



Operation Bootstrap Africa

Dignity

Summer 2021 Annual Report Edition

Representing the students and parents of our students, I have the privilege and responsibility to express their most sincere and heartfelt gratitude.

How can one say thank you to someone from a culture you do not understand? How does one repay a sponsor for changing the trajectory of their child's life when you have no worldly possessions? How does a parent say thank you for providing hope for a better life through education? What does it mean to a parent when you provide a meal for their child while enduring a famine which is taking children in other villages?

Often, they humbly bow their heads and thank God for you. They thank God for bringing you into their lives. Please know that you are in the prayers of thousands of families whose lives you are changing through Operation Bootstrap Africa. YOU are making a difference!

In addition to representing families' gratitude for your love and support, it is also our responsibility to keep you informed of what is happening. We do this using a number of tools including: the newsletter you are reading now, but more often through blog posts, social media posts, email blasts, live Zoom updates, appeals, our website, and of course traveling with me to our projects in Africa. Let me also say that you are always welcome to call or email the office with any questions. We want you to know how you are changing lives in Africa.



For 56 years, Operation Bootstrap Africa has embraced a tradition of open and transparent communication. Others have noticed. Charity Navigator, a non-profit watchdog, has given OBA a 4 out of 4-star review for the 8th year in a row. Less than 10% of all the charities in the USA have been given this honor and we are so blessed to wield it.



In this edition, you will read about Kay DeWeese and her experiences volunteering at the MaaSAE Girls School. You will also learn about a historic change of leadership in Tanzania: the First Woman President! There is a COVID-19 update, insight into my recent visit to schools in Madagascar, an update on our lunch program at an urban school in Arusha, Tanzania, the OBA financial report, and ways you can

make a lifetime gift and leave a legacy that speaks volumes about your character and values. This newsletter is a celebration of how you are empowering Africans to make the change they need in their countries through education.

You are making a difference!

Jason

Hope, Empowerment, and Opportunity.

On October 7th, 2020 I received a text with pictures from our schools in Southern Madagascar. I was aware of the prolonged drought, but I did not realize famine had set in. The pictures were of children with obvious signs of malnutrition. We immediately held an emergency board meeting and within two weeks had a plan to provide lunches at our schools. Because there wasn't any food to purchase in Southern Madagascar where the schools are, it had to be trucked from Northern Madagascar which required another week. Altogether, it took only three weeks to start providing nutritious meals to the schools. Unfortunately, that wasn't fast enough for nine of the children who had passed away from malnutrition. We are grateful to report that there have been no additional cases of children succumbing to starvation since we started the lunch program.



Because of the Global Pandemic, Madagascar closed its borders to international travelers. We did, however, get special permission from the Malagasy Government to enter for humanitarian reasons. I was required to quarantine for three days until I got the negative Covid test results on an island off the coast. I could then take a boat to the main island and drive the length of the country to visit the schools. It was much more of an adventure than expected, but it was a wonderful opportunity to see the country. After 7 days of driving, we arrived at the schools. Some were mud and stick construction while others were simple stick woven walls with thatched roofs. Some had "desks and benches" while in some of the schools the

students sat on the dirt floor. When I asked what their greatest needs were, they all expressed appreciation for what they have received, and then asked for larger portions for the children's lunches. They also asked for a block school building. However, the most desperate need was a well— a clean, dependable source of water even in times of drought. The closest village to a dependable water source was about 3 miles away. When I asked if the children retrieved the water for lunch, a parent scoffed and said, "No". I was confused because that is usually a child's duty. They



responded, "Because there are crocodiles in the river". So, they are fetching dirty water from a crocodile-infested river. After a crop failure, people began to eat their seeds. As a result, they didn't have anything to plant when the rains began. We brought seeds for them, along with notebooks, pencils, and chalk. As difficult as it was going into a village where only the children eat regularly, we will continue to feed them. We will build concrete block schools with steel roofs and water catchments. We will continue to teach sustainable agriculture. We will drill wells to provide safe drinking water even in times of drought. However, the most important piece of the plan is education. They don't know what they don't know, meaning that without education, they will

continue to do the same things, the same ways as they have been done for hundreds of years.

You can sponsor a child for \$30 a month. You can provide a well for \$20,000. You can build a school for \$30,000. You can create an impact that will be felt by the whole community, for generations to come.

