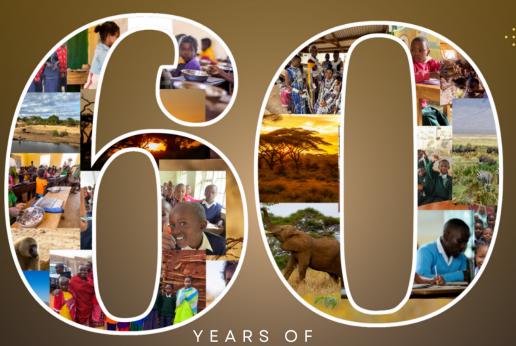


CELEBRATING



OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Opportunity Builds Africa

When we reach a milestone, it's only natural to look back on the journey that brought us here and to look forward, dreaming of the path still ahead. This year, as Operation Bootstrap Africa celebrates 60 years of impact, we're reflecting on just how powerful a single idea can be: when you educate one person, you lift up families, communities, and even entire countries. A rising tide truly does lift all boats.

This special anniversary edition of The Dignity celebrates the millions of lives transformed across decades. We stand on the shoulders of giants, yes, Rev. David Simonson, whose vision still guides us but also the countless supporters, volunteers, educators, and donors whose broad shoulders carried this mission forward.



Education does change lives in Africa. That's clear. But what's equally powerful and deeply human is how this work changes us, too. When those of us with plenty slow down and care for others, we receive something far richer than a tax receipt. You can feel it in your heart, you can feel it in your conscience. You can feel it when you visit a school in rural Tanzania. You can feel it when you meet a Maasai girl who knows, because of you, she can dream bigger.

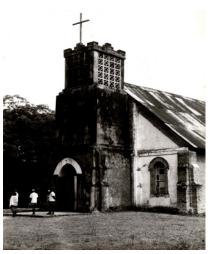
One of my favorite spiritual teachers once told a story about Sheep and the Goats recorded in Matthew 25. In it, the righteous ask, "When did we see you hungry and feed you?" The answer is simple and profound: "Whatever you did for the least of these... you did for me." When we respond to need with compassion, we are participating in something sacred.

It's a true honor to serve as a conduit bringing together donors with open hearts and communities in Africa with powerful dreams. We know people who need a hand up. We know people who want to make a difference. At OBA, we help them meet in the middle to create a better world.

Thank you for caring about others. Thank you for walking this road with us. You're doing the right thing yesterday, today, and into tomorrow.

Lets continue to embrace opportunities that build Africa.

Jason Bergmann







Celebrating 40 Years of Education Assistance in Madagascar

Aaron Bartholomew

he first American Lutheran Missionaries arrived in southern Madagascar in 1888. These early missionaries in the Tolagnaro Synod built churches and schools in order to spread the gospel, educate the local population, and heal the sick. In 1960, The Malagasy Lutheran Church, or Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy (FLM) took over control of the schools, churches, and land from the missionaries. According to documents sent to OBA in 1983, all local primary schools had been shut down as foreign financial aid went to larger institutions such as hospitals and secondary schools, while the congregations and smaller schools suffered.

It was at this time that the local leaders of FLM requested assistance from OBA for a five-year initial grant program. The initial request was for ten teacher salaries to continue educating in the abandoned missionary schools, as well as fund construction of two new schools per year out of tin, wood, mud, and clay. One year later, local leaders and American Synod employees reported that seven teachers had been hired and classes had begun, with attendance ranging from 20-82 students at each school. Another year later, all ten schools were operating and the two new schools were in the process of being built.

As time went on, the program grew: more schools were built, teachers were hired, the budget for school supplies and salaries increased, and class sizes grew. One report from 1998 stated that 33 teachers and schools were being supported by OBA. That is not to say everything went

according to the initial plan. School construction funds were misused by village leaders, reporting of information was delayed and unreliable, such as teachers quitting or moving, and maintenance of schools was not a priority.

