

MUFINDI ORPHANS

IMPACT REPORT 2018



Executive Letter

Mufindi Orphans has always been an organization that evolves with the needs of the community it serves. In 2005-06, the organization banded together with its international partners to respond to a crisis in a community that was devastated by the HIV pandemic. As time went on, and a holistic approach helped a community get back on its feet, the organization began to address broader needs such as economic sustainability and reconciliations for families reuniting as the burden of the HIV crisis lightened. Partnerships, like those highlighted in this report, as well as contributions from donors like you, helped this community become healthier, and cultivated a bridge across continents and cultures.

Now, the children that received care and support are approaching adulthood. On the horizon is a future where they will join a job market in a young country where 44% of its people are aged 15 or below. The community's needs have shifted once more, and a growing need for quality education and career development training for young adults has come to the forefront. This is where we need your help!

Mufindi Orphans aims to evolve with the changing needs, and is excited for this next chapter - focusing on the future of these youth. In 2018, our amazing donors helped 48 elementary school students receive sponsorships to continue their schooling! That is tremendous! Additionally, 8 high school students were sponsored, and 6 young people were given an incredible opportunity to attend a college, university, or vocational training program.

Thank you for helping them to actualize the start of their career path. Because of donors like you, these children have access to opportunities that would have previously been out of their grasp. We continue to be inspired and awed by the stories of perseverance, grit, and determination that these now young adults have shown. We can't wait to see them evolve into impactful change agents for their own communities. We have no doubt that each child has the potential to change the world, and to contribute to a future where children of all backgrounds may continue to prosper.

In the coming years, this focus on education will continue, with an intention to increase opportunities for Tanzania's youth. We believe that every child deserves a right to reach their full potential. We also believe you will enjoy reading about all of the amazing successes you have helped us reach!

Thanks,



Geoff Knight
Executive Director

Cathy Knight,
President

Mark Ewing,
Vice President

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STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY SPONSORING ALL SCHOOL ASSOCIATED COSTS FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION. FROM A MONTHLY HAIRCUT, TO A FEW PAIRS OF WELL-WORN SHOES AND AN UMBRELLA TO KEEP THEM DRY DURING THE WET SEASON, THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE ENSURES ACADEMIC SUCCESS BY ELIMINATING THE BURDEN OF FINANCIAL WORRY FOR THE STUDENT. OVER THE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN SOME AMAZING SUCCESSES, AND WHAT FOLLOWS IS A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON A FEW STUDENTS WHO HAVE FLOURISHED THROUGH THIS PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM SUPPORTS STUDENTS FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND POST-SECONDARY LEVELS.

SARAPHINA

For anyone who has been given the opportunity to meet Sarafina, they can attest that she is just one of those people that you never forget. She is a 17-year-old girl who has gone through a lot in her life, but has come through it with an attitude that fills every day with confidence and positivity.



At a young age, Sarafina experienced trauma, neglect, and severe abandonment before the office of social welfare connected her with the Children's Village in Mufindi. Once there, she was surrounded by a social peer network and adult mentorship underscored by encouragement and acceptance.

She was living with kids her own age who had overcome their own hardships, she was receiving care from adults who taught her resilience and love, and she participated in leadership programming that allowed her to flourish in her journey through educational attainment.

Shortly after she arrived at the Children's Village, a competitive new school opened that offered English language immersion in its curriculum, and she couldn't wait to join. However, the school only had classes up to grade three at the time of opening, so she would have to repeat a grade level in order to join. After talking with her caregivers at the Children's Village, she decided that her education was her top priority no matter how long it took, and she would join the new school in order to give her the best chance at a good education.

She also participated in a leadership trip where she travelled with her peers and adult leaders from Tanzania and abroad, and participated in service-learning activities. She was able to visit and experience parts of her country she had never seen before, all of which allowed her to consider what kind of leader she wanted to become. She credits this trip as one of the most important moments in her educational attainment- she received mentorship and valuable lessons in leadership that she carries with her still.

Today, we are proud to say that even with the hardships she has had to overcome at the onset, she not only managed to complete her elementary schooling at the English school, but against all odds, she finished number one in her class. She has even received some district-awards for her fantastic results!

