Dear Friends,

The Haitian proverb, “Mete fanm sou w”, translates literally to “Put your woman on!” When facing problems, Haitians never say, “Man up!” No, they say: Put your woman on! They even say it to men: Deal with it like a woman. Be determined like a woman. Be courageous like a woman. Be inclusive like a woman. Be compassionate like a woman. The proverb reminds women to be their best selves, yes; but it also reminds men that being strong is more about heart than muscle.

At Mercy Beyond Borders, we see the truth of this every day. In places of extreme poverty women and girls do the hard work. They hold families together against all odds. Instead of being recognized and celebrated for their sacrifices they are treated as property in some cultures, without basic human rights such as the right to education and voice.

All women and girls around the world, no matter the circumstances of their birth, deserve better. We know they can learn, connect and lead, when given the chance! That’s where YOU come in. YOU are making education and advancement possible for women and girls in the mountains of Haiti, the villages of South Sudan, and the refugee camps of Uganda and Kenya.

YOU are the heroes and heroines of their stories. We can never thank YOU enough!

Mark Stevens
MBB Board Chair

Sister Marilyn Lacey
Founder & Executive Director
One of MBB’s 55 newest alumnae, Foni Siler grew up in a mud-and-thatch hut in South Sudan. With your financial support, she completed primary school and high school and then, in 2018, graduated as a nurse from the Kajo-Keji Health Training Institute. She was immediately hired by Save the Children International to serve as a Clinical Officer in South Sudan. What a joy to see Foni focused on her goal all these years, and now serving her fellow South Sudanese.
2018 marked the graduation of MBB’s first Haitian cohort of high school Scholars. (The education system in Haiti follows the French model: high school is 7 years long, stretching from 7th thru 13th grades). MBB awarded a full university scholarship to our top graduate, Valencia Alexandre, who was accepted into Université Notre Dame d’Haiti.

“I don’t find words to explain how much happy I am [at getting] this news. It is a miraculous gift….I thank MBB from the bottom of my heart for helping me to realize my dream and construct my life.”

Valencia is the first recipient of the Pat Conlin College Scholarship Fund, established by the Conlin family this past year to honor their mother! Valencia’s goal is to become a doctor to heal the poor in Haiti. We’re with you all the way, Valencia!

You can view a charming 5-minute video of Valencia on our website: www.mercybeyondborders.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the main page to find it.
Abuk Ajook remembers the exact day when her village was attacked by armed cattle rustlers in Jonglei, South Sudan, in 2012. “It was horrible,” she says, holding her head in her hand. “It killed dozens of people including my relatives and all of our cattle. We scattered for dear life. After some months barely surviving we joined some people walking south. At first we stopped in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, but life there was impossible. We feared the violence, especially against women.”

Abuk and her five children made the long trek to Uganda where she was eventually allowed to settle in a camp. “We received rations,” says Abuk, “but we always felt hunger.”

“A new dawn came for me when I enrolled with MBB micro-enterprise. For 3 days they taught us how to form a group, elect officers, convene meetings; how to record our savings and know the difference between my loan and my profits. At first, with my loan I stocked sugar, onions, and rice. But I faced challenges as a seller, so I changed my business to money-lending. Now I, a woman, am a respected community lender! Up to today this has made me a fortune. Since we were born cattle keepers, I feel happy to have bought two heifers after repaying my MBB loan.”

Abuk encourages other women to join the MBB program. She tells them: “You will be able to support your own families even when husbands are not with you. Our children’s school fees and stomachs and medical needs cannot wait for men.” Abuk lifts her head and says to Sister Marilyn, “We women pray for the MBB supporters because they are the great ones who are lifting us up. Shukran (Thank You).”
MBB works to alleviate extreme poverty. **Why?**

Because no one should have to live without adequate shelter, clean water, sufficient food, basic health care, and without education, voice, dignity.

Because extreme poverty prevents world peace. Extreme poverty worsens pressures on civil society, increases early marriages, creates instability, fosters violence, causes displacements and mass migrations, wreaks havoc on fragile environments, and makes it harder to contain/eliminate epidemics. Extreme poverty threatens us all.