OBA has visited the programs in Madagascar twice in the last 5 years, which has strengthened our relationship with the staff and led to a more sustainable model. We receive lunch program reporting every month, and have seen significant improvements within the program thanks to increased dedication and effort by OBA donors and cooperation with local Malagasy partners:

- * 5 new concrete schools with two classrooms, offices, furniture, and water catchment have been constructed completely by OBA
- * 3 additional schools and 1 school renovation project funded partially by OBA and local Malagasy partner
- * 10 full-time, University trained teachers at each OBA school receiving monthly salaries from OBA
- * School lunch provided every day to 3,000 primary school students
- * Reforestation, Farming, Community Training, and Water Projects throughout the region

OBA is so proud to celebrate over 40 years of partnership and impact in Madagascar. It would not have been possible without our Malagasy project partners working diligently to make their community a better place.

Memories of the Middle Years of OBA's Existence

Deana Miller



y time with OBA was from 1974 to 2009, when I retired as its Director. My first knowledge of Operation Bootstrap was sometime in the early 1970's when I met Naomi Simonson, the daughter of Reverend J. David Simonson, a missionary in the Arusha area of Tanzania. It was intriguing to hear about it, especially when she suggested volunteers were welcome.



Shortly after that I connected with Pastor Arthur Dale, who was the state-side director for this non-profit that was raising money to build classrooms for children in Tanzania. I needed a map to even figure out where that was! Several conversations later, I heard myself offer to help with correspondence regarding Operation Bootstrap. I had a new IBM electric typewriter at home (remember this was many years ago)! I took on the task of doing the thank yous and inquiry letters at home. For months, my involvement was as a volunteer until Operation Bootstrap decided to move into a shared office in Wayzata with an architectural firm who did most of their work in Tanzania and other African countries. I quit my job in Minneapolis to take this "joint" job with the two organizations - both nonprofits.



Pastor Dave retired, and the Bootstrap Board of Directors deliberated long and hard on its trajectory. The first decision was to move back to Minneapolis to an office in the Minnesota Church Center, and to promote me to the director position.



During this time, the projects in Tanzania expanded. More classrooms were being built, enabling more students to attend primary school. As the students' numbers increased, so did the need for funding. We worked across the United States with churches, women's groups, and youth groups telling the story of the need for primary school classrooms. The people responded! Many thanks to all the churches, schools, and folks who "heard the story" and responded with monetary gifts to increase the number of classrooms being built.

Soon I was able to make my first trip to Tanzania. I was able to see the classrooms, to be IN them meeting the teachers and students. We started offering a trip to donors (at their cost of

course) and I had the honor (and responsibility) of leading close to 20 trips to Tanzania. The Rift Valley walks started shortly thereafter, which welcomed volunteers to sign up to walk 211 miles across the Rift Valley (with guides obviously). Each walker raised money to build even more classrooms!

What are some of the highlights of the many trips to Tanzania, you may ask? Watching the first shovels of dirt being lifted as Selian Hospital's construction began, personally visiting many OBA funded classrooms that were built by the parents and villagers themselves, meeting teachers, watching the children in their new desks in their new classrooms, and bringing hundreds of pencils to schools with very few. In my tenure, and still today, secondary school education was not easily accessible to girls who had finished primary school in Tanzania. Early on, fathers did not see the necessity to educate their daughters beyond primary education. OBA began to raise funds to build multiple buildings for the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli. OBA found sponsors to pay the tuition for all the girls to attend. I visited many times and saw the excitement of girls who were able to extend their education beyond primary school, which had previously seemed impossible.

I was able to attend several graduations at MGLSS. I remember riding down the narrow road to the school grounds and seeing a huge banner hanging high above the entrance that said, "Welcome Mama Deana to MGLSS". I remember talking with one father at a MGLSS graduation, though he spoke little English. He told me how proud he was of his "educated daughter" and pulled two small packets of sugar from his pocket to show me what she had given with a big proud smile on his face! (It was a tradition for the girls to save sugar packets from the dining room to give to their fathers.)