Donor Contribution — Kay DeWeese



Kay DeWeese is a long time supporter of Operation Bootstrap Africa. She is passionate about our projects, and wrote the following article about her time at MGLSS

In 2003, a friend invited me to join her on a short visit to see her friends and family Eric and Beth Hanson, who were volunteer teachers at the MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS). In preparing for the visit, I learned that the school needed an English teacher for the four month program, "Pre-Form One". This is a short session for girls to learn English and adjust to school before beginning their first year of secondary school in January. The girls came from the Boma with little or no English. I volunteered to teach those four months and have been back to the school most years since 2003. I've lost count. Now, the Pre-Form One has been shortened to October-December.

The opportunities to learn about the lives of the girls and Maasai culture have enriched my life beyond measure. Girls who come to school after primary school at 13 or 14 years of age are often there to

escape a forced marriage. Your heart can not hold enough love and admiration for these girls. Because I am old, the girls call me "Bibi" which means grandmother in Swahili. Such an honor.

The girls thrive at MGLSS. One girl I met in 2003 and began sponsoring, is now a national game park official, helping the country protect endangered animals. Another girl is an attorney. This girl told me, "Bibi, I'll be the first Maasai woman lawyer in the country. I'll protect the rights of girls to go to school." Now, she is exactly that. Other girls I have taught are teachers, nurses, and shop keepers. They have learned skills to provide for their children and families.

I have witnessed enormous cultural shifts in the years since 2003. Now, more fathers allow their girls to go to high school rather than exchange them for five cows, the traditional bride price. More girls know some English when they arrive at MGLSS. Girls are also less likely to have tribal facial scarring, as well as less likely to have teeth knocked out. They would do this so they could drink through a reed (straw) in case they had lock jaw due to tetanus. They are still the same lovable, courageous girls that enriched my life and enrich their country. I hope to return to MGLSS soon. -Kay DeWeese

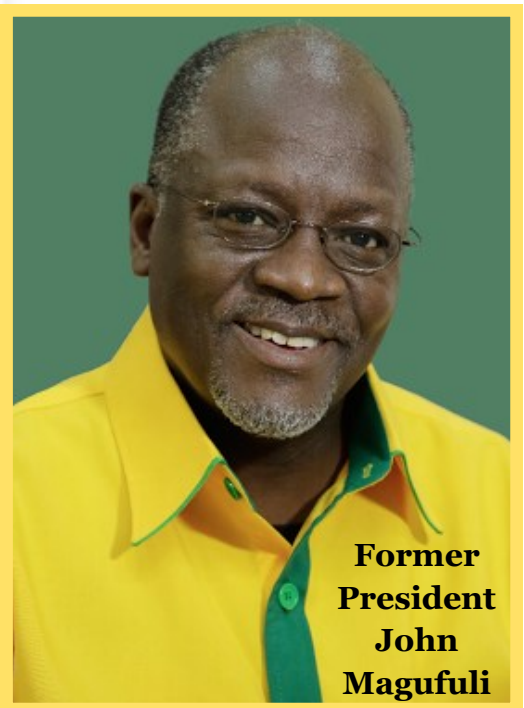
Tanzanian President Passes Away and Country Now Has First Female President

John Pombe Joseph Magufuli passed away in March of 2021. He was the fifth president of the United Republic of Tanzania, serving from 2015 until his death.

Magufuli was known for his no nonsense attitude, and being a true leader for the people. Magufuli received the nickname "The Bulldozer" in reference to his roadworks projects, but the term was also used about his moves to reduce spending and corruption within the government. The government released notice of his death on 17 March 2021 due to a long-standing heart issue. He was succeeded by his Vice-President, Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Samia Suluhu Hassan is a Tanzanian politician who is the sixth and current president of Tanzania. She is a member of the ruling social-democrat Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party. Suluhu became Tanzania's first female vice-president following the 2015 general election, after being elected on the CCM ticket with President Magufuli. Suluhu and Magufuli were re-elected to a second term in 2020.

Suluhu is the third female head of government of an East African Community country. She is also the first female president of Tanzania. She took office on March 19th, 2021 after the death of President John Magufuli on March 17th, 2021.