For the next step in her journey, we want to connect her with the same encouraging adult support system that can see her thrive in secondary. Beyond just her school fees, we want her to have access to quality education so that she can reach her fullest potential. If we are able to get a healthy support team behind her, and a quality education to await her in the coming years, we can only imagine what she will accomplish next!





Nadrick with his wife Christina, and his daughter Patrina, in front of the house he is building for them!

NADRICK

Nadrick Mdetta grew up in the small remote village of Ikaning'ombe, and has always had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. His goal in life has always been to obtain a quality education. He worked throughout his entire secondary schooling in order to put himself through school, but unfortunately attended an under-resourced school and struggled to learn enough English to achieve passing marks to enter college.

He was not deterred, as he began working with international volunteers, eventually becoming a translator for experts from across all discipline (medical, mechanical, electrical). Through these partnerships with volunteers, Nadrick was relentless in his quest to learn more English, and eventually he began to show a aptitude for mechanical engineering.

Nadrick grew more and more confident with English, and he continued to shadow every technically-minded volunteer who visited Mufindi. He truly found his life's calling, and through a generous network of givers, he was able to start down the path towards his dream career as an engineer.

Nadrick has had generous support, but he has accomplished everything in his life through hard work and determination. He aims to complete his degree and become a professional engineer. He is very close to his dream- a dream he wouldn't have thought possible as a child from a small village- and there is no doubt that the motivation and encouragement he felt from his network of support was a big reason for his success. Nadrick travelled outside of Tanzania this last year with his degree program- something that he never imagined in his wildest dreams would be a possibility. He is at the top of his class, and is acting as a mentor for other students younger than him. We can't wait to see Nadrick take his final steps towards his dream of a degree, and we look forward to keeping you updated so you can be with him every step of the way!

MAGGIE

Maggie is 16 years old, and up until about a year or two ago, was perhaps the most shy and quiet child living at the Children's Village in Mufindi. She is the youngest of four children, and her Mother passed away while having Maggie. When she was 8 years old, Maggie and her brother moved to the Children's Village. Maggie has battled through her own personal health challenges for her entire life, but has pushed through and has become a living embodiment of grit and determination.

When Maggie was given a leadership role in an educational camp, at first she was reluctant and reticent to make her mark, but after learning her role, she was a bright star as the song leader of the camp and was even a main participant in a fashion show! She came out of the camp a more confident-and almost chatty- young woman! She was thrilled to be given responsibility, and she has exudes that same agency ever since.

She recently got some amazing news- that she passed her National examinations and can now attend high school. This once distant-seeming goal is now a reality! With a quality education, and a support system behind her, Maggie has been able to move mountains in her life. Now we are hoping to garner support to keep that quality education in her life, so she may move her next mountain and continue to become a fantastic leader!



KULWA



Kulwa's family believes in the value of education. His mother has persevered to put all of her children through school no matter how big the sacrifice. Her children have all shown that same perseverance in their own quest to achieve a quality education.

Kulwa is no different in that regard. He finished secondary school in 2016, and immediately knew that he wanted to learn the skills of a vocation that would be in demand at the end of his schooling. Kulwa wanted to be a driver/mechanic. And with Tanzania's recent investment in roads and infrastructure, Kulwa might be on to something!

Kulwa has seen with his own eyes what projects that are supported by Mufindi Orphans have done for his community, and he wants to be a part of that same development. One of his main goals of being a mechanic/driver, is to become a driver for an organization that is doing good for the community at large. Kulwa has received sponsorship through his 1st year of mechanics school, and he has 2 more years remaining. We are hoping that he will continue to have that network of support that has helped so many other kids achieve their dreams!



Kulwa's Mom (right) works hard leading a basket weaving group

THESE ARE THE PROFILES OF JUST SOME OF OUR STUDENTS THAT WE ARE WORKING SO HARD TO SPONSOR. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS, BUT NOW WE NEED HELP SUPPORTING THEM THROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL. ALL THESE STUDENTS WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN OUR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM TO GET THEM CAREER-READY.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

2018 marked the 5th year in a row that the University of Louisville Medical School has visited Mufindi, and their visit was more impactful than any of us could have imagined. Not only were nearly 1,000 people seen by the medical group, but many patients received a continuum of care after having received treatment and care by previous groups from past years' visits.