Over time, OBA's name and reputation grew. The requests for OBA to be a part of church activities, including various synod events, and church conference events near or far, grew. The most frequent request for

participation was: "Can we make mud bricks with our bare feet?" The "yes" answer depended on the space available for that to happen as well as their willingness to bring in the sand and the water! But we did it over and over again! Making mud bricks cemented the OBA mission into their memories for many years!

There were so many highlights in my years at OBA, far too many to put them all here. The most amazing realization was that all of the primary classrooms, Selian Hospital, the MaaSAE Girls School, and their scholarships only exist because of the generosity of folks like you. Amazedly generous folks willing to share of what they have... with others who have so very little. Those are the best memories I have of my 25 years working for OBA.



Discovery Tour Reflections

Director of Donor Impact at OBA, Karen Rose, returned from her first trip to Tanzania in February. Her experiences changed her life! Read on to share in her experience with our brothers and sisters across the globe:

oing on my first Discovery Tour in February was truly amazing. It's hard to describe the experience but if I had to capture the trip in one word it would be "joy". Not mine necessarily, but the joy that I saw in the amazing smiles of nearly every Tanzanian person I met. Their smiles were different; especially different from those we display in my home state of Minnesota (Scandinavians are famously reserved). Tanzanian joy has energy, exuding from deep within the heart. You can feel it. At first, I found it almost confusing. Where is this joy coming from?

What I saw in the African environment was dirt, dust, chaos, lack and hardship. There was poverty like I've not witnessed before. Yet, they don't see that. They see a new day, and for that, a reason to be grateful, kind, hopeful and.....joyful.

I thought maybe that was the show they put on for tourists and perhaps there was some of that. Yet when I inquired about it, people told me they really do see joy where we see angst, and light where we see dark. The trip included safaris at three different parks. Truly amazing. We saw every animal I was hoping to see (elephants are my favorite) and not just in the distance but close enough to touch (of course I didn't). Sleeping in tents in the middle

of the Serengeti and listening to the lions roar at some unknown distance away was surreal. And watching the sun rise over the plains and seeing so many stars in the night sky was like being a kid again.

on my tour. We were a large group of up to 27 on some days. We hailed from lowa, Georgia, Seattle, Texas, Minnesota and even Alaska. We shared meals, spaces, stories and dreams together. We've even had a zoom reunion since returning. Sharing this experience together unites us in a unique way. While everyone enjoyed the safari trips, I think most of us, if not all, felt that the favorite part of the trip was engaging with the

I do have to give a shout out to the people

Tanzanian people, especially the school children and the beautiful young women at MGLSS. A very powerful memory was listening to the girls at MGLSS singing at night. Talk about joy!

Since my trip, I have vowed to open my heart and mind to find more joy in my life. It's a process and I'm not where I want to be yet. But when I find myself getting stressed, I simply recall the smiles and palpable joy that I was fortunate to experience from the Tanzanian people. They have enriched and blessed my life in ways I will never forget.

~ With furaha ("joy" in Swahili)

For over 60 years, Operation Bootstrap Africa has been guided by the vision of our founder, Rev. David Simonson, a Lutheran missionary dedicated to education and empowerment in Africa. Rooted in a faith that calls us to serve, we believe that all people are created with inherent dignity and deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our work in education reflects these values, answering the call to love, uplift, and empower others. We welcome and value the support of all who share our commitment to justice and opportunity, whether inspired by faith, a sense of shared humanity, or a commitment to global equity. Together, we walk alongside communities with humility, compassion, and a dedication to lasting transformation.







