

# Operation Bootstrap Africa

# *Dignity*

Spring 2014: Annual Report Edition

## The Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing Officially Opens

From dream to reality, the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) School of Nursing officially opened on March 7 with a ceremony held at the school campus. The new school was inaugurated and blessed by the Rev. Solomon Massangwa, Acting Head of the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT).

At the school's opening, Dr. Mark Jacobson, Medical Director of ALMC, explained the long process of seeking accreditation for the establishment of a new nursing school. The school must be accredited by the Ministry of Education and the Tanzania Nurse and Midwife Council. The school of nursing is currently accredited for a certificate program and will seek accreditation for a diploma program. Dr. Jacobson discussed how the current nursing shortage leads to poor medical care and poor health outcomes overall. He emphasized the need to recruit local students into the nursing profession to serve local hospitals, including ALMC.

Ms. Lilian Shuma, the Principal of the School of Nursing, shared the vision and the mission of the school as preparing nurses to be servants who apply their skills and knowledge to improve the lives of others.



The staff of the ALMC School of Nursing with Dr. Mark Jacobson

The newly admitted students were the center of the celebration and they eagerly showed their guests around the newly developed site on a campus north of Arusha. The Acting Head of the North Central Diocese, Rev. Solomon Massangwa, shared the Diocese's commitment to the new school by promising that the Diocese was making available to the school sufficient land to build a permanent nursing campus.

Dr. Jacobson closed the formal celebrations with a word to the new nursing students,, "Nursing must never be just a job, but is always, always a calling from God!"

Cont. on p. 2



## School of Nursing cont.

The new school's importance cannot be overemphasized in a country where there is an acute shortage of nurses. It is estimated that Tanzania has less than 50% of nurses needed to serve public and private hospitals, clinics, and rural dispensaries. According to 2013 World Health Organization statistics, Tanzania has 2.4 trained nurses and midwives per 10,000 people. That compares with 98 nurses per 10,000 people in the United States. In Tanzania, almost 50% of trained health personnel live in the capital of Dar es Salaam, which exacerbates the shortage in rural areas.



Lilian Shuma, Principal, ALMC School of Nursing

We give thanks to all who had a part in establishing this new school, from generous donors to the dedicated nursing staff. The establishment of this new school is just the beginning! We look forward to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing becoming one of the premier nurses' training facilities in Tanzania!



Rev. Massangwa, Acting head of the North Central Diocese, with Kent Thompson, nurse educator from Howard, South Dakota. Thompson has made many trips to Tanzania as a volunteer, helping design nursing curriculum and securing donations of teaching materials and training equipment for the new school.

**We need your help to firmly establish this school and help provide Tanzanian nurses for the future!**

- ⇒ **Provide an annual scholarship of \$1,000 for a deserving student**
- ⇒ **Support graduates of MGLSS enrolled at the nursing school**

The cost of training a nurse is high, estimated at \$2,900 per year. This is out of reach for most Tanzanian students. OBA is committed to providing a \$1,000 nursing scholarship to every nursing student annually to help defray their nursing college costs. The nursing scholarship is named in honor of Eunice Simonson pictured at right, a missionary to Tanzania and herself a nurse.



There are few trained nurses or midwives among the Maasai and maternal and infant mortality rates are high. Many Maasai in remote areas do not have access to dispensaries or clinics staffed by well-trained personnel. Since most MGLSS students do not have family financial support, these students must be fully supported in nursing school.

***Donations in any amount may be made by check payable to OBA, with nursing school on the memo line, and mailed in the donation envelope in this newsletter.***



The new class gathers at ALMC on April 23 to begin their first day of nursing practicals. The pink uniforms are the standard uniform for nursing students at all schools. Male students wear white uniforms.





**Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Oakland, CA** recently traveled to Tanzania to meet their mission partners. They visited a number of schools and healthcare projects they have been supporting. Church members sponsor students at MGLSS and in the post-secondary program.

Pictured at left are members of the group and the students they currently sponsor, along with Dr. Seth Msinjili, head of school at MGLSS.

**Tanzania Primary School Construction Updates**



- The dormitory for girls at the Special Needs Unit at Ilboru Primary School is nearly completed. The dormitory construction was funded by the 2013 Lakes Area Walk that is sponsored annually by several Alexandria, MN churches.
- A new classroom is under construction for Mlimwa B Primary School in Dodoma. Westwood Lutheran Church of St. Louis Park, MN is providing funding for the construction. The church has been a mission partner of the Arusha Road Lutheran church of Dodoma for many years.
- Two new classrooms (pictured below) have been completed at Olarash Primary School by OBA donors.

