

Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Spring 2015 Annual Report Edition

A Celebration to Remember! OBA marks 50th anniversary MaaSAE Girls School marks 20th anniversary



The MaaSAE Girls School hosted an impressive anniversary celebration on January 24, 2015 that marked two milestones — the 50th anniversary of OBA and the 20th anniversary of the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). The school was polished from top to bottom with freshly painted buildings and new landscaping. Staff and students were ready to welcome dignitaries, honored guests, and many alumni of the school.

The day commenced with the arrival of the guest of honor, His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the second president of Tanzania. Mr. Mwinyi had been present at MGLSS 20 years ago when the school was dedicated. The former president dedicated a “Tower of Founders” of MGLSS, which displayed pictures of the founder of OBA, the late Rev. David Simonson and the late Bishop Thomas Laiser. The former president also dedicated the new MGLSS administration building that is currently under construction. After planting several trees he and his entourage joined hundreds of guests who had assembled under tents on the MGLSS grounds. The three hundred MaaSAE Girls School students were seated together and welcomed the guests and dignitaries with a performance of the school’s song.

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Celebration cont.

When all were seated, the assistant bishop, the Rev. Gideon Kivuyo opened with a prayer. The director of the Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), Henry Mgingi, was then introduced. Mr. Mgingi noted the partnership with his organization that has been ongoing since the early 1970's. CDTF oversees the construction of OBA classrooms and other school buildings.

Many speeches followed including those by the new bishop of the North Central Diocese, the Rev. Solomon Massangwa and the Honorable Edward Lowassa, a member of Parliament, who represents the Monduli District where MGLSS is located.



Former Tanzanian President Mwinyi with Bishop Solomon Massangwa, of the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT)



Stephen and Nathan Simonson, sons of OBA founder, the late Rev. David Simonson, were honored at the event. Nathan Simonson was the construction engineer who oversaw the construction of most of the buildings on the MGLSS campus



Dr. Seth Msinjili, head of the MaaSAE Girls School, presenting a gift to former President Mwinyi.

The final two speeches were given by the guest of honor, the former Tanzanian president Hassan Ali Mwinyi, and Reginald Mengi, a Tanzanian benefactor of the school, who had provided university scholarships to early graduates.

As per Tanzanian tradition, the celebration involved the giving of many gifts in honor of those attending. Gifts were also bestowed on those who had contributed to the success of the MaaSAE Girls School over the years.

It was a time to greet old friends and share a delicious dinner after the speeches. The mood was festive as MGLSS alumni, teachers, OBA guests, and others mingled. Many of the alumni and MGLSS staff members were dressed in outfits sewn from pink fabric commemorating MGLSS' 20th anniversary.

OBA wishes to sincerely thank those at MGLSS, especially Dr. Seth Msinjili, for preparing the campus to host this most memorable anniversary event. Asante sana!



Former MGLSS teacher and ELCA missionary, Jean Wahlstrom, enjoyed a reunion with several MGLSS graduates



Martha Ndoipo (pictured above) spoke on behalf of MGLSS alumni at the anniversary celebration. She gave an impassioned speech about the need for change in her Maasai culture, while at the same time maintaining important cultural traditions. She announced at the event that a group of MGLSS graduates had pledged to sponsor one of the new MGLSS students.

Martha was a member of the first graduating class at MGLSS and is the founder of the Pastoralist Information and Development Organization (PIDO), a community development organization. In April she represented Tanzania at the International Indigenous Women's Forum at the United Nations.



Dear OBA Family,

In January I was privileged to represent OBA at the 50th anniversary event in Tanzania and was joined by a wonderful group of OBA supporters, including four OBA board members. I proudly accepted an award (pictured above) presented by the Honorable Edward Lowassa, a member of Parliament. The award was in recognition of OBA's 50 years of service in Tanzania. In accepting this award, I acknowledged all those who had made these accomplishments possible including the late Rev. David Simonson and his family, our many Tanzanian and Madagascar partners, American teachers and volunteers, former OBA director Deana Miller, and MGLSS teachers and staff. Most importantly, I expressed gratitude to the thousands of OBA donors who have made the accomplishments of the last 50 years possible.

In this annual report edition of the Dignity you will note that OBA had its best financial year ever thanks to your gifts! You are making it possible for hundreds of children and youth in Africa to receive the life-changing gift of education.

With heartfelt thanks,

Diane Jacoby
Director

A New Administration Building for the MaaSAE Girls School!