Let Providing Education to Girls in Africa Be Your Legacy

Simple, Meaningful Ways to Give

At OBA, we believe that every girl deserves the chance to live a healthy, educated life. Your support makes this possible—and there are some easy and impactful ways you can continue to make a difference, both now and in the future. Here are a few thoughtful ways to give:

- **Give Directly from your IRA.** If you're age 70½ or older, you can make a gift straight from your IRA. This type of gift counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and won't be included in your taxable income. That means it could reduce your overall tax bill—without needing to itemize deductions. You can give up to \$100,000 per year this way.
- **Donate Stock.** Do you own stocks that have increased in value? Donating them can be a smart and generous move. You'll usually get a tax deduction for the full value of the stock and avoid paying capital gains tax. That means more of your gift goes to helping girls in Africa.
- **Set Up a Donor Advised Fund (DAF).** A Donor Advised Fund is like a charitable savings account. You can contribute cash, stock, or other assets, get an immediate tax deduction, and then support OBA (and other causes you care about) over time. It's a helpful tool—especially if you want to give generously in one year and spread your support out over several years.
- **Leave a Legacy Gift.** You can make a lasting impact by including OBA in your will, trust, or estate plans. Some people also name OBA as a beneficiary of their IRA, life insurance policy, or investment accounts. Or, you might choose to give to our Endowment Fund, helping to ensure long-term support for generations of girls to come.

If you'd like to talk more about how you can leave a legacy of education and empowerment, talk to your financial advisor today.

MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) Celebrates 30 Years of Transforming Lives: A Milestone of Empowerment and Education

Jeska Zakayo, MGLSS Teacher and Dignity Correspondent

n February 22, 2025, MGLSS proudly celebrated its 30th Anniversary Jubilee, marking three decades of empowering young Maasai women through education and breaking all chains of gender stereotyping in these communities. What once seemed like a distant dream has now become a life-changing reality for hundreds of girls who, against all odds, have gained access to quality education and a brighter future. We indeed are honoring the Journey.

The celebration was graced by distinguished guests, led by our Guest of Honor, Parseko Ole Kone, retired District Commissioner of Simanjiro. His presence underscored the importance of the school's mission, and the progress made over the years. The event also welcomed OBA's Director Jason Bergmann, key sponsors, and supporters who have played a vital role in sustaining the school's vision.

A particularly moving moment came when Jane Juten (Tellekson), the school's first headmistress from 1995-1997, stood before the audience, overwhelmed with emotion. Seeing how far the school has come, how it has broken barriers and created opportunities for Maasai girls; she expressed her immense joy and pride. The milestone was not just a celebration but a testament to perseverance, dedication, and the unwavering belief that education changes lives.

Among the most heartfelt highlights of the event was the presence of numerous alumnae, each with a powerful story to share. With gratitude in their voices and hope in their hearts, they reflected on how their education at MGLSS had shaped their lives. For most, without it, there was no hope in their future. From professionals and community leaders to role models for the next generation, these women stood as living proof of the school's impact.

Their message was clear: the journey must continue. They passionately urged OBA and all supporters not to give up

on the girls who still need this opportunity, emphasizing that education remains the key to empowering, breaking cycles of poverty and inequality.

The celebrations were adorned with a massive present from OBA, a donation of a beautiful building that could host more guests from all over the world, yes, you have a place to stay with us. MaaSAE girls excitedly waits for you to come and see our world, KARIBUNI SANA! We hope to see more of you, our well-wishers, our guardian angels.