**Donations to the OBA Primary School Fund are always needed to respond to requests for new construction, as well as to provide funding for the purchase of desks and other furnishings.**



**Meet the Newest Members of the MGLSS Family!**

Girls will be enjoying fresh milk in their tea at the MaaSae Girls School with the arrival of two dairy cows. This wonderful gift was given by a Seattle couple. A former MGLSS student, Esther Yamoï, is currently employed to feed and milk the new cows. The cows are a Jersey/Ayrshire breed and will produce about 17 liters of milk per day.


Enjoy a new MGLSS video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)!

Enter OBA MaaSAE Girls School on the search line.

# Preparing for a Career

## The MGLSS Post-Secondary Program

The MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) was established in 1995 at the urging of Maasai leaders, Lutheran church leadership, and the Rev. David Simonson, an American Lutheran missionary. They hoped that Maasai girls, as well as girls from the Barbeig and Hadzabe tribes, would have a safe place to learn and also maintain their cultural heritage. It was estimated at that time that there were fewer than 25 Maasai girls in Tanzania who were attending secondary school. There are approximately 500,000 Maasai out of a total Tanzanian population of 45 million.

There was resistance by some Maasai fathers to having their daughters enroll in secondary school since fathers receive a dowry, usually of cows and goats, at the time of a daughter's marriage. As more than 600 girls have successfully completed school and moved into the workplace, Maasai fathers have become more accepting of the school.

Many MGLSS students are recruited from rural areas and have limited opportunity to learn English at rural primary schools with few resources. The medium of instruction is English at Tanzanian secondary schools, which is the third language for most students after their tribal language and the national language of Kiswahili. In all of Tanzania, only 34% of primary school graduates continue to secondary school. Amazingly, those girls chosen to attend MGLSS with limited primary education thrive at the school and study hard to meet the academic demands. Over the years the school has moved into the top 10% ranking of all Tanzanian secondary schools based on national exam scores.

As the first class of Form 6 students graduated in 2002, it was evident that many girls qualified for post-secondary

education. OBA, which by then had established a student sponsorship program, had not planned to expand support beyond the secondary school. Reginald Mengi, a Tanzanian business man, along with OBA student sponsors stepped forward with scholarship support and the fledgling OBA post-secondary program was underway.

The post-secondary program is essential in preparing MGLSS graduates for future employment. Just as in the U.S. where a secondary education alone does not assure one of employment, the same is true in Tanzania. Tanzania has a high unemployment rate and only about 3% of all secondary school graduates have an opportunity to receive training leading to employment.

OBA and the MGLSS school board have carefully considered post-secondary options, focusing on scholarships for programs where there are viable employment possibilities upon graduation. The emphasis is on programs in education and healthcare, sectors where jobs are plentiful.

Two years ago, OBA and MGLSS leadership decided to provide post-secondary opportunities to all students who passed their Form 4 exams with the goal of providing as many students as possible with employment skills. It was a huge financial commitment with more than 50 students graduating each year (about 25% continue to Forms 5/6). The students rose to the challenge and in 2012 and 2013 every MGLSS student has passed her Form 4 exam! This 100% pass rate compares with a Tanzanian national pass rate of 52% in 2013. Sponsors of these Form 4 graduates have generously provided continued financial support for their students.

Since the establishment of the MGLSS Post-Secondary Program in 2002, more than 250 MGLSS graduates have received post-secondary scholarships to study at universities, colleges, and vocational schools in Tanzania. We look forward to sharing stories of these graduates in this and future issues!

### Tanzanian Educational System

Tanzanian Levels		US Equivalent
Primary School	Standards 1-7	Grades 1-7
Secondary School	Form 1-4	Grades 8-11
High School	Form 5-6	Grade 12 + 1st yr college

#### Post-Secondary Education

Vocational	2-yr programs	Vocational school
Teacher, nurses training	2-3 yr programs	N/A
University (must be Form 6 graduate)	3 yrs required for Bachelor's degree	College/University





## MGLSS graduate Martha Lekitony Ntoipo represented Tanzania at the United Nations Status of Women Conference in New York in March

Martha Ntoipo, now 33 years old, works for the Pastoralist Information and Development Organization (PIDO), a community development organization which she founded in 2010. Her nonprofit works in the fields of health, women economic empowerment, gender equity and human rights, environmental conservation and research. Ntoipo received her post-secondary education at the Institute of Rural Development Planning in Dodoma, Tanzania.