Pictured at right, Larry Passmore with Nashiyeh Rafael, who was in the first class of MGLSS graduates



MGLSS will soon have a new administration building thanks to a generous gift from Larry Passmore of Kalispell, Montana. The building will house administrative and teacher offices, as well as meeting rooms and staff dining space. Larry has been a friend of MGLSS since its founding, donating funds for the construction of the very first classroom. A farmer himself, Larry has provided tractors and other support for the school farm for 20 years. He has also generously supported student sponsorships and special projects at the school. When honored, Larry always gives the credit to Him above.

OBA — From Classrooms to Scholarships— Celebrating 50 Years!

In 1964 a new country was born in East Africa with the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar. The new country called Tanzania was home to 8 million people and Julius Nyerere was elected its first president. Nyerere made universal primary education one of the goals of his new country. A lack of classrooms made reaching this goal difficult.

The Reverend David Simonson and his wife Eunice, serving as Lutheran missionaries in Tanzania, shared this educational concern and began to raise funds for the construction of primary schools. In August of 1965, Operation Bootstrap Arusha was incorporated in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The name was later changed to Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA).

The concept was simple and effective. Rural parents were enlisted to build schools for their children, with American partners providing supplies such as metal roofing, nails, and cement. At the time, a classroom could be built for less than \$3,000. With Bootstrap support, thousands of classrooms were built by Tanzanian villagers in many parts of the country.



Maasai fathers building a school for their children OBA photo archives

The Tanzanian government struggles to provide adequate educational services for their citizens. The population has increased to more than 50 million people with 60% of the population under age 22. Bootstrap continues to assist with school construction projects, including classrooms, dormitories, and teacher houses. Today, most buildings have cement block construction following government specifications.

OBA currently supports projects in northern Tanzania at Ilboru Primary School (Arusha), Olchoki Primary School (Arusha), Olarash Primary School (Monduli), Makanka Primary School (Lushoto), Bassodawish Primary School (Karatu) and Mlimwa B Primary School (Dodoma).



Right, Rev. David Simonson with the first class at the MaaSAE Girls School

OBA photo archives

In 1963, OBA was encouraged to extend its educational mission to Madagascar. Schools were built in the remote, southernmost part of the country. Today, working in partnership with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, OBA donors provide salaries for teachers at 5 rural schools in the “Land of Thorns” region of Madagascar.



Newly constructed classroom in Andembene, Madagascar

During the 1970’s and 1980’s, OBA also completed educational projects in The Gambia and Zimbabwe. Today, all OBA projects are located in Tanzania and Madagascar.

Support for Tanzanian healthcare projects was also initiated at that time. Projects have been supported at Selian Hospital, Mama Naomi Clinic, Arusha Lutheran Medical Center, Plaster House, and the new ALMC School of Nursing.

In 1995 a new educational project was begun, the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School. It was established at the urging of Maasai leaders, Tanzanian Lutheran Church leadership, and the late Rev. David Simonson. They envisioned that Maasai girls, as well as girls from the Barbeig and Hadzabe tribes, would have safe place to learn and also maintain their cultural heritage. It was estimated at the time that fewer than 25 Maasai girls were attending secondary school in Tanzania.



The first three teachers at the MaaSAE Girls School, left to right, Jane Tellekson Juten, Abby Bowen Jorgensen, and Nakaji Lukumay

To date, more than 650 girls have graduated from this unique residential school. These MGLSS students have been supported in their education by generous and committed OBA sponsors. Since the post-secondary program for MGLSS grads was established in 2002, more than 350 students have qualified to continue their education at universities, colleges, and vocational schools.

Today, MaaSAE Girls school has a staff of 25 Tanzanian teachers and more than 300 students in Forms 1-6. One-third of the students are private pay students and the rest are sponsored by OBA donors. The school also receives support for special projects.

We Need 20 New Sponsors!

In January, 50 excited, new OBA students began Form 1 classes at the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School. Each of these students needs a sponsor to provide for their support at the school. Thirty students are now sponsored, but we still need 20 more sponsors for the remaining students. Here are four of the twenty deserving young girls still needing sponsors. Will you become a sponsor of one of them?



Maureen is 13 years old and likes to study science.



Maria is 14 years old and is from the Hadzabe tribe.



Momi is 13 years old and comes from Olarash village.



Lulu is 12 years old and enjoys biology class.

The cost of sponsorship has risen as the cost of educating a student in Tanzania has increased. The biggest driving force is the rapid rise in teacher salaries. Today an MGLSS sponsorship is \$1,000 for a full sponsorship and \$500 for a co-sponsorship. This sponsorship covers about 80% of actual annual costs per student. The balance is made up with general donations to the MGLSS scholarship fund.