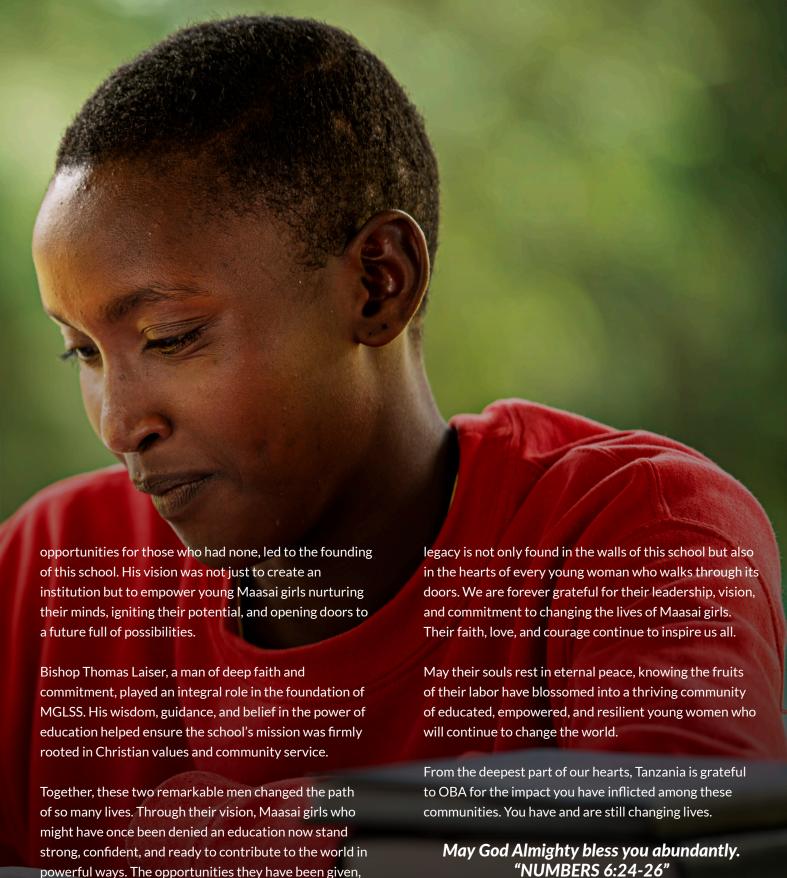
As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we also look ahead with renewed commitment. The mission of MGLSS is far from over. There are still many girls waiting for their chance to learn, to grow, to dream beyond the limits once placed upon them.

With the continued support of our sponsors, alumni, and the entire MGLSS community, we will keep breaking barriers and lighting the path toward a future where every girl has access to the education she deserves.

One person's dream has changed countless lives. Tanzania is grateful for your endless efforts and legacy you have left us with: A Heartfelt Tribute to Rev. J. David Simonson and Bishop Thomas Laiser.

We stand in profound gratitude to the visionary leaders whose unwavering dedication has transformed the lives of countless Maasai girls. The late Rev. J. David Simonson and the late Bishop Thomas Laiser are the pillars on which this institution was built, and their legacy continues to shape the future of so many young women today.

Rev. Simonson, through his creation of Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA), was a beacon of hope, inspiring a movement that brought education and healthcare to communities in need. His heart for Africa, his compassion for its people, and his commitment to providing



As we celebrated the 30 years of MGLSS, we honor these men whose work will echo for generations to come. Their

the knowledge they have gained, and the strength they

have built are all a testament to the selflessness and dedication of Rev. Simonson and Bishop Laiser.

"NUMBERS 6:24-26"

Here's to 30 years of transformation and many more to come!



Classroom construction projects became under the supervision of Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF), a Tanzanian NGO based in

1983

Bylaws were amended to include "select health care projects" and Selian Hospital became a project of OBA. Support for Kafika (formerly Plaster) House and Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (2009) followed.

1993



1955

Tanganyika achieves independence. At the time, the population was about 8 million, and only about 30% of children attended primary school.

1964

OBA was incorporated in Minnesota as a 501c3 by Rev. Simonson, Richard Kvamme, and Richard Hefte. A six member board was formed with Rev. Simonson serving as Resident Director and Art Dale as Executive Director.

1972

OBA made a commitment to fund teachers' salaries for Lutheran schools in the Ambovombe Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Annual support peaked at \$30,000 in 2005.

1990

Assistance was requested by the Arusha Diocese (now North Central Arusha Diocese) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania to assist with government primary school projects. Support for these projects through the Diocese ended in 2009.

Rev. Dan Vinge

Rev. J. David Simonson Arusha, Tanzania

An OBA 30th Anniversary Event!

