangelists, enabling them to study at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School.



A West Coast congregation with a strong Tanzanian mission focus is **St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oakland, California**. Members of this church have supported educational and health programs in Tanzania since the mid-1980's. From hospital construction to scholarship support, the congregation responds to the needs of their partners both in Tanzania and Madagascar. Members of St. Paul's will travel to Tanzania in February of 2014 to meet their mission partners and visit projects they have supported. They will also spend time with their sponsored students (pictured below) at MGLSS.



Back in Minnesota, members at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hector, Minnesota**, respond to the call to mission in Tanzania. When members heard that last year's Form 4 MGLSS students would remain at the school for an extra term due to a change in the school calendar, they responded to the OBA appeal for financial support for providing room and board for the students. This year they are supporting the new nursing college as well as a post-secondary student.

We sincerely appreciate the many gifts given to OBA through our faithful church sponsors across the country, from churches large and small!

### **OBA Supporting Churches**

9/1/2012–8/31/2013 (gifts over \$100)

Bethany Lutheran Church – Burlington, Iowa  
 Bethel Lutheran Church – Cupertino, California  
 Bethel Lutheran Church – Willmar, Minnesota  
 Bethel Lutheran Church – Winchester, Virginia  
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Cherokee, Iowa  
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Kalispell, Montana

### **OBA Supporting Churches, continued . . .**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Buena Vista First Baptist Church – Buena Vista, Georgia  
 Calvary Lutheran Church – Alexandria, Minnesota  
*Calvary Lutheran Church* – Long Prairie, Minnesota  
 Central Lutheran Church – Eugene, Oregon  
 Central Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Christ Lutheran Church – Belfair, Washington  
 Christ the King Lutheran Church – New Brighton, Minnesota  
 Cross of Christ Lutheran Church – Bellevue, Minnesota  
 Elim Lutheran Church – Manchester, Washington  
 Emanuel Lutheran Church – Dayton, Iowa  
 Faith Lutheran Church – Roseburg, Oregon  
 First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Litchfield, Minnesota  
 First Lutheran Church – Alexandria, Minnesota  
 First Lutheran Church – Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
 First Lutheran Church – Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
 First Lutheran Church – Glasgow, Montana  
 Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Hopkins, Minnesota  
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – Hopkins, Minnesota  
 Grace Lutheran Church – Fairmont, Minnesota  
 Grace Lutheran Church – Hallock, Minnesota  
 Grace Lutheran Church – Breckenridge, Minnesota  
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
 Joy Lutheran Church – Prescott, Wisconsin  
 King of Kings Lutheran Church – Woodbury, Minnesota  
 Kongsvinger Lutheran Church – Donnelly, Minnesota  
 Lands Lutheran Church – Hudson, South Dakota  
 Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit – Emmaus, Pennsylvania  
 Magnolia Lutheran Church – Seattle, Washington  
 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church – Eagan, Minnesota  
 Minnetonka Lutheran Church – Minnetonka, Minnesota  
 North United Methodist Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Osakis Lutheran Church – Osakis, Minnesota  
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Everett, Washington  
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Devil's Lake, North Dakota  
 Peace Lutheran Church – Plymouth, Minnesota  
 Peace Lutheran Church – Puyallup, Washington  
 Peace Lutheran Church – Silvana, Washington  
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – Phoenix, Arizona  
 Queen Anne Lutheran Church – Seattle, Washington  
 Redeemer Lutheran Church – Succasunna, New Jersey  
 Rockland Memorial Community Church – Golden, Colorado  
 Roseville Lutheran Church – Roseville, Minnesota  
 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Issaquah, Washington  
 Sitka Lutheran Church – Sitka, Alaska  
 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church – Bellevue, Washington  
 St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church – Phoenixville, Pennsylvania  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Edina, Minnesota  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Kasson, Minnesota  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Waseca, Minnesota  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Mound, Minnesota  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Northfield, Minnesota  
 St. John's Lutheran Church – Starbuck, Minnesota  
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church – Grand Forks, North Dakota  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church – Lowry, Minnesota  
 St. Paul Lutheran Church – Oakland, California  
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Hector, Minnesota  
 St. Petri Lutheran Church – Brandon, Minnesota  
 St. Philip's Lutheran Church – Hastings, Minnesota  
 Sverdrup Lutheran Church – Underwood, Minnesota  
 Trinity Lutheran Church – Lynnwood, Washington  
 Trinity Lutheran Church – Longview, Washington  
 Trinity Lutheran Church – Beresford, South Dakota  
 Trinity Lutheran Church – Turtle Lake, North Dakota  
 United Lutheran Church – Grand Forks, North Dakota  
 Valley of Peace Lutheran Church – Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Westwood Lutheran Church – St. Louis Park, Minnesota  
 Zion Lutheran Church – Kent, Washington  
 Zion Lutheran Church – Gowrie, Iowa

# MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School — 2013

## AT A GLANCE . . .

- ◆ Located in Monduli, Tanzania
- ◆ Owned and administered by the North Central Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania
- ◆ Financially supported by donors of OBA
- ◆ School construction began in 1994
- ◆ First class entered in 1995
- ◆ 602 girls have graduated from Form 4 (11<sup>th</sup> grade equivalent)
- ◆ 144 graduates have graduated from Form 6 (1<sup>st</sup> year of college equivalent)
- ◆ More than 300 graduates have received post-secondary training at universities, colleges, and vocational schools
- ◆ 75 graduates now hold university degrees
- ◆ Students recruited annually from marginalized tribes in northern Tanzania (Maasai, Barbaig, and Hadzabe)

## Why OBA's focus on secondary education in Tanzania for the targeted group of Maasai, Barbaig, and Hadzabe girls?

- ⇒ Tanzania has one of the lowest secondary enrollment rates in the world at 34%, according to UNESCO data. It is estimated that the secondary enrollment rate for girls in rural areas is less than 8%.
- ⇒ Girls' education is often discouraged for cultural and socio-economic reasons among the Maasai, Barbaig and Hadzabe tribes.
- ⇒ Secondary education, including government schools, is not free. Even limited fees are beyond the financial resources of most parents seeking education for their daughters.
- ⇒ Community and religious leaders seek our assistance in providing girls a quality education in a safe environment.

*“There can be no escape from poverty without a vast expansion of secondary education. . . The inequalities, especially in relation to girls' exclusion from secondary education, have enormous implications, . . . from child and maternal health and HIV prevention to environmental security.” said UNESCO's Director-General Irina Bokova.*



Hadzabe students at the MaaSAE Girls School



## NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF MEMBERS AT MGLSS . . . TWO ARE MGLSS GRADUATES!

Three young women recently assumed administrative positions at the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School as announced by Dr. Seth Msinjili, Head of School.

Named new Bursar is Neema Moses (pictured upper right). Neema graduated from MaaSAE Girls School in 2007 from Form 6 and continued her education at the Institute of Accountancy in Arusha, Tanzania. She graduated with a degree in accounting in 2011. Neema's OBA sponsors were Pamela Hill and Pamela Holsinger-Fuchs.



The new Matron at the school is Nanyori (Sophie) Morris. Nanyori (pictured at right with a student at graduation in October) graduated from Form 6 at MGLSS in 2007. She completed her university education at Mt. Meru University in 2010. Her MGLSS sponsors were Bill and Eunice Kistner. Nanyori is also one of the English teachers at MGLSS. She finds her experience as a student invaluable stating, "I know the challenges the students face."



The Assistant Head of School is Melaisho Nambua (pictured below). Melaisho graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from Tumaini University, Iringa College. In addition to her administrative duties she teaches General Studies and Civics.



### MGLSS Sponsor Data—2013

297 total sponsors, some sponsoring several students  
155 sponsors are "full" sponsors at \$900 per school year  
76 sponsors are "half" sponsors at \$450 per school year  
66 sponsors are "partial" sponsors, part of book clubs, circles, etc.

#### Sponsors reside in 27 states and Switzerland

99 or 33% of sponsors reside in Minnesota  
72 or 24% of sponsors reside in Washington





At left, MGLSS students express their gratitude for a gift from the Microsoft Theater Group. Each year the group donates profits from their annual theater production to a charitable organization and last season's show, Hello Dolly, benefited the MaaSAE Girls School.

