

Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Spring 2013: Annual Report Edition

Joining together to make a difference



MGLSS Form 6 students join hands in celebration of their graduation.

and medical personnel. The sustainability of our projects is insured by these dedicated partners.

We appreciate your commitment and financial support, and we strive to do our best to provide accountability and transparency in the work of OBA. The impact your gifts make in the lives of Tanzanian and Madagascar students is immeasurable. We cannot clap with one hand . . . together we make a difference!

With sincere thanks,

Diane Jacoby, Interim Director
The OBA Board of Directors

“You cannot clap with one hand” is a proverb found in many cultures.

Indeed, some things can't be done alone. The proverb's deeper meaning is that we all need each other to succeed. OBA's educational projects in Africa are successful because of the actions of a wide support network across the globe.

First, our work would not be possible without the financial support of thousands of donors in United States. Each one of your gifts is important!

In Africa, our work is carried out by committed individuals working as administrators, teachers, support staff,

Empowered Women

MGLSS graduates advocate for the legal rights of women and girls in their traditional Maasai culture in northern Tanzania

OBA's mission is to provide access to education to those most in need and its primary focus has been with the Maasai of northern Tanzania, East Africa. Since the founding of MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in 1995, more than 550 girls have completed a secondary education and more than 250 of these graduates have continued their education at institutions of higher learning. OBA donors have also sponsored girls at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, the neighboring coed school in Monduli. Members of this first generation of formally educated Maasai women in Tanzania are beginning to make an impact on their culture, both by embracing and challenging traditional Maasai cultural norms.

In support of the traditional life style of the Maasai, graduates are learning how it can be maintained through advocating for land rights and protecting natural resources important to the Maasai way of life. This newly educated generation wishes to insure that the traditional values of close-knit families and their rich Maasai heritage are preserved.

As educated Maasai women, they confront challenging issues in their culture such as early arranged marriages for girls, lack of opportunities for girls' education, female circumcision, and gender violence. They are learning that these issues are not unique to the Maasai culture, but are found in other parts of Africa and the world.

Here are the stories of two MGLSS graduates who are using their own life experiences and education to bring new awareness to these issues.

Neema Landey—From MGLSS to the United Nations

What a journey it has been for Neema Landey since she was selected to join MGLSS in 1998! Landey was sponsored at MGLSS by members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Winchester, VA and also by Jean Ekern of Cottage Grove, MN. After Landey's graduation from Form 6 in 2004, she attended the University of Dar es Saalam with an OBA scholarship. Today Landey is employed as the Youth Program Coordinator for YWCA Tanzania and in this role has championed the rights of women and girls. In January, she was one of 40 women invited to attend the Young African Women Leaders Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The forum was attended by influential African women leaders and heads of states.

In March, Landey represented her organization as an intern at the annual United Nations Commission on the



Neema Landey pictured with Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete in January 2013 at the Young African Women Leaders Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Status of Women (CSW) in New York City. Landey called the event a tremendous opportunity to represent young Tanzanian women and those from her own Maasai community.

Landey said, "The theme of this year at CSW was eliminating violence against women and girls. It was not a new word to me since we (YWCA Tanzania) have an advocacy programme which aims to end all forms of violence against women and harmful traditional practices



Neema Landey is married and lives in Dar es Salaam. Here she is pictured with her two young daughters.

which violate women's rights and their dignity. This was a time to explore skills and knowledge on how to advocate for young women and girls' rights, especially in my community."

Landey met women from all over the world at the 10-day conference as they experienced information sessions, advocacy training, and learned how to lobby their own governments for change. Landey was able to share different best practices of working with adolescent girls with conference participants from Africa to Asia. It was a time of "firsts" for Landey from attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to her first visit to New York. As Landey said, "it was an amazing opportunity!"

Nengai Lazaro — From the Safe House to a Teacher Role Model



"My name is Nengai Lazaro and I come from Gilai Lumbwa near Lake Natron in Tanzania. My mother is the second wife and was married at just 9 years old to my father who now has four wives and 20 children." Now 26, Nengai narrowly escaped an early marriage herself and is now an advocate for young Maasai girls at the MWEDO Secondary School where she is a teacher and the school matron.