**MBB alleviates poverty by working with women and girls. Why?**

Because research proves that extreme poverty can be alleviated! It’s not rocket science. Educating girls is the single most effective intervention for lifting families up from extreme poverty. Education is also the most powerful predictor of global health.

**Our Impact**

- **2,650** Early marriages prevented by supporting girls in primary school
- **585** Girls developing academic & leadership talent via MBB scholarships to high schools
- **88** Young Women pursuing professional careers via MBB scholarships to universities
- **122** Rural women learning literacy and income-generating skills
- **190** Small businesses launched by women via MBB micro-enterprise loans
- **1,154** Family members lifted up from extreme poverty through micro-enterprises
Girls Received MBB Scholarships to High Schools

- **144** Already Graduated (25%)
- **328** Still in High School (56%)
- **115** Dropped out due to war, displacement, illness, death, pregnancy or forced marriages (19%)

Young Women Received University Scholarships

- **55** Already Graduated from College or University (64%)
- **28** Still in Higher Education (32%)
- **5** Dropped out due to marriages or illness (4%)

University Alumnae

- **75%** Employed in South Sudan or Nuba Mountains. They work as agronomists, nurses, teachers and nonprofit field workers.
- **15%** Job Searching
- **11%** Status yet unknown due to difficulty of communications inside South Sudan

Zero brain drain!
These young women are the first cohorts of highly educated females in South Sudan.
“These are my mothers and sisters. How could I not share whatever I can?” – Kathleen
"My husband and I really gravitate towards not just how MBB helps those in such despair, but also how these folks are given a foundation to sustain themselves going forward. It's really fantastic!" – Anita

$500–$999
Adelaide Palmer
Alice Gruszka
Bernard & Joan Herman
Beth Garriot
Britt Theidinger MD
Catherine Wilkinson
Cathy Scofield Bogue
Christine Knudsen
Claire Starry Whybum
Colette Lafia Gelade
College of Saint Mary
Cynthia Stover
Daniel & Christine Wilde
Daphne Luong
David & Paula Schaffner
Deborah & Gary DeFilippo
Dolly Miller
Donna Ray
Dorothy Hutchins
Douglas Rea
Dr. Louis & Sandra Acosta
Elsa Amboy & Paul Wilcox
Elyse Klein
Evans J. Rosenberg
George Lula
Gerard Ehrmann
Gholamreza Odbaeae
Jane & Thomas David
Jean Evans RSM
Jeanne & Robert Lori
Joan R. Roy
Joe & Rosemarie Wurtz
Judith Stanner
Kathryn Minogue
Ken Alexander
Lenore Greene
Loretta Chiofolo
Margaret & Mark McQuillan
Marian P. Rouse
Mary Ann Hartley
Mary Clemency
Mary Eileen Pazmino RSM
Mary Jo & Stephen Riehl
Mary Lou Simmermacher
Matthew Marino
Maureen & Timothy Hamilton
McAuley Convent
Melody Graham
Michael Roy
Michele Hartigan
Pat & Michael Moore
Pat Carson
Phyllis Hughes RSM
Rev. William Leininger
Richard Blaisdell
Robert Leathers
Salesforce Corporate Matching
Sandra Christensen
Sandra Woliver
Sarah Johnson
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sr. Clare Pratt, RSCJ
Susan McCarthy RSM
The GE Foundation
The Neal Pepper Family Charitable Fund
The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Thomas & Sandra Weise
Tom Driscoll

$250–$499
Agnes Doherty
Amanda Scanlon
AmazonSmile Foundation
Annette Fajardo
Beth Wissing-Healy
Brett & Angela Bymaster
Bright Funds Foundation
Catherine O’Brien
Catherine Regan
Christine Baldwin
Christopher & Donna Yeager
Claire Werner
Claudette Cusack RSM
Danielle Villasenor
Deborah Geeffeldt
Deirdre Cherry
Donald & Kathleen Speranza
Donna Kelly
Elizabeth Gardner
Frances