**Former
President
John
Magufuli**



**Current President
Samia Suluhu
Hassan**

COVID-19 Update

So much of African culture is communal, which makes it hard to practice safety recommendations given by epidemiologists and scientists. Maintaining distance and washing your hands is difficult with no clean water. With your help, OBA raised funds to provide hundreds of hand washing buckets, water tanks,



masks, hand sanitizers, and "no-touch" thermometers for our schools. They are implementing these tools as well as possible, but school staff are seeing signs of COVID in their communities. Many letters sent from the girls at MGLSS describe death in their families with similar symptoms of COVID. MGLSS Headmaster Dr. Msinjili fears sending students to family funerals for risk of exposure to the Coronavirus. Thankfully, we have had no reports of students showing symptoms. OBA asks you to continue praying for our schools and students as they navigate the pandemic.

SAVE THE DATE!



FOR A ONE-NIGHT FLIGHT TO AFRICA!
SATURDAY, August 28, 2021

Hope to see you at this **LIVE** fundraising event!



This in person event/fundraiser will be held at the Crystal Airport! Enjoy a live auction, social, pig roast, and lots of fun. Bring a friend so they can feel what it's like to make a difference. Dresscode is casual or vintage aviation.

All funds from this event will strengthen education in Africa.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOXES FOR A FORMAL INVITATION!



Find us Online!

Facebook: [facebook.com/
OperationBootstrapAfrica](https://facebook.com/OperationBootstrapAfrica)

Instagram: [@BootstrapAfrica](https://www.instagram.com/BootstrapAfrica)

Check Us Out On
YouTube!



Blast from the Past!

August, 1993

Pictured from Left to Right: Dori Otterson,
Rev. David Simonson (OBA Founder),
Mary McAllister, and Nico Andrew
(Maanga School Carpentry Teacher)



Keeping Our Kids

Newest OBA Board member Doreen Hernesman has written a piece highlighting the importance of nutrition in education. Doreen has worked in higher education for many years, and has a passion for her students. These are her words:

“For nearly 25 years I have worked at a program called TRIO Student Support Services. We work with students who are first generation college students, or are coming into school with a low income. Many of the students I served came to me with a variety of challenges that I would help them overcome. Common challenges for anyone living in poverty are housing, food, transportation, and having access to a medical provider. I myself lived in poverty and understand the challenges of living in and getting out of those conditions. Obtaining an education is the key to getting out of poverty.

Humans are motivated by needs that are hierarchically ranked. Only when the lower level of needs can be met, the higher level of needs can be pursued. The lowest of needs are physiological such as food, water, and air. When someone doesn't have food support that need becomes the focus. Attending class, doing homework or being able to focus on what is being taught is very difficult for a hungry student.

Having good nutrition for students is

key to being successful academically. I believe this to be true at all levels of education. My dad attended college at a time when financial aid didn't exist. He was a first-generation and low-income student who shared with me how he had to eat one meal a day so that he could afford to pay for college. He struggled, but graduated in 1958 from the University of North Dakota with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. At one point, he got very sick while attending college and his grades suffered due to lack of good nutrition. I see the same thing happening to the very students I serve when they must change their focus from learning to finding food resources.

I read an article recently about the food programs that Finland implemented into their education system and how it has impacted students' academic outcomes. Since Finland became the first country in 1948 to provide free, healthy school lunch to every student, they have been the highest performing test takers in the world. This is according to annual studies by Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Finland provides lunches that are homemade, healthy and locally sourced. They believe students should have time to eat so they can enjoy their meals and socialize with other students. Healthy meals help promote well-being and self care. In

Fed and Healthy

the United States, most students are allowed 13 minutes to eat meals that are frozen and reheated, and served with processed snacks. U.S. test scores are “acceptable at best” on the PISA assessment. Note: There are other factors of Finland’s and the U.S.’s education systems that impact the outcome of the PISA assessment.

If it is true that, “you are what you eat”, having access to healthy nutrition is a necessity, not a privilege.”



-Doreen Hernesman

A Letter from a Teacher at Olchoki Primary School

I, Ms. Janeth Shayo, am a teacher and supervisor of the lunch program from Operation Bootstrap Africa. On behalf of my fellow teachers, parents of students and all students of Olchoki Primary School, express our sincere THANKS to the heart of love and care you show us by providing food for our students. Lunch at school, has greatly helped reduce the issue of absenteeism as well as raise the passing rate

among our students. At present, all the children love school.