By the time Nengai finished her primary education her father had arranged her marriage and wanted her to be circumcised as is still the tradition in some areas for young Maasai girls. As Nengai tells her story, "I ran and sought refuge with one of my teachers who risked her own safety by taking me to the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School." Her mother helped her escape and then did not see her daughter again until Nengai had completed her four years of secondary schooling in 2004. While at MGLSS, Nengai was sponsored through OBA by Craig and Lisa Gillin of Issaquah, WA and Zion Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN.

When Nengai returned home after four years she found she

again had to flee from her father and the arranged marriage. Nengai was then accepted into Form 5 at Moringe Sokoine School and lived in the safe house there while completing Forms 5 and 6. When she graduated in 2006 she continued her education at Bunda Teacher's College.

Recently, Nengai's story was featured in an article by the UN women's organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The organization seeks to work to prevent female circumcision as it is internationally recognized as a human rights violation. Female circumcision known as FGM is linked to early marriage, the end of a girl's education and carries a risk of infection and bleeding, which can even result in death.

Nengai's story of determination endears her to her students at MWEDO Secondary School. As one student said, "It makes me sad to hear her story, but I'm grateful that she is my teacher because she can relate to us. She knows what it's like. I'm not married, but if it wasn't for the school, I would be married and have children now."



Today Nengai, with her teacher's salary, is able to support her three younger brothers in school and assist her parents with food and clothing. She says, "My goal is to help my community and other people around me." Her dream is to further her education with a university degree so "that she can be of bigger help to a wider community" and especially help those girls who face early marriage as she did.

Operation Bootstrap Africa congratulates these exceptional young women and other MGLSS graduates who are working to improve the lives of women in their culture.





Dr. Mark Jacobson Honored with AMA Excellence in Medicine Award

Dr. Mark Jacobson, missionary physician and director of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, Arusha, Tanzania, was the recipient of the 2013 American Medical Association Foundation's Dr. Nathan Davis International Award in Medicine. Born and raised in Stillwater, MN, Dr. Jacobson attended Harvard College, the University of Minnesota Medical School, and received a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins. He and his wife, Linda, live in Arusha where they raised their three daughters.

Dr. Jacobson has a 30-year history as a dedicated health care professional in Tanzania. He served at Selian Lutheran Hospital for many years and then worked to establish the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC) where he is currently the medical director. Dr. Jacobson pioneered a hospice program for AIDS/HIV patients (a model used in other parts of Africa), started an Assistant Medical Officer training program that recently graduated its first class, and developed Plaster House, a post-surgery care center for children. He is now working to establish the first diploma level nursing college in Arusha to help meet the critical shortage of trained nurses.

Dr. Jacobson commented on receiving the AMA award saying, "This is a wonderful honor, not just for me personally, but for the entire team of Tanzanian and American colleagues who have joined together to make a difference in the lives of those with many desperate needs. The joy of serving, and ultimately easing the lives of some of our world's most needy and underserved patients, is in itself truly an award."



"Hello Dolly" production benefits the MaaSAE Girls School

Each year the Microsoft Theater Troupe produces a play to benefit a charitable organization and this year OBA was chosen as the recipient. The theater troupe, now in its 17th year, produced "Hello Dolly" for its 2012 fall season on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington. Pictured in the middle is Jean Wahlstrom, OBA board member, receiving a check from members of the theater troupe.



Congratulations to the MGLSS Form 6 class who graduated in January!



MaaSAE Girls School Form 6 graduation
featured in Twin Cities TV story!

Watch the video on the home page of our
website: www.bootstrapafrica.org

Join us in experiencing Tanzania!

There is something for everyone on this trip . . . visiting OBA projects, taking a safari to incredible national parks, attending the MaaSAE Girls' School graduation, visiting homes and markets, and experiencing Tanzanian hospitality first-hand. See the work being accomplished by educators and their students through your gifts.

The next OBA trip will be in October with a tentative date of October 15-28 and will include attending the Form 4 graduation at MGLSS on October 27, 2013. A Zanzibar extension will also be available. The cost for this trip-of-a-lifetime will be approximately \$5,000 which covers airfare, meals, lodging, tips, and all land costs. Costs not covered include beverages, visa charge, immunizations, and anti-malarial medicine. The tour is limited to 12 participants.



If you wish to receive more information, please contact the OBA office at info@bootstrapafrica.org, or call toll free 1-888-755-1318.



Tanzania, everything you never expected and more!