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Jacobson, doctor-incharge of Selian Lutheran Hospital, Arusha, Tanzania



MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School is built with funds raised outside of OBA (MaaSAE Fund). OBA is requested to raise operating funds through student sponsorships.

2008

Diane Jacoby becomes Executive Director. Founder of OBA, Rev. David J. Simonson, dies in Tanzania at age 82. OBA office moves to Thrivent Financial building.

2015

Jason Bergmann is appointed Executive Director of OBA and creates a new full time position for a support staff member.

2020

Jason Bergmann is the first OBA Executive Director to visit Madagascar to see how the lunch program is running and to check on the wellness of the students after the drought.

2022

OBA completes construction of the fifth school in Madagascar, completing their original goal. Lunch program numbers have doubled since the start of the Madagascar Lunch Program.

2025

1995

Deanna Miller retires after heading OBA for 24 years at offices located in the Church Center on Franklin Ave. in Minneapolis. Jim Cornell serves as Executive Director until May of 2010.

2010

Operation Bootstrap Africa celebrates its 50th Anniversary with events in Tanzania, Seattle, and Minneapolis.

2018

OBA office is relocated to western Minneapolis in an office building with more space for growth. Five schools supported by OBA in Madagascar are ravaged by malnutrition as a result of severe drought. Nine students pass away due to starvation. A lunch program is created three weeks later.

2021

OBA adds another full time employee and begins a project to build 5 new schools at their Malagasy school sites.

2024



OBA celebrates its 60th Anniversary!

robson Jeana Miller

Rev. Dan Vinge

Rev. J. David Simonson

An OBA 30th Anniversary Event!

Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Mark Jacobson**, doctor-incharge of Selian Lutheran Hospital, Arusha, Tanzania.

Building a Stronger More Sustainable Healthcare System in Tanzania

Jason Bergmann



ore than 10 years ago, Dr. Mark Jacobson saw a big problem in Arusha, Tanzania. There was a huge nursing shortage and the nurses coming out of government schools knew how to give shots and check blood pressure, but they didn't always understand the importance of caring for patients with kindness and compassion. He knew that hospitals like Selian and ALMC needed something more. They needed nurses who could not only treat patients—but truly care for them.

So, with support from Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) and a few others, Dr. Mark started the ALMC School of Nursing. (Now called the Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Centre or ALMTC)

In the early days, the school rented a few old classrooms and had rough housing for the students. It wasn't much, but it was a start. Soon, the government told us that in order to be fully accredited, the school had to own land. That's when Mark and I met with the Lutheran Diocese in Arusha to ask about taking over a struggling secondary school.

After some discussion, we got the green light. We fixed up the classrooms, rebuilt the dining and kitchen areas, and built a beautiful dorm for 84 students.

Since then, the school has been doing great. Every single student has passed their final nursing exams, the equivalent of our "Nursing Boards"



here in the U.S. Even better, 100% of graduates have found jobs, in a country where only about 1 in 3 people are employed. That's something to celebrate!

But there's a new challenge ahead.

From the beginning, the school has been connected to ALMC Hospital. That made sense at the start. But now, the government is asking the school to become fully independent. I actually think this is a good move. For over a year now, OBA, the Diocese, and ALMC Hospital have been working together on a plan to make this happen. We've created a budget and a path forward. The school will need to hire a few new staff, fix up more classrooms, and build more dorm space.

To be fully self-sustaining, the school needs about 250 students. Right now, they have 130. OBA helps cover the cost for all of them but that's not something we can nor should do forever. If the U.S. economy ever takes a downturn, and donations to the school stop, the whole program could be at risk. That's why we believe the school must be able to stand on its own. Then, OBA can shift from funding the school itself to offering individual scholarships.

In response to the government's new rules and in support of the school's dream for independence OBA is launching a new campaign. We plan to renovate classrooms, add better technology, and build a dorm that can house 200 students. This will help the school grow, become independent, and train even more nurses and now, social workers too.