Sponsorships can be shared with 2 or more people. A group, such as a book club, civic group, or Bible study group, can also sponsor a student. It is hoped that sponsorship will continue during the student's time at the school.

Give the priceless gift of education to a young girl. Learn how you can become a sponsor by calling OBA toll free at 1-888-755-1318.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



A New math teacher for MGLSS!

Donors at the 2014 Cross of Christ Lutheran Church auction in Bellevue, WA provided funding for a new math/physics teacher at the MaaSAE Girls School.

Alfred Williams was hired and started in his new position in January. He teaches Forms 5 and 6 and also teaches math to the new students at Form 1. He loves the challenge of convincing the new students that they can be good at math.

MGLSS By the Numbers

- More than 1,100 students have attended MGLSS or are currently enrolled
- More than 650 students have graduated from Form 4 (11th grade equivalent)
- More than 200 students have graduated from Form 6 (1st year of college equivalent)
- The Form 4 completion rate is 75%, compared to less than 30% nationwide in Tanzania
- More than 350 graduates of Forms 4 and 6 have received post-secondary training at universities, colleges, and vocational schools
- Seventy graduates hold university degrees and others have completed graduate work
- Approximately 130 graduates have received teacher training or have education degrees
- Nine students hold law degrees and twenty-five students have received business training
- Several graduates are medical doctors and more than 50 graduates are working or training in healthcare fields

Join Us in Experiencing Tanzania!

The next OBA trip will be this October with a tentative date of October 19-30 and will include attending the Form 4 graduation at MGLSS on October 24, 2015. 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, Tanzanian travel visa charge, immunizations, and anti-malarial medicine. The tour is limited to 12 participants.



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.

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



New Stethoscopes For ALMC Students!



Dr. Jack McAllister (pictured above) and members of Bethel Lutheran Church of Winchester, Virginia traveled to Tanzania with the OBA group in January. They brought new stethoscopes for all 46 nursing students attending the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing. The students were delighted!

Many thanks to Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kanenen for providing tutoring and library support for students at the new nursing school for 4 months and to students from Gustavus Adolphus College who delivered books to the school in January.

OBA also wishes to thank the Deaconess Community of the ELCA for their generous grant to equip the new nursing school and also for providing nursing scholarships.



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.

- **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**
- **Make a donation of securities to OBA**

Light Up The Night! Solar Panels for MGLSS!

Celebrate our 50th anniversary with a \$50 gift to provide emergency solar power to buildings at the school.

Imagine if your power went out several times a week. Rural areas in Tanzania, including the area where the MaaSAE Girls School is located, suffer frequent power outages. Most electrical power is supplied by hydro power in Tanzania. It is estimated that 20% of the country is without power at any given time.

When power is out in the evening, the girls are unable to study. It also provides for unsafe conditions in the dormitories. During the day, computers and other business machines are unusable when the power is out.



YOU CAN HELP TO KEEP THE POWER ON WITH YOUR \$50 GIFT

One solar roof panel costs about \$350 in Tanzania. Our goal is to have panels installed on the more than 30 buildings at the school. Buildings with computers and other office machines will require multiple solar panels.

If you wish to support this OBA 50th anniversary project, you may donate \$50 (or multiples of \$50s) online or by mail with a check made payable to Operation Bootstrap Africa and mailed in the envelope in this newsletter.

Our goal for this project is \$20,000, which will provide for the purchase of solar panels, installation, and maintenance.



Renovated Library to Serve Moringe Sokoine Secondary Students



The library at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School was recently renovated with a gift from members of Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton, MN and several other donors. The much-needed facelift included new windows, doors, and bookcases.

Moringe Sokoine Secondary School is located in Monduli and is more than 50 years old. Another recent gift from Teachers for East Africa Alumni (TEAA) provided funding for science laboratory renovations.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in celebrating
OBA's 50th anniversary!

In Bellevue, Washington

Sunday, November 8 from 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Saint Andrew's Luth. Church, 2650 148th Ave. SE

In Minneapolis, Minnesota

Friday, November 13 from 6-9 p.m.