Thoughts from Members of the January 2013 OBA Travel Group

If you're a first-time visitor, the biggest surprise about Tanzania might be that it's exactly what you expected, and nothing like what you expected—all at the same time.

The people: Whether they're navigating the not-to-be explained chaos of big-city traffic, walking on paths with bundles of sticks and five-gallon pails on their heads, gathering at Masai bomas wearing clothing with uncannily brilliant primary colors and earrings that challenge the limits of the human ear lobe, or herding cattle across the savannah, the people could have stepped out central casting for any movie about Africa that you want to name. But their hospitality, charm, grace, patience, and their wry sense of humor—that you don't expect. **The students at the MaaSAE Girls School:** With their cropped hair, disarming smiles, khaki skirts and sensible black shoes, they look just like photos in OBA brochures. But their mesmerizing, deliberate English, their shy giggles, their sense of naivety somehow bound up in wisdom beyond their years—it catches you unaware. **The animals:** Your friends who have been on safari told you there'd be animals right under your nose. But the fact that by day three of your adventure, herds of zebras have become commonplace and giraffes towering over the tallest trees for a little snack are just part of the landscape—that's pretty surprising.

Maybe Tanzania is best at destroying preconceptions. If you go expecting to serve, you're overwhelmed at the quiet ministry you receive; if you go thinking you'll teach, you're shocked at how much you learn. If you go resigned to eating rice, beans and maize for two weeks, you're delighted at the banquet of new dishes, new flavors and wonderful new presentations of old favorites; if you're prepared to pity at least some of the people you meet, you're inspired by the richness of life in hard circumstances.

It makes sense that during a day's drive in Tanzania, you can see one of the world's most famous mountains and one of its most beautiful craters. You'll visit the greenest rolling farmland and the flattest, brown savannah. **Tanzania smashes stereotypes; it gives you everything you expect, but it also grabs you by the shoulders, turns you around, and demands that you look with new eyes at what you thought you were seeing.**

In Memoriam

Bishop Thomas Laiser

Instrumental in the founding of the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS)

Bishop Thomas Laiser, age 67, was laid to rest in Arusha on February 15 after a long battle with cancer. Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete led thousands of mourners who attended the service. Bishop Laiser served as the spiritual head of the North Central Diocese (previously the Arusha Diocese) since 1987. During his tenure, hundreds of Lutheran parishes were established.

Bishop Laiser was born in Ketumbeine village in 1945. He attended Longido Primary School and Arusha Secondary School. He completed his religious studies at Makumira Theological College in Tanzania and Wartburg Theological College in Iowa. He is survived by his wife Maria, four children, and grandchildren.

Social justice was a passion of Bishop Laiser. During his 25 year tenure he worked to establish schools, hospitals, and various development projects. A proud Maasai, he not only worked tirelessly to establish churches in Maasai areas, but also worked to provide improved educational and medical services. Selian Hospital expanded and the

new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center was built during Bishop Laiser's tenure.

For many years Bishop Laiser and others had been urging Maasai to send their daughters to secondary schools. Finally, in the early 1990's, Bishop Laiser, the Rev. David Simonson (an ELCA missionary and founder of OBA), along with influential Maasai and Tanzanian political leaders, established the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli. The Arusha Diocese donated the land where the school is built and the Rev. David Simonson raised funds in the United States for the construction of the buildings. MaaSAE Girls School became the first secondary school serving Maasai girls in northern Tanzania. Maria Laiser, Bishop Laiser's wife, served as head of the school for eight years.

In 1996, OBA was asked by Bishop Laiser to provide operating funds for the school and the sponsorship program was begun to meet this need. Bishop Laiser continued to oversee the school and enjoyed officiating at important functions such as graduations. He was especially proud of the accomplishments of the graduates of the school.

A new bishop for the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) will be elected in 2014.



Bishop Laiser blessing graduates at the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania

Remembering Pastor Retsiraiky

By Steven Lellelid, Androy, Madagascar

“Pastor Retsiraiky Zakaria spent his whole professional career working in Evangelism. He didn't work from an office, but was ever in the bush. Early on he worked with Pastor Erwin Toso; it was then that the Operation Bootstrap program began and became attached to their work for it dovetailed so well with his evangelistic outreach. Retsiraiky initiated an annual Synod-wide convention of Evangelism, convening the 2nd Tuesday of July through Sunday. This convention brought scores of musical groups from across Androy together each vying for recognition with their Tandroy spirituals. Pr. Retsiraiky and his crew of evangelists, taught how to approach the rural people and the basic rules of Tandroy etiquette. Retsiraiky was a family man and often brought one or more of his boys with him. His kidneys suffered quite often from a chronic lack of water in this driest part of Madagascar; that with diabetes finally brought down his body though not his spirit.”



