

Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Fall 2012

The New Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre Nursing College

Establishing a nursing college in northern Tanzania has been a dream for many. With your support this dream will indeed become a reality!

Tanzania, one of the world's poorest countries, continues to experience a critical shortage of health care personnel making the need to educate Tanzanians at all levels of medical practice paramount. So great is the nursing shortage that only 35 percent of existing positions are currently filled.

- To address this critical shortage, Operation Bootstrap Africa is partnering with Dr. Mark Jacobson, an ELCA medical missionary, and his staff to launch a new nursing college in Arusha, Tanzania. This new nursing college, to be associated with the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (ALMC), will grant a diploma after three years of study.

Scheduled to open in February 2013, the new college needs to make minor improvements in donated space that will be its home for two years. After two years, the college must find permanent space. An initial class of 25 students will be recruited. Providing scholarships to assist with the high cost of training will be essential. Donated nursing books and teaching materials are currently being



Naomi Peter, ALMC nurse, MaaSAE
Girls' School graduate

Nursing College, continued



You can make a difference! Here are the new nursing college's immediate needs:
\$25,000 in startup costs to upgrade the kitchen and make other improvements to the facility
\$25,000 per year for 25 scholarships to help defray student tuition and room/board costs

How can you help?

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

Donations may be made by check payable to Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA)
Operation Bootstrap Africa, 625 Fourth Ave. S., Suite 110, Minneapolis, MN 55415
Or donate online at www.bootstrapafrica.org All gifts to OBA are tax-deductible
Phone: 612-871-4980 or toll-free at 1-888-755-1318

Lakes Area Walk, Alexandria, MN



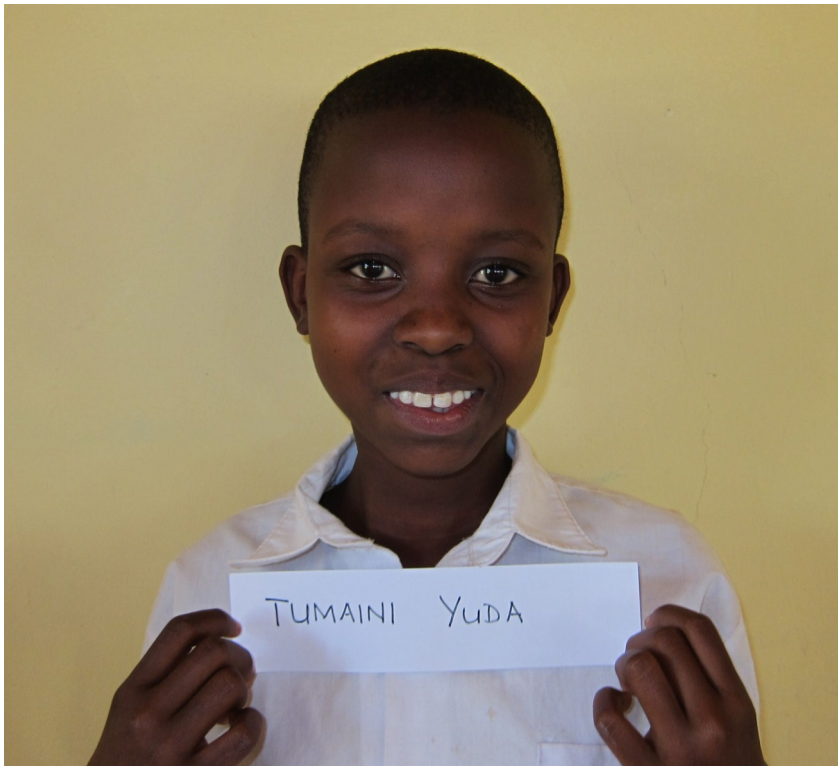


MGLSS Students are waiting...

Will you become a new sponsor?

Tumaini, a young preform girl, shyly poses for her picture the first day she arrives at MGLSS. Imagine the journey she is about to embark on! Does she know that her journey at MaaSAE Girls' School will change her life forever?