Here is one of her blogs — **“How I firmly said NO to an early and forced marriage”**

Date: 04 March 2014 I am one among nearly 50 children of my father, who has six wives. For none of them was he their choice. Men come to my father with rings that act as a booking for a wife, just like they go to any Maasai elder who has or expects daughters. I was no different. The booking had been done even before my birth. I got to go to primary school by accident, because I was enrolled in my father’s absence. That became the gateway for me to go to a secondary school that opened the year I was finishing primary school by the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, in partnership with the NGO Operation Bootstrap Africa in Minnesota and the Lutheran Church in the U.S.A.

My father was not happy. Going to secondary school meant delaying marriage, and the cows he would get as a bride price. He started talking about marriage whenever I went home for a holiday. I told him I was still in school and that I did not want to get married. He brought six different men to meet me. I saw my sisters married off at a very tender age – as young as 10 years old! But with time, in school I learned that I had the right to choose my husband and get married whenever I am ready. I stood up to my father and said NO! I will not be married to a man you choose but the one I choose for myself.

My fight had consequences for me socially, as I was perceived as an outcast, but even more for my mother, who was accused of being the mastermind behind my marriage refusal when in fact she had nothing to do with it. The things I went through and the pain and suffering I saw my late mother go through are what give me the strength and courage to do what I do today. I have been working for women’s rights since I graduated from high school in 2003. I have been addressing issues like female genital mutilation, forced early marriages, sexual and reproductive health education, children’s rights, HIV/AIDS as well as women’s rights to property ownership and decision-making. I provide training and educate girls in secondary schools on sexual and reproductive health as well as the effects of FGM. I also raise awareness among men on the rights of women and children, in the hopes of achieving communities that treat women and children justly and with the respect they deserve as human beings.

I want women from my community and other communities in Tanzania to know their rights. Every injustice that happens to women in my community has a cultural argument to support and to justify it. I believe God has given me the opportunity to see that there is an alternative, there is a chance to change and leave behind oppressive traditions and hold onto the ones that everyone in the community can celebrate. My greatest hope is that one day men and women of my Maasai community will join hands together, respecting each other and raising generations of boys and girls that treat one another with love, integrity and dignity. I want to see a peaceful world, with no struggle for equality because it has been achieved, a world where boys and girls from different backgrounds love and respect each other, a world where everyone’s opinion counts.



## We need your help in providing post-secondary scholarships!

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Nelson Mandala*

- ⇒ **Support the scholarship fund with a gift of any amount**
- ⇒ **Support an individual student annually**

**Donations may be made online or by check payable to OBA, with Post-Secondary Fund on the memo line. If you would like to be assigned a student to support, call the OBA office at 612-871-4980.**

## Giving from the heart!

**Generous donors are passionate about their support of OBA projects, but want recognition for the projects, not for themselves**

For a Minnesota couple, helping “the least of these” means support for OBA’s Madagascar school project. As they wrote, “Our Lord has blessed us way beyond our needs and dreams. As a result, we want our cup to overflow in life changing ways to those who have little or no power or opportunity in life.” Their annual gift helps support teacher salaries and provides for the purchase of books and school



supplies for five small Lutheran schools in the southern-most part of Madagascar, known as “the land of thorns.” The government does not build primary schools in the area where the schools

are located. As Gevia Retsiraiky, the Malagasy director, said in her last report to OBA, bandits control the area and in the evenings parents must conceal their children among the fields of prickly pear cactus to keep them safe. “Amidst the disorder in Madagascar at this time,” she said, “Bootstrap has provided, where the government has not.”

Another Minnesota donor, passionate about health care and children, designated her one-time gift to multiple projects in Tanzania—maternal and child clinic care, a rural dispensary, providing food for starving children, and helping those who help the poor. Part of her gift has been used to provide uji, a nourishing millet porridge, for children at Olarash Primary School (pictured below). The school draws from a wide rural area and children walk long distances to school. The Maasai in this area live in extreme poverty and some days this uji is the only food their children eat.



### LOOK FOR A MATCH!

**Maximize your gift to OBA. Check with your employer or others that provide matching gifts. Call the OBA office at 612-847-4980 if you need further information.**

**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 Nellermoe Endowment Fund to support post-secondary education**
- **Designate memorial gifts to OBA**



**In 2015,** OBA will celebrate its 50th anniversary of providing access to education for children and youth in East Africa.

Since the founding of OBA in 1965 by the Rev. David Simonson and a small group of northern Minnesota businessmen, much has been accomplished.