You'll hear more about this important effort in the months to come. When you think about how to make a lasting difference in Africa, remember this: giving someone a chance at a professional career not only changes their life, it changes the lives of the thousands of people they will serve throughout their career.

That's the power of your support. That's the impact of investing in education.



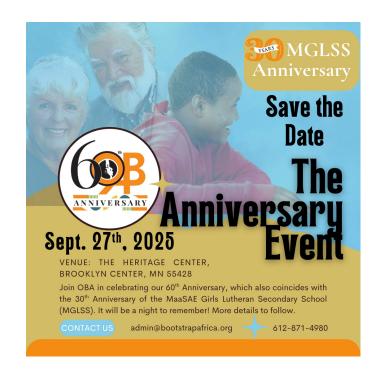
Operation Bootstrap Africa Statement on USAID Defunding

The decision to cut USAID funding is not just a policy shift—it is a life-threatening blow to vulnerable children who rely on school meals for their survival. In Madagascar, where Operation Bootstrap Africa has worked for over 40 years, these funds have helped sustain school lunch programs that literally mean the difference between life and death for thousands of students.

This is not just about education; it is about survival. For many children, the meal they receive at school is the only food they will eat that day. Defunding these programs means condemning children to hunger, malnutrition, and the preventable tragedies we have fought so hard to stop.

Investing in education and nutrition is not charity—it is a commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty, fostering global stability, and upholding the values of compassion and leadership on the world stage.

We urge the Trump administration and our elected officials to reconsider these cuts immediately and uphold their responsibility to the world's most vulnerable children. The cost of inaction is measured in lives.



OPERATION BOOTSTRAP AFRICA Board of Directors

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Rebecca Hartwig

OBA Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 (September 1, 2023 - August 30, 2024)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Menstrual Care Kits:

Through our program partner, Empowered Girls 12 menstrual health sessions were conducted, reaching 3,362 girls. Additionally, 3,649 menstrual pads and 6,364 pairs of underwear were distributed this year.

Lunch Programs:

OBA's lunch programs continue to provide meals for 6 schools in Northern Tanzania and 5 schools in the Deep South of Madagascar. Often, these meals may be the only ones students receive throughout the day. Approximately 6,804 students are served lunch each day - a 44% increase from last year! An astounding **2,008,468 meals were served this year**.

Sponsorships:

Pairing sponsors with Maasai girls in East Africa who dream of academic success is a very special way to make an impact. These girls are the future generation of workers, parents, and global citizens. Choosing to leave their villages and families to attend secondary school is a huge feat of bravery. This past year, **392 Maasai girls were sponsored** by generous individuals and families from all over the U.S.

Educational Operating Grants and Scholarships:

- *Operation Bootstrap Africa's largest program is the MaaSAE Girls Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli, Tanzania. A monthly grant to the school supports teacher and staff salaries, food, textbooks, utilities, farm production, and other necessary expenses.
- *In Madagascar a grant was provided to pay teacher salaries at five primary schools in the rural South. These teachers taught more than 2,500 students in one of the most impoverished areas of the country.
- *Primary school scholarships were given to 75 children at Best School Academy in Bunuku, Kenya
- *Scholarships were granted to 21 Primary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary students at Eripoto Safe House in Arusha.
- *Scholarships were provided for 3 pre-school children and 15 Post-Secondary students at the Courage House in Moshi.
- *Subsidies were provided for over 100 nurses to attend the "Tiny Feet, Big Steps" conference in Arusha, Tanzania. This conference took place over 5 days and facilitated a varied program with an emphasis on innovation, clinical competence, and implementable healthcare practices in Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

Leadership Development:

*The OBA post-secondary program provided scholarships for 94 graduates of the MaaSAE Girls School through sponsor support.

Construction and Special Projects at Schools in East Africa:

Funding was provided for:

- *11 primary and 3 secondary school projects.
- *Teacher's Housing renovation at MGLSS.
- *Construction of a Girl's Dormitory at Masange Juu Secondary School in the Lushoto region of Tanzania.