Four thousand miles away a new sponsor will look at that picture. Her new sponsor will follow Tumaini's journey and learn much about a culture in Tanzania very different than her own, a culture where most girls never have a chance at a secondary education. Her sponsor's support will make it possible for Tumaini's life-changing experience.



Will you join others in making an investment that will change a life? The World Bank has recognized that there is no investment more effective for achieving development goals than educating girls. Educated girls live longer, lead healthier lives, have fewer children, and provide financial stability for their families.

Statistics aside . . . one girl, one sponsor and the sky's the limit for what a MGLSS girl can achieve!

For eighteen years MGLSS has provided educational opportunities for girls from the most marginalized groups in Tanzania. In this protective, yet empowering community, more than 550 girls have blossomed into confident young women. By joining with us to become a

sponsor, you will insure that this amazing school will continue to produce well-educated young women who will bring positive change to themselves, their families and their country of Tanzania.

Fifty new students are waiting to start their educational journey at MGLSS. Change a young life forever and become a sponsor today!

Student Sponsorship:

An annual MGLSS sponsorship is \$900 and a half-sponsorship is \$450

- **Contribute by check made payable to OBA and mail to the OBA office**
- **Donate online at www.bootstrapafrica.org and click Give Now.** All credit cards are accepted. You can also arrange for recurring monthly payments on the website. If you have questions, please call the OBA office at 612-871-4980 or 1-888-755-1318.

A visit to MGLSS is an unforgettable experience! Judie Lehman of Stoughton, WI, (pictured below with Les Huth, Dr. Seth Msinjili, and Mike Kuehne) traveled with the Wartburg alumni group and shares her experience below:

“ . . . what has captured my mind and heart is the MaaSAE Girls’ School. Maybe it is my former work (I was a teacher and administrator before retirement). Maybe it is the impression that the headmaster, Dr. Seth Msinjili, had on me personally as well as the rest of our group (he’s a humble man with a great sense of humor who has come out of retirement to lead this incredible school). Possibly, it was interacting with the girls themselves that provided the impetus for me to come home and consider sponsoring a full



scholarship for one of the girls. Or, it could have been that the Holy Spirit truly nudged me to “do something”. Our travel group also decided to donate a full scholarship as a group. One couple had already provided a full scholarship on their own and another had already sent money to OBA. That was how profoundly we had been impacted by what we saw and experienced at the school.

First of all, the peacefulness of the grounds was such a contrast to another school we visited. Secondly, the headmaster and teachers were so delighted that we came and spoke so excitedly about what they were doing. Thirdly, each of us had a student who took us around and showed us various buildings, including their dorms, all of which were meticulously cared for.

We started with a group sharing in the teacher’s lounge where one girl, the student body president, spoke with us. We were able to ask questions of her and she shared that she was going on to college in economics. When someone asked her what she planned do with that degree her response was, “I want to be the first female president of Tanzania.” Wow, talk about high goals!! We were all impressed!

The girls from this school are from “the bush”. We saw on this trip what it was like to live “in the bush”. It is not a part of their culture that girls need to be educated beyond grade 7 (as we know it). These girls at MGLSS are among the brightest and best in that area of Tanzania. It is thrilling to know that they have a chance to better themselves and thus the lives of their families. And, I truly believe that God is nudging us all to contribute to that opportunity through our financial gifts.”

Other recent MGLSS visitors have included a delegation from the ELCA Northern Illinois Synod and members of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, Pennsylvania. A large group of students from Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA, spent time at MGLSS in July and several Washington State sponsors attended the September Form 4 graduation.



MGLSS -- MAKING AN IMPACT

Eager Students, Dedicated Staff, Committed Sponsors

More than 525 girls have now graduated from Form 4 (Grade 11 equivalent in the U.S.A.) at the MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). Only 8% of all Tanzanian students completed Form 4 in 2011. Among MGLSS graduates, nearly half have received post-secondary education and that percentage is climbing. The incoming students face incredible barriers:

- Coming from cultures where education of girls is not valued and often discouraged
- Coming from families where few members, if any, have attended a secondary school
- Coming from overcrowded primary schools lacking books and other essential teaching materials
- Coming to school with limited English proficiency (usually the students' third language)

The students overcome these barriers and thrive in the learning community of MGLSS. They are focused on their learning and study many hours a day.