We will celebrate these accomplishments of OBA and our mutual partnerships in 2015 both in Tanzania and here in the United States. On January 24, 2015 there will be a celebration in Tanzania at the MaaSAE Girls School. This celebration will mark OBA’s 50th anniversary as well as the 20th anniversary of the school.

In the summer of 2015, there will be a celebration here in the United States. If you would like to volunteer to serve on the OBA anniversary committee, please contact the OBA office at 612-871-4980 or by email at [info@bootstrapafrica.org](mailto:info@bootstrapafrica.org).



# Group Members Join Together to Support MGLSS Students

Members of book clubs, church groups, alumni groups, civic groups, and former Tanzania volunteers are supporting students at the MaaSAE Girls School (MGLSS). “Our support of a student brings our group together for a wonderful cause!” said one supporter. A common thread with these groups is that one or more members have visited the school and have seen first-hand the impact of this unique school.

Long-time OBA supporter, Donna Chalmers, has been fundraising for many years in support of the Special Needs Unit at Ilboru Primary School, led by teacher Loy Yamat. When Yamat’s daughter, Neema, was selected to attend MGLSS, Chalmers asked her friends who served in the Peace Corp with her in the early 1960’s to be Neema’s sponsor. These members, pictured below at a recent reunion, served in the Peace Corp before Tanzania’s independence when the country was known as Tanganyika. They quickly responded to Chalmer’s request and now Neema has a wonderful group of sponsors!



At left, former Peace Corp nurses (Chalmers on far right). More than 50 years later, their passion for Tanzania remains as strong as ever!

Teachers for East Africa—Alumni (TEAA) also are sponsoring an MGLSS student. The group, based in Maryland, has many current and former Tanzanian volunteers and continue to provide support for many schools where they served.

For many years women’s church circles and WELCA groups have supported students at MGLSS. Bible study groups at several churches are also sponsoring students. Some groups have sponsored students since the sponsorship program began. As their students graduate, they become sponsors for new students.

Civic groups, such as the Evergreen Rotary Club of Evergreen, Colorado, not only have members that support students, but also have funded capital improvements at the school.

Several book clubs support students at both MGLSS and in the post-secondary program. Pictured below are sponsors from a Roseville, Minnesota book club. Four members of the book club have traveled to Tanzania.



A visit to MGLSS so impressed a Wartburg Alumni Club travel group that they organized to jointly sponsor a student after they returned home. Several other members of the group sponsored students individually.

We sincerely thank all OBA sponsor groups. We also thank those who take the time to organize their groups to sponsor students. You are making a difference!

## MGLSS Will Celebrate 20 years !

**Twenty years of tropical weather and minor earthquakes have taken a toll on the structures at MGLSS. If you or your church would like to help fund maintenance and repair at the school, please contact the OBA office.**

## Operation Bootstrap Africa Board of Directors

Gary Floss, Carrie Hefte, Morrie Kershner, Ward Larson, Shea McAdaragh, June Msechu, Hazel Reinhardt (Chair), Carol Stark, Steve Studt, Isaac van Bruggen, and Jean Wahlstrom

# OBA Annual Report

Fiscal Year (Sept. 1, 2012-Aug. 31, 2013) \*

## Accomplishments

### 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 nineteenth year, the school continues to provide an opportunity for pastoralist girls to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. A monthly grant to the school supports teacher and staff salaries, food, textbooks, utilities and other expenses at the school.
- 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 450 students last year in one of the most impoverished areas of the world.

### Leadership Development

- The OBA post-secondary program provides scholarships for graduates of the MaaSAE Girls School through sponsor support. This year, more than 75 MGLSS graduates attended 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.
- An additional 10 graduates from other secondary schools also received post-secondary scholarships through OBA.

### Construction and other school projects

- Funding for several hundred desks was sent to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania. Funding for new blackboards was sent to Olchoki Primary School in Ngateu, Tanzania. Books and uniforms were funded at Bassodowish Primary School near Karatu, Tanzania.
- Initial funding for the construction of a school dispensary was made to Masange Primary School in Lushoto, Tanzania.
- At MaaSAE Girls Secondary School in Monduli, a new water system was installed to connect the school with a municipal water source.
- Funding was also provided at the MaaSAE Girls School for a vehicle, tractor repair, coffee plant pruning, and for a chicken raising project. A new teacher duplex was also completed, as well as electrical updates to existing teacher houses.