Healthcare and Health Education:

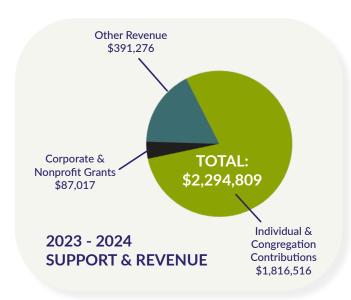
- *Grants were provided to the 84 students at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Centre to subsidize the high cost of healthcare education.
- st Grants were distributed to Partnership of Women and Development for efforts in training the Maasai about the dangers of

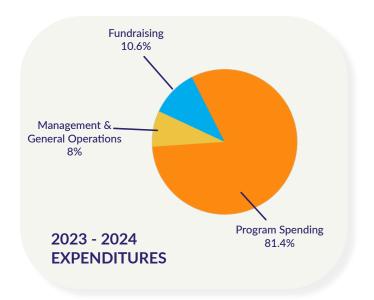
female genital mutilation.

*Grants were also provided to Empowered Girls, a non-profit partner that provided menstrual care training and products to multiple school projects in Tanzania including: the Plaster House, MGLSS, Moringe Sokoine, and Olchoki Primary School.

Cultural Education and Exchange:

*OBA staff members led tours of their projects in Northern Tanzania and Uganda in October 2023 and April 2024 to gain a better understanding of the work and foster connections with the communities with whom they partner.





^{*}OBA has curated nearly a million dollars in endowed educational scholarships to create support for education in perpetuity.

Programs	Fiscal Year Grants	% of Total Grants
• MGLSS	\$488,008.25	36.46%
Post-Secondary	\$169,644.95	12.68%
Lunch Programs	\$150,690.00	11.26%
 Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Centre 	\$134,340.59	10.04%
Secondary Schools	\$126,808.65	9.47%
Madagascar Projects	\$93,846.00	7.01%
Primary Schools	\$66,730.00	4.99%
Eripoto Safe House for Women and Children	\$32,466.23	2.43%
 Empowered Girls Menstrual Care Kits 	\$15,700.00	1.17%
 Kilimanjaro Children's Healthcare 	\$15,000.00	1.12%
 Mark and Linda Endowed Scholarship 	\$12,018.60	0.90%
Courage House	\$12,000.00	0.90%
 Partnership for Women in Tanzania 	\$8,100.00	0.61%
 Community Development 	\$8,000.00	0.60%
Tanzanians for Advanced Agriculture	\$5,000.00	0.37%

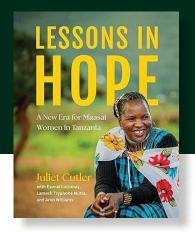


TOTAL

\$1,338,353.27







OBA Book Club

A place to share books by and about the OBA Family, our projects, and the communities we serve

Lessons in Hope: A New Era for Maasai Women in Tanzania

OBA family member, Juliet Cutler, presents a stunning testament to a group of 20 MGLSS Graduates who are claiming their voices and shaping a future of lasting change. This book comes after her previously published work, "Among the Maasai", and is a continuation of the stories of the girls who have now become strong Maasai women.

Through their stories, the women featured in Lessons in Hope lay bare the overwhelming challenges many Maasai women and girls continue to face. For some, hunger hovers nearby, only one bad drought away. Many must raise children without running water or electricity. Most struggle to gain a basic education, see a doctor, or earn an income. And too many Maasai girls still endure female genital mutilation, early forced marriages, and other forms of violence.

Yet these remarkable women have overcome the odds. As graduates of the first school for Maasai girls in East Africa, these thriving leaders now hold positions in education,

health care, nonprofits, government, and business. Their stories reveal a cadre of Maasai women working toward positive change within their own culture and offering a compelling, optimistic vision for the future.

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be given to the

MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School. You can purchase a copy now on Amazon via this QR code, OR you can meet Julie at OBA's 60th Anniversary event in September and get a signed copy of her book for yourself!





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