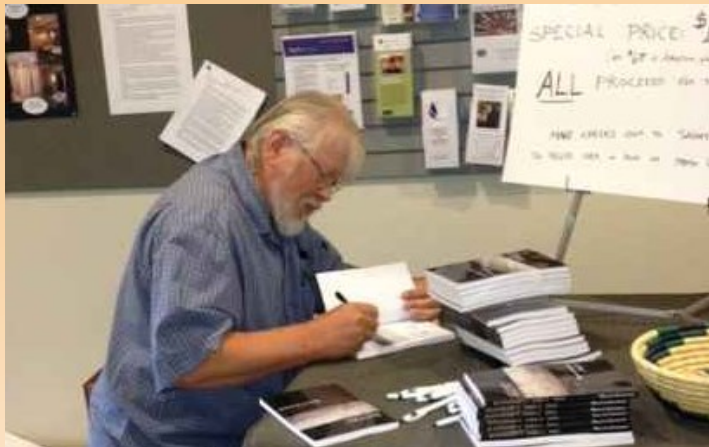
OBA also wishes to thank Microsoft for their generous match of employee contributions and support of the MGLSS computer lab.



Kay Dewese (above left) from Haleiwa, Hawaii and Donna Kernutt, from Eugene, Oregon have served as volunteer teachers for the new preform students at MGLSS for a number of years. These dedicated teachers spend up to 3 months at MGLSS in the fall. Thank you both for your service!



Meet the new class of preform students who will begin Form 1 in January. Contact the OBA office if you would like to become one of 50 new sponsors.



## New book by Marvin Kananen

Last spring former ELCA missionaries to Tanzania, Marvin Kananen and Jean Wahlstrom returned to MGLSS where they had taught for 12 years. Marv blogged daily about their experiences and his delightful blogs are now available in book form through Amazon. To purchase, simply go to amazon.com and type in jeanmarv's Africa. 2013.

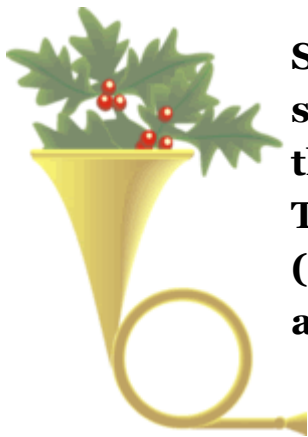
## Thank you for the precious gift of water !

Dr. Seth Msinjili, head of the MaaSAE Girls School, wishes to thank the Living Water project, a mission of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Washington for their generous funding of a new water pipe which now connects MaaSAE Girls School to a municipal water pipe in the town of Monduli. Previously, the school was solely dependent on water from a mountain source above the school. The school now has a source of metered water to use during extended dry seasons.



## Designating Special Gifts to OBA

- Contribute to your favorite OBA project through cash, securities, or other asset donations
- When establishing your will or trust, designate OBA as one of your beneficiaries
- Give a gift of education in honor or in memory of a special person
- Donate a portion of an inherited gift to OBA
- If you hold Thrivent Financial policies, donate your Choice Dollars to OBA
- Designate employee matching dollars for OBA



**Share OBA stories with family and friends this holiday season! Tell others why you support OBA and encourage them to give the gift of education to a needy child in Tanzania or Madagascar. Please call the OBA office (1-612-871-4980) if you would like more information about how you can promote the work of OBA**



## OBA Receives Coveted 4-Star Rating

Operation Bootstrap Africa has again received the top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator. Only a quarter of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator receive this rating.

The 4-star rating indicates that OBA has received a favorable review for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.



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Dignity is a publication for friends of Operation Bootstrap Africa, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to providing access to education for children and youth in Tanzania and Madagascar.

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.bootstrapafrica.org](http://www.bootstrapafrica.org)  
Email: [info@bootstrapafrica.org](mailto:info@bootstrapafrica.org)  
Phone: 1-888-755-1318 / 612-871-4980

## The Joy of Giving!

### Support the work of OBA with a gift to the following

- ◆ A full (\$900) or half sponsorship (\$450) for one of the 50 new students at MGLSS
- ◆ \$250 to support post-secondary education for MGLSS graduates
- ◆ \$100 to support teacher education for disabled children in Tanzania
- ◆ \$100 for a bunk bed in the new dormitory for disabled girls at  
Ilboru Primary School
- ◆ \$50 for a desk for the new classrooms at Olarash Primary School
- ◆ \$50 for a bag of chicken feed for the Kuku Project at MGLSS
- ◆ \$50 to support technology education at MGLSS
- ◆ \$25 for 2 textbooks
- ◆ **"Where needed most" – help us meet requests for immediate assistance**