All the parents in the village are very grateful for your continued help of donating food, as well as equipment to protect against the deadly Corona pandemic. Not only that, but also providing girls with developmental education as well as reusable menstruation kits.

In our solidarity with the entire Olchoki community, we recognize and appreciate the great work OBA’s donors are doing to keep our students fed. We have nothing to pay them, but we pray to God to further bless them, take care of them, give them good health and protect them from all dangers especially the Corona disaster.

We wish you a long life.

God bless you so much.

Thank you

-Janeth Shayo



OBA Annual Report

Fiscal Year 19-20 (September 1, 2019—August 31, 2020)

Statement of Activities

Support and Revenue	
Contributions	1,053,323
Other Revenue	<u>99,185</u>
Total Revenue	1,152,508
Expenses	
Program Services	1,103,886
Management & Gen. Operations	79,671
Fundraising	<u>111,104</u>
Total Expenses	1,294,661
Change in Net Assets	<u>-142,153</u>

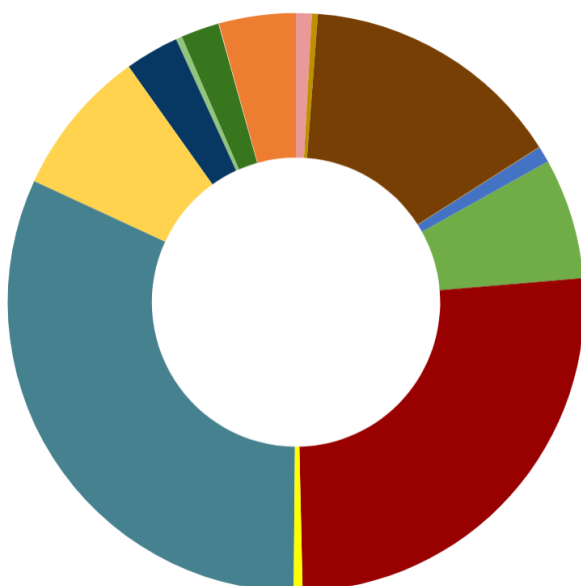
Balance Sheet

Current Assets	
Cash and Cert. of Deposit	733,102
Other Current Assets	<u>163,252</u>
Total Current Assets	896,354
Other Assets	
Endowment Funds	352,640
Other Investments	—
Net Property & Equipment	—
Total Other Assets	<u>352,640</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,248,994</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	7,407
Accrued Expenses	6,316
Total Current Liabilities	13,723
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	<u>613,496</u>
Total Unrestricted	613,496
Temporarily Restricted	<u>621,775</u>
Total Net Assets	1,235,271
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	1,248,994

Operation Bootstrap Africa's Federal 990 report and fiscal year audit report are available on our website at www.BootstrapAfrica.org/financials



OBA Supported Programs



	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>Grants</u>	<u>% of</u> <u>Grants</u>
● Nursing School Construction	315,000	31.7%
● MGLSS Scholarships	257,616	26%
● COVID-19 Disaster Relief	146,623	14.8%
● Nursing School Scholarships	82,204	8.3%
● MGLSS Special Projects	67,096	6.8%
● Post-Secondary	42,740	5.3%
● Other East African Schools	29,911	3%
● Madagascar Schools	9,000	.9%
● Arusha Luth Medical Center	8,679	.9%
● Moringe Sokoine Secondary School	4,859	.5%
● Olchoki Lunch Program	3,400	.4%
● Olarash Lunch Program	3,400	.4%
● Bassodawish Secondary School	3,345	.3%
● Plaster House	317.50	.06%
● Ilboro Special Needs School	<u>143</u>	<u>.04%</u>
Total Grants:	974,324.50	100%

Accomplishments

Educational Operating Grants and Scholarships:

Student sponsorships provide everything the students need while at school. We provided 223 students sponsorships at MGLSS. In its 26th year, the school continues to provide an opportunity for pastoralist and semi-nomadic girls to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. The monthly grant to the school supports teacher and staff salaries, food, textbooks, utilities, and other necessary expenses.

Additional scholarship funds were provided for 4 students attending Moringe Sokoine Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania, 1 student at Mother Teresa of Calcuta Secondary School in Same Town, Tanzania, 1 student at Nazarene University, 2 students at Kitambolu Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania, 1 student attending the Bassodawish schools in the Karatu region of Tanzania, 1 student at Umambwe Secondary School, 1 student at Michaud Secondary school, and 3 students attending schools in the Ketumbeine region of Tanzania.