In 2011, MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School students, at both Forms 4 and 6, achieved exam results that for the first time placed the school in the top 10% of secondary schools in Tanzania.

The academic achievements at MGLSS are also made possible by the committed teaching staff at MGLSS led by Dr. Seth Msinjili. This year at the school:

- More teachers now hold higher degrees in their teaching fields
- Student/teacher ratios are lower than at other secondary schools
- Scores in science have improved with more teachers, books, and equipment to support the science program

In addition, MGLSS support staff provide meals, uniforms, medical assistance, and a safe and secure learning environment.

The commitment of sponsors, along with other donors to MGLSS, must be emphasized. Without them, the amazing story of MGLSS could not be written.



MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School Staff

January 2012

An OBA sponsor received this touching letter from her student who is now married with a child.

*Dear Mom,
I just hope you are in excellent health and spirit. It has been a long time since we write to each other. This is just because we have both been somewhat busy.*

I hope that the Christmas season will bring more happiness into your life as it does to mine. Mom thank you again for everything you've done for me! Frankly speaking giving me education was the most gift I ever received. This is because the education you given it to me changed my life a lot. I will tell you why I am saying so.

First of all, the education you have given me helped to change my life from the house lady to a working one. The salary I am getting helps me a lot with my family.

Secondly, I met Joel at the university (he is a wonderful man and sometimes I think he is very different from other Maasai men, he loves me so much). If it had not been you I would not have met this wonderful man.

Thirdly, I managed to build my mother a modern house, of course with the help of Joel. Everybody is not against sending their daughters to school any more. I am always a reference of what a girl can do for their parents once they are educated. You made all these possible.

I just wish you can come to Tanzania so that we see each other again and of course for you to meet my wonderful family. Again once more thank you for everything you done for me. I always pray to God to bless you more and more.

Love, Sinyati



Belinda Nemburis at her Form 4 graduation with her sponsor Donna Kernutt. For several years Donna has served as a volunteer English teacher for the new preform students.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Will you become a sponsor today and change the life of a deserving Tanzanian girl?

The work of MGLSS is made possible by student sponsorships through gifts to the OBA Scholarship Fund.

Each year more than 50 new sponsors are needed to insure that we maintain our funding commitment to the school. Sponsorships provide 80% of the MGLSS annual funding.

Student sponsorships are \$900 per year and co-sponsorships are \$450. Monthly giving makes sponsorships more affordable.

Contact the OBA office for more information at 612-871-4980 or by email at info@bootstrapafrica.org.

THE NEED CONTINUES . . .

For assistance to our partner primary schools

At Olchoki Primary School near Arusha, more than 1800 children crowd into only 14 classrooms. The students in Standards 1 and 2 attend school in two streams a day due to limited classroom space. On a recent visit in January, our OBA travel group was overwhelmed by the sheer number of students in such a small area. We saw the new classroom funded by the Lakes Area Walk donors from Alexandria, MN under construction. It was completed in February (pictured right) and put to immediate use.

This past Christmas season other OBA donors contributed funds for desks for the school. Another need is for textbooks. We observed up to 10 students sharing a single book in the upper level grades. The dedicated headmaster, Michael Mollel, has been partnering with OBA for many years. He said to express his heartfelt thanks to donors who are assisting his school.



How can you help?

- Donate funds towards a second planned classroom
- Donate \$50 for the purchase of a desk
- Donate \$100 to purchase 10 books

January Form 6 graduation at Moringe Sokoine Secondary School

A number of students receive OBA scholarship support at this coed secondary school in Monduli. This school enrolls more than 500 students.



We Moved!