This year, there was an unprecedented coverage of care for the community as the program included four clinic sites per day. An OBGYN clinic run by Dr. Virginia Stokes saw women travel incredible distances (often by foot) to receive some of their first ever cervical cancer screening. A dental unit hosted by Dr. Joe Jacobi saw hundreds of patients, including primary students who had been pre-screened by Dentist Without Borders.





A mobile clinic visited remote areas in Mufindi each day, treating patients who waited hours to be seen by the traveling medical group. There was also a daily clinic held at the Children's Village, which completed the comprehensive health care coverage that made quality, health care accessible to many.

The University of Louisville Medical group has made an indelible impact on the lives of so many in Mufindi. We continue to be so grateful for this partnership and we are excited to see the program continue to provide a high-quality resource for the people of Tanzania.

Another fantastic partnership in 2018 included a visit from students and professors from the University of Kansas. The group came to Mufindi as part of a program called "CoLLAB: Bridging East Africa's Digital Health Divides" and was comprised of students studying Kiswahili and African studies coursework. The aim of their journey was to learn more, and the experience was truly mutually educational, as the members of the group shared so much of themselves and their studies with everyone they met in Mufindi!

There was a true cultural exchange, and we look forward to continuing to connect with the members of this group as well as future delegations that might be sent from the University of Kansas.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Now that we have seen what a quality education can do for children, we want to focus on what's next! Over 44% of Tanzania's population is under the age of 15. This means that in a few short years, there will be a massive amount of people entering the job force, and so there must be resources for the youth of Tanzania to not only become more employable, but also to be able to lead the way to create the future they wish to see in their own communities.

For the children who have finished their schooling with the student sponsorship program, this means finding a place where they can land, and to learn what's next for themselves. They need a resource where they can find answers they will undoubtedly have as they enter adulthood: What do I want to become? What kind of leader or follower do I want to be? How do I get there? What happens if my plan does not go according to the way I think it should? How do I build a network? How can I land a job by giving a great interview? How do I write a CV?

Two former students from our sponsorship program want to build that place and offer those solutions, and they need our help. Ngojea and Akida both were sponsored by donors, working their way through schooling by participating in community development and helping lead the next generation. Both achieved their goals of obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Education.

Now, Akida and Ngojea want to pay it forward. They have both stayed close with the children in the sponsorship program, and they want the best for all of them.

They see the power these youth possess and they are ready to direct that energy toward making successful young professionals at the start of their careers. Together with Geoff and Jenny, they aim to create a resource center for all of the students enrolled in the sponsorship program, as well as to expand services to others in the future, so that there may be a space where young adults can learn skills and have experiences that will help them succeed and achieve their goals.



This is a big dream, and will require a lot of work. Fortunately, we have many stories (like the ones in this report) that inspire and encourage us every day to see this vision through!

We are already working towards this next chapter, and a lot has been committed to the cause already. A newly registered NGO in Tanzania has been formed to host this “part 2” project, and a new home has been found: a 67-acre piece of property with electricity, water, sustainable agriculture, and a safe environment. This makes for a fantastic new venture, welcoming kids to their next chapter in life.



The new home is complete and has buildings on site already. It is perfect for hosting conferences, workshops, or trainings that will help the students in the sponsorship program achieve optimal readiness for a competitive workforce. This will not be an easy step, but history and experience has shown that this is not only possible, but so worth it when you consider the amazing results that hard work has already produced! We are looking for partners to help us with this new adventure who will be a part of an immeasurable impact on the future of these young adults and their communities.



THANK YOU!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

There are a lot of people who work tirelessly to volunteer their ideas, their energy, and non-fiduciary support to Mufindi Orphans. The late nights, the humor, and the check-ins are valued by those here in the US, as well as those on the ground. Thank you for your contributions, your heart and your energy. There are too many to list here!

While we are extremely grateful for ALL our supporters out there, we wanted to give a special shout out to our sustainers (those who give monthly) and our Platinum Level donors who donated between January 1 and December 31 2018.

SUSTAINERS (MONTHLY DONORS)

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THANK YOU! ASANTE SANA!