Pastor Retsiraiky Zakaras

OBA's long-time partner in ministry in Madagascar, Pastor Retsiraiky, died last month. He is survived by his wife, Gevia, and several children. Pastor Retsiraiky had supervised OBA's school projects through the Malagasy Lutheran Church for more than three decades. OBA provides funding for teacher salaries so that a number of rural schools in the southernmost part of Madagascar are able to serve hundreds of children who otherwise would not have access to education. Pastor Retsiraiky's wife and staff will continue his work. Memorial gifts may be given in his name through OBA.

Legacy giving . . . We appreciate the generous gifts received this past year and encourage others to insure that the work of OBA continues in the future.

- **Consider sharing an inheritance gift with OBA**
- **Include a donation to OBA when you prepare your will or trust**
- **Give to the Nellerhoe Endowment Fund**
- **Designate memorial gifts to OBA**
- **Make a donation of securities to OBA**

Operation Bootstrap Africa Board of Directors

Gary Floss, Carrie Hefte, Morrie Kershner, Ward Larson,
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Rev. Rick Sherrill, Steve Studt, and Jean Wahlstrom

New Learning Opportunities at MaaSAE Girls School



The Kuku Project

This year at MGLSS, students are having an opportunity to learn first-hand how to raise chickens (kuku in Kiswahili). Dr. Msinjili, head of school and also a trained veterinarian, is the instructor. The students have already brought to market more than 400 chickens and are currently raising another 400 chickens.

Laying hens will also be raised in the future. A gift from an OBA donor provided the startup funds for this project. Profits from this venture provide additional income for the school. The project has been enthusiastically received by the students.



Improving computer instruction at MGLSS

As in other parts of the world, educators in Tanzania recognize the important role of technology in their students' future. In the developing world, most students have few opportunities to have computer instruction in their secondary schools.

At MGLSS, the first computer lab was equipped more than ten years ago with donated, used desktop computers. Since that time, the lab has been updated with newer, donated computers and software. The school now has a full-time computer teacher, Helen John, who is currently instructing the Form 4 graduates in a 5-month special term computer course leading to a certificate of completion. She hopes to develop a new computer technician course to accommodate those students who wish to receive additional training.

For the first time, internet access is available at the school. This access will provide another important learning tool for the students.

On behalf of MGLSS students, OBA wishes to thank the U.S. corporations who together this year have donated more than 20 used and new laptops.



Tanzania Health Care Project Updates



The new Plaster House, the rehabilitation center for children recovering from orthopedic and plastic surgeries, is nearing completion. Plaster House is affiliated with Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and is located on the outskirts of Arusha.

ALMC Nursing College to open this fall in Arusha



Juliana Malingumu, nursing instructor (on left) and Lilian Shuma, nursing college principal, inspect the newly completed kitchen facility. A dormitory and classrooms are being readied for the first class of students.



Help provide scholarships to members of the new nursing class through OBA's **Eunice Simonson Nursing Scholarship Fund**. Eunice Simonson, a nurse and wife of OBA founder David Simonson, lives in Arusha, Tanzania .

Save the date!

Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

OBA Fundraiser to benefit the new ALMC Nursing College

Special Guest—Dr. Mark Jacobson

Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report

Accomplishments

Construction and other school projects:

- Working with our Tanzanian partner, Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), construction was completed on a second classroom at Olchoki Primary School in Ngateu. Construction was also completed on a classroom at Mlimwa Primary School in Dodoma.
- Funding for desks was sent to Olchoki Primary, a school serving more than 1,800 students in Tanzania.
- Construction was completed on a new Form 5/6 classroom at the MaaSAE Girls' School. Additional funding was provided for textbooks, mattresses, plumbing, and vehicle repair at the school.
- Funding for curriculum books and school uniforms was sent to Bassodawish Primary and Secondary Schools, Tanzania.
- Funding for school equipment was given to the Special Needs Unit at Ilboru Primary School in Tanzania.