The OBA office moved to the Thrivent Financial building on December 5. Please note our new office address is:

**Operation Bootstrap Africa
625 Fourth Ave. So., Suite 110
Minneapolis, MN 55415.**

As with all moves it was a great time for some house-cleaning. Many boxes of historical records and photos are currently being archived. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped with the move. We couldn't have done it without you!



Carol Garbisch and Sharon Quern sort through paperwork in preparation for the move

Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report

Accomplishments

Construction and other school projects:

- Working with our Tanzanian partner, Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), construction was completed on a teachers' office and a second classroom for physically and mentally impaired students at Ilboru Primary School. Funding for more than 150 school desks was sent to furnish new classrooms at Mlimwa Primary in Dodoma, Tanzania. An electrification project was completed at Kiwanja kwa Ndege Primary School in Dodoma.
- A much-needed boys' latrine was completed at the boarding primary school in the village of Ketumbeine, Tanzania
- Construction was completed on a new water pipe which brought mountain water to MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli, Tanzania.
- Funding for curriculum books and school uniforms was sent to Bassodawish Primary and Secondary Schools, Tanzania.
- A school well was completed at Ntalawanda Primary School, Tanzania.
- A classroom was completed at Gracious Primary School in Arusha, Tanzania.
- Funding for curriculum books and a milling machine was sent to Moringe Sokoine Secondary School, Monduli, 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 to attend this residential school.
- Additional scholarship funds were provided to students attending six other secondary schools in 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 post-secondary program continued its rapid growth. More than 70 MGLSS graduates received full scholarships through OBA to study at vocational schools, colleges and universities in Tanzania. Without these scholarships, students would be unable to train for future professions in education and health care.

Primary Health Care:

- Funding was given to provide scholarships to train healthcare professionals in northern Tanzania.
- Support was provided to 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 Center in Arusha, Tanzania.

Operation Bootstrap Africa

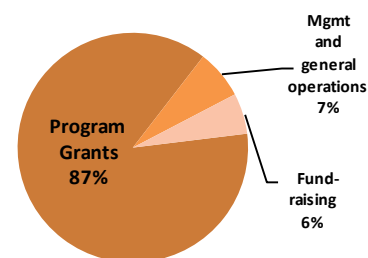
Statement of Activities

	2011	2010
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$733,191	\$680,079
In-kind Donations	-	18,338
Interest Income	1,062	1,145
Unrealized Gain on Investments	2,615	-
Unrealized Loss on Investments		(1,745)
Net Assets Released		
From Restrictions	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$734,459	\$697,817
EXPENSES		
Program Grants	\$599,962	\$496,284
Management and general operations	47,258	95,787
Fundraising	39,369	42,829
Total Expenses	\$686,589	\$634,900
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$47,870	\$62,917
NET ASSETS at Beginning of Year	188,491	125,574
NET ASSETS at End of Year	\$236,361	\$188,491

Balance Sheet

	2011	2010
Assets		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$190,780	\$106,041
Pledges Receivable	15,950	26,377
Prepaid expenses	1,759	2,844
Total current assets	\$208,489	\$135,262
Other assets:		
Pledges receivable, net	\$26,215	\$49,095
Investments	-	7,921
Total other assets	\$26,215	\$57,016
Property and equipment:		
Furniture and equipment	\$5,949	\$7,552
Less accumulated depreciation	2,296	4,555
Net property and equipment	\$3,653	\$2,997
Total assets	238,357.00	195,275.00
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$1,996	\$705
Accrued expenses	-	6,079
Total current liabilities	\$1,996	\$6,784
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	\$110,214	\$70,033
Temporarily restricted	97,622	102,353
Permanently restricted	28,525	16,105
Total net assets	\$236,361	\$188,491
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$238,357	\$195,275

2011 Expenditures





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625 Fourth Avenue South
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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

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

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

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

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

MGLSS graduate, Jackline Shambulu (on left), enjoys reading about the reunion of her classmates at the Form 4 September graduation. Jackline is currently working as an occupational therapist with children recovering from surgery at the Plaster House in Arusha.