In Madagascar a grant was provided to pay teacher salaries at five primary schools in the rural South. These teachers taught more than 800 students in one of the most impoverished areas of the country.

Leadership Development:

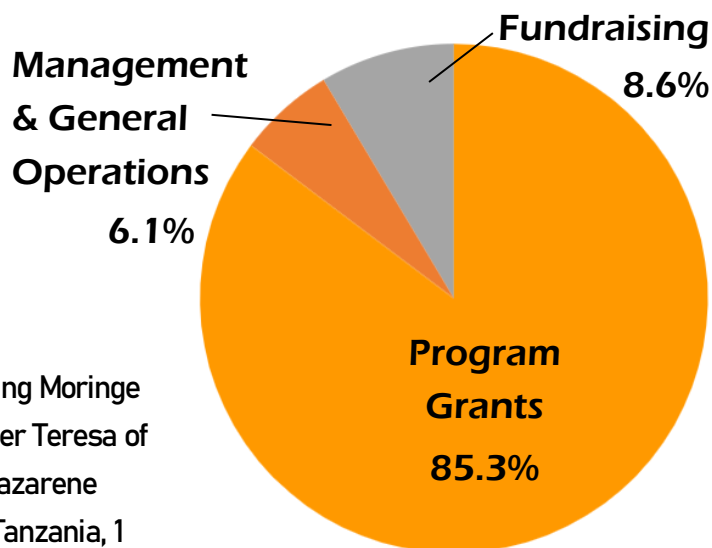
The OBA post-secondary program provides scholarships for graduates of the MaaSAE Girls School through sponsor support. This year, 79 MGLSS graduates pursued degrees at colleges, universities, and vocational schools in Tanzania with scholarships through Operation Bootstrap Africa. Five graduates of other secondary schools also received post-secondary scholarships. The financial support OBA provided to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre School of Nursing lowered the tuition considerably for all of 90 students at the institution. This yearly grant helps subsidize the costly total of nursing training in Tanzania. Additional grants provided funding for the construction of a new cafeteria and dormitories at the school.

Construction and Special Projects at Schools in Tanzania:

Funding was provided for the following items at MGLSS—COVID supplies, Dorm Construction, and Mattresses. Funding was also provided for numerous primary and secondary school projects, including: furniture, building construction, and well construction at the ALMC School of Nursing, supplies for a Lunch Program at Olchoki Primary School, teacher salaries at Babati, new textbooks and bookshelves for Bassodawish, a new roof in the kitchen of Gracious School, and four new separate classrooms for children with sensory issues at Ilboru Special Needs School.

OBA also gave COVID-19 aid to a day care and nursing home in Njombe, MGLSS, Bassadowish School, ALMC School of Nursing, five schools in Madagascar, the Ilboru Special Needs Unit, Olarush School, Moringe Sokoine Secondary, Emburis School, and Best School Academy in Kenya.

2019-20 Expenditures



Let Saving the Lives of Girls in Africa be Your Legacy

Ways to Give:

- Give Directly from Your IRA—If you are 70^{1/2} or older your contribution will count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and will not be included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). You may contribute up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA. In some situations lowering your AGI may be more beneficial than itemizing charitable deductions.
- Make a Stock Contribution—Gifts of stock are generally tax deductible at the full fair-market value and exempt from long-term capital gains tax.
- Create a Donor Advised Fund—A donor-advised fund allows your assets including cash, appreciated stock, mutual funds, real estate, and more to be invested and grown tax-free. Contributions to your fund are tax deductible in the year that they are made, but may be granted to eligible charitable organizations over a period of multiple years. Donor-advised funds are a useful tool for donors who are affected by the new, higher standard deduction threshold and wish to combine multiple years worth of giving into one year in order to itemize.
- Legacy Gifts—Include a gift to OBA in your will or trust, designate OBA as a beneficiary of your IRA or life insurance policy, or give to the OBA Endowment Fund.

For more information, please contact the OBA office.🌐

Thank you for remembering us in your estate planning. Leaving a legacy speaks volumes about your values and creates impact long into the future.