### Health Care

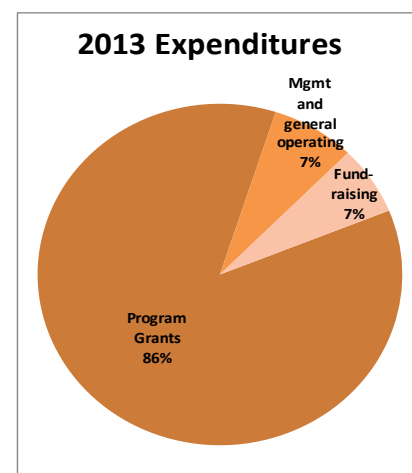
- Funding was provided for renovation of a dormitory and classrooms at the site of the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center Nursing School Tanzania. A new kitchen and septic system were also funded.
- Financial support was provided to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and Selian Hospital to provide basic health services to women and children.
- Additional funds were provided for the completion of the Plaster House, a rehabilitative center for children recovering from surgery performed at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in Tanzania.

*\*Financial results audited by Olsen Thielen & Co., Ltd., St. Paul, MN*



<b>Statement of Activities</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	\$797,343	\$674,837
In-kind Donations	2,954	14,768
Interest Income	2,779	3,972
Unrealized Gain on Investments	-	1,348
Unrealized Loss on Investments	(740)	
Special Event, Net of \$3,744 Expense	543	
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	<b>\$802,909</b>	<b>\$694,925</b>
Expenses		
Program Grants	620,659	588,046
Management and gen. operations	53,617	51,020
Fundraising	46,892	43,375
Total Expenses	<b>\$721,168</b>	<b>\$682,441</b>
Change in Net Assets	81,741	\$12,484
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	248,845	236,361
Net Assets at End of Year	<b>\$330,586</b>	<b>\$248,845</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$260,297	\$190,968
Pledges Receivable	10,514	13,070
Prepaid expenses	2,998	4,424
Total current assets	<b>273,809</b>	<b>208,462</b>
Other assets:		
Pledges receivable, net	-	9,698
Beneficial interest in funds held by others	35,787	31,987
Long-Term Investments	20,525	-
Total other assets	<b>56,312</b>	<b>41,685</b>
Property and equipment:		
Furniture and equipment	5,949	5,949
Less accumulated depreciation	4,430	3,540
Net property and equipment	1,519	2,409
Total Assets	<b>\$331,640</b>	<b>\$252,556</b>
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$1,054	\$3,711
Accrued expenses	-	-
Total current liabilities	<b>\$1,054</b>	<b>\$3,711</b>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	\$58,362	\$64,828
Beneficial interest in funds held by others	35,787	31,987
Total Unrestricted	94,149	96,815
Temporarily restricted	230,857	146,450
Permanently restricted	5,580	5,580
Total Net Assets	<b>\$330,586</b>	<b>\$248,845</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$331,640</b>	<b>\$252,556</b>





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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.

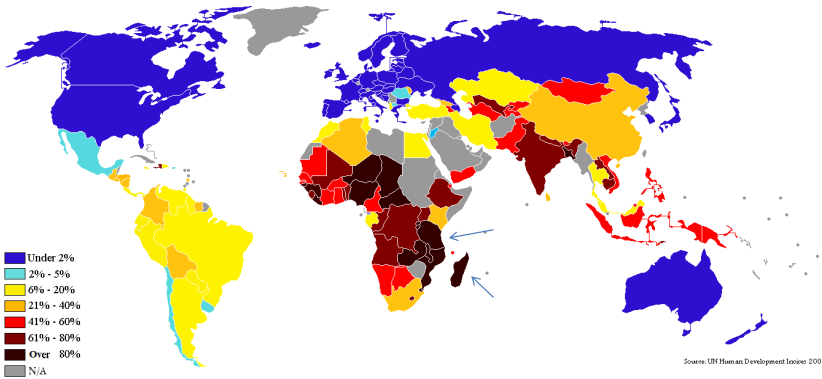
In partnership with African communities and organizations, Bootstrap provides support and assistance to projects and programs based on locally-established priorities.

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

### Why our focus on Tanzania and Madagascar?

Over 80% of the population live on less than \$2 per day, leaving little to spend on education and healthcare.



### Current OBA projects in Tanzania

- ⇒ Support of secondary and post-secondary education through student scholarships
- ⇒ Support of school construction, including classrooms, dormitories, teacher houses, and other buildings
- ⇒ Support of health care projects, including the new ALMC nursing school and Plaster House

### Current OBA project in Madagascar

- ⇒ Support for teacher salaries at five rural primary schools

**Provide the gift of education!**

Give to the project of your choice at  
[www.bootstrapafrica.org](http://www.bootstrapafrica.org)

**OBA receives donor support from:**

**68% individuals, 24% congregations, and 8% corporations and foundations**