Thrivent Financial Auditorium, 425 Fourth Ave. S

Operation Bootstrap Africa Board of Directors

Mark and Julie Cutler, Gary Floss, Jean Geurink, Carrie Hefte, Ward Larson, June Msechu, Hazel Reinhardt (Chair), Carol Stark, Steve Studt, Isaac van Bruggen, and Jean Wahlstrom

OBA Annual Report

Fiscal Year (Sept. 1, 2013-Aug. 31, 2014)*

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 education of the 310 students at this residential school. In its twentieth year, the school continues to provide an opportunity for pastoralist girls to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. A monthly operating grant to the school supports teacher and staff salaries, food, textbooks, utilities and other expenses at the school.
- A grant was given to MGLSS for the establishment of a pre-form one program to provide additional support to new students who struggle academically.
- Additional scholarship funds were provided for four students attending Moringe Sokoine Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania.
- 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 OBA post-secondary program provides scholarships for graduates of the MaaSAE Girls School through sponsor support. This year, more than 85 MGLSS graduates pursued degrees at colleges, universities, and vocational schools in Tanzania with scholarships through Operation Bootstrap Africa.
- An additional 6 graduates from other secondary schools, including Ketumbeine Secondary School, also received post-secondary scholarships through OBA.
- Forty-three students at the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Center School of Nursing each received a \$1,000 scholarship to help defray the high cost of nursing training.

Construction and other school projects at primary and secondary schools in Tanzania:

- A dormitory for disabled girls was funded at Ilboru Primary School Special Need Unit in Arusha.
- For the Masange project near Lushoto, Tanzania, funding was provided for the completion of a medical dispensary, for improvements to the Makanka Primary school, and for breakfast for students at the school.
- Funding for books was sent to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, Monduli and Gracious Primary School, Arusha.
- Funding was provided for books and for the completion of a teacher house at Enaboishu Secondary School in Arusha.
- A new classroom was constructed at Mlimwa B Primary School in Dodoma.
- Two classrooms were completed at Olarash Primary School near Monduli. Funding was also provided for daily porridge for the 500+ students.
- At the MaaSAE Girls Secondary School in Monduli, funds were provided for textbooks, blankets, bunk beds, and uniforms. Funding was also provided for a chicken raising project, for the purchase of milk cows, and for coffee harvesting on the school farm. Electrical updates to existing teacher houses were also completed.

Health Care:

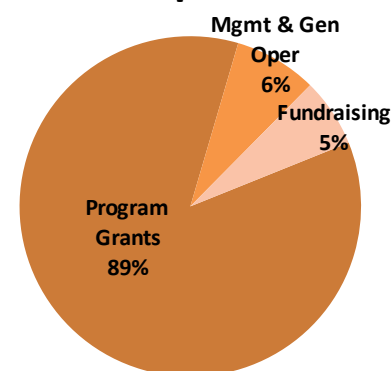
- Funding was provided for kitchen and dormitory improvements at the site of the new Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing in Tanzania.
- Financial support was provided to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre and Selian Hospital to provide basic health services to women and children.

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

Statement of Activities	2014	2013
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	\$982,485	\$797,343
In-kind Donations	585	2,954
Interest Income	4,883	2,779
Unrealized Gain on Investments	6,779	-
Unrealized Loss on Investments	-	(740)
Special Event, Net of \$3,744 Expense	-	543
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$994,743	\$802,909
Expenses		
Program Grants	793,213	620,659
Management and gen. operations	56,927	53,617
Fundraising	47,148	46,892
Total Expenses	\$897,288	\$721,168
Change in Net Assets	97,444	81,741
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	330,586	248,845
Net Assets at End of Year	\$428,030	\$330,586

Balance Sheet	2014	2013
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$352,332	\$260,297
Pledges receivable	-	10,514
Other receivables	4,020	-
Prepaid expenses	4,810	2,998
Total current assets	361,162	273,809
Other assets:		
Pledges receivable, net	-	-
Beneficial interest in funds held by others	44,529	35,787
Long-Term Investments	22,855	20,525
Total other assets	67,384	56,312
Property and equipment:		
Furniture and equipment	5,949	5,949
Less accumulated depreciation	5,025	4,430
Net property and equipment	924	1,519
Total Assets	\$429,470	\$331,640
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$1,440	\$1,054
Accrued expenses	-	-
Total current liabilities	\$1,440	\$1,054
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	\$178,305	\$58,362
Beneficial interest in funds held by others	44,529	35,787
Total Unrestricted	222,834	94,149
Temporarily restricted	199,616	230,857
Permanently restricted	5,580	5,580
Total Net Assets	\$428,030	\$330,586
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$429,470	\$331,640

2014 Expenditures





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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
Email: info@bootstrapafrica.org
Phone: 1-888-755-1318 / 612-871-4980

Provide the gift of education!

Give to the project of your choice at
www.bootstrapafrica.org



LOOK FOR A MATCH!

Maximize your gift to OBA. Check with your employer or others that provide matching gifts. Call the OBA office at 612-871-4980 if you need further information.

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

OBA donor support :

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