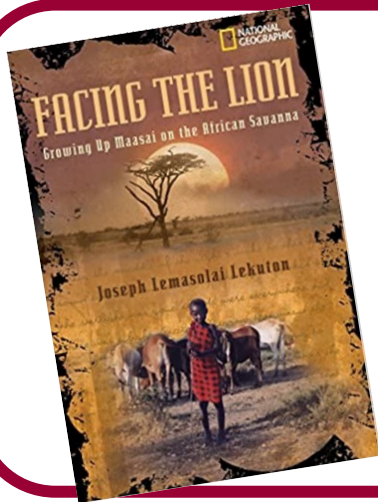


OBA is proud to have been recognized as a 4-star organization by Charity Navigator for 8 consecutive years, to achieve this honor one must meet the highest standards of financial health, transparency, and accountability. This puts us in the top 10% of all nonprofit organizations in the United States. We are a mission-driven organization, committed to ensuring your support goes where it is most needed!

For more information, please contact the OBA office.🌐

Operation Bootstrap Africa and its affiliates are not financial advisors and cannot provide tax, legal, or accounting advice. Please consult your financial planner to learn how gifts to OBA may benefit your unique tax or financial situation.





Facing the Lion

Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton gives Americans a firsthand look at growing up in Kenya as a member of a tribe of nomads whose livelihood centers on the raising and grazing of cattle. Readers share Lekuton's first encounter with a lion, the meaning of bravery in the warrior tradition, and other rites of passage. You'll follow his mischievous antics as a young Maasai cattle herder, coming-of-age initiation, boarding school escapades, soccer success, and journey to America for college.

Do We Have Your Email?

Reach out to us via email to sign up for our mailing list! We send regular program updates.

Email: info

@operationbootstrap
africa.org

Opportunities to Help!

Volunteer with OBA

Do you live in the Minneapolis area and want to get more involved with OBA? We are always looking for volunteers to help around the office with mailings, filing, and other projects. Please contact OBA at info@bootstrapafrica.org to sign-up.

Volunteer to Teach in Tanzania

Your passion and heart can be used to make a difference in Tanzania! The MaaSAE Girls' Lutheran Secondary School is asking for fluent English teachers to visit MGLSS and teach the girls English.

Operation Bootstrap Africa Board of Directors

Gene Mickelson (President), Stan Guimont (Vice President), Dean McDevitt (Treasurer), Kjell Ferris (Secretary), Michael Hedley, Doreen Hernesman, Jack McAllister, Marlys Peters-Melius, Peyton T. Taylor Jr.





5701 Kentucky Ave N. Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55428

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.

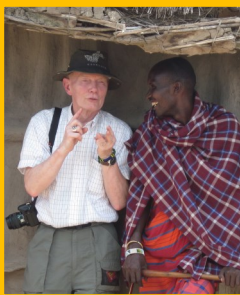
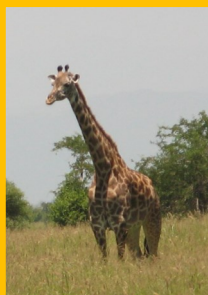
In partnership with African communities and organizations, OBA provides support and assistance to projects and programs based on locally-established priorities.

Gifts to OBA are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. OBA reserves the right to utilize up to 10% of revenue to fund undesignated opportunities.

Website: www.operationbootstrapafrica.org
Twitter: @OBAorg
Facebook: www.facebook.com/OperationBootstrapAfrica
Instagram: @BootstrapAfrica
Email: info@operationbootstrapafrica.org
Phone: 1-612-871-4980 OR Toll-Free at 1-888-755-1318



**Operation
Bootstrap Africa**
Providing Brighter Futures through Education
Since 1965



Join us for the experience of a lifetime in Tanzania!

Travel to Tanzania with Operation Bootstrap Africa on a Discovery Tour! Visit OBA projects including schools and clinics, embark on safari to view some of the world's most abundant and beautiful wildlife, and engage in cultural activities.

Tours cost approximately \$6,000 per person, including airfare, meals, lodging, tips, and all land travel costs. Costs not covered include beverages, immunizations, anti-malarial medication, a Tanzanian tourist visa, and travel insurance. A Zanzibar extension and other optional excursions may be arranged at an additional cost. Tours are limited to 10 participants. Contact the OBA office for more information. or to secure your spot on a future tour.

Upcoming Tours

*October 14th-
October 30th
(tentatively,
depending on
limitations)*