Educational Operating Grants and Scholarships:

- The largest program of OBA is the MaaSAE Girls Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli, Tanzania. Student sponsorships provided funding for the 275 students at this residential school. In its 18th year, the school continues to provide an opportunity for pastoralist girls to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. An operating grant is sent monthly.
- Additional scholarship funds were provided to students attending four other secondary schools in Tanzania, including Moringe Sokoine Secondary School.
- In Madagascar, a grant was provided to pay teacher salaries at five primary schools. These teachers taught more than 325 students last year in one of the most impoverished areas of the country.

Leadership Development:

- The post-secondary program for graduates of the MaaSAE Girls' School continued its rapid growth. More than 85 MGLSS graduates pursued degrees at colleges, universities, and vocational schools in Tanzania with full scholarships through Operation Bootstrap Africa. Without these scholarships students would be unable to train for professions in education and health care. Due to lack of financial resources, fewer than 3% of all Tanzanian students are able to attend institutions of higher learning.

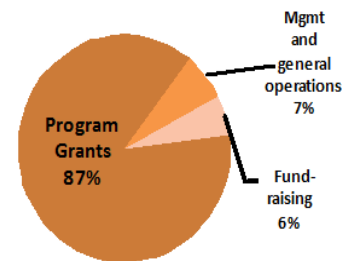
Primary Health Care:

- Funding was given to provide scholarships to train healthcare professionals in northern Tanzania.
- Support was provided to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and the Mama Naomi Clinic at Selian Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania, to provide basic health services to women and children.
- Funding was provided for the construction of the Plaster House, a rehabilitative center for children recovering from surgery performed at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Arusha, Tanzania.

Operation Bootstrap Africa

	2012	2011
Statement of Activities		
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	\$674,837	\$733,191
In-kind Donations	14,768	-
Interest Income	3,972	1,062
Unrealized Gain on Investments	1,348	2,615
Unrealized Loss on Investments	-	(2,409)
Net Assets Released		
From Restrictions	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$694,925	\$734,459
Expenses		
Program Grants	\$588,046	\$599,962
Management and gen. operations	51,020	47,258
Fundraising	43,375	39,369
Total Expenses	\$682,441	\$686,589
Change in Net Assets	\$12,484	\$47,870
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	236,361	188,491
Net Assets at End of Year	\$248,845	\$236,361
Balance Sheet		
	2012	2011
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$190,968	\$190,780
Pledges Receivable	13,070	15,950
Prepaid expenses	4,424	1,759
Total current assets	\$208,462	\$208,489
Other assets:		
Pledges receivable, net	\$9,698	\$26,215
Beneficial interest in funds held by others	\$31,987	-
Total other assets	\$41,685	\$26,215
Property and equipment:		
Furniture and equipment	\$5,949	\$5,949
Less accumulated depreciation	3,540	2,296
Net property and equipment	\$2,409	\$3,653
Total Assets	252,556	238,357
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$3,711	\$1,996
Accrued expenses	-	-
Total current liabilities	\$3,711	\$1,996
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	\$64,828	\$110,214
Beneficial Interest in Funds Held by Others	31,987	-
Total Unrestricted	96,815	110,214
Temporarily restricted	146,450	97,622
Permanently restricted	5,580	28,525
Total Net Assets	\$248,845	\$236,361
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$252,556	\$238,357

2012 Expenditures





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Dignity is a publication for friends of Operation Bootstrap Africa, a Minnesota-based non-profit dedicated to helping people help themselves through 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.bootstrapafrica.org
Email: info@bootstrapafrica.org
Phone: 1-888-755-1318 / 612-871-4980

Make a difference . . . your way

Give a gift to a project that speaks to you!

Donations by check made payable to OBA may be made in any monetary amount for the following projects:

- For books for primary or secondary students in Africa
- For primary school construction projects in Tanzania
- For helping to educate disabled children in Tanzania
- For scholarships to the MaaSAE Girls School
- For scholarships to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School (coed)
- For schools in Madagascar
- For post-secondary scholarships for MGLSS graduates
- For nursing school scholarships

Prefer to donate online?

Make a gift on our website: www.bootstrapafrica.org

Want to become a monthly donor for as little as \$10 per month? Set up the plan you prefer on the website or call the OBA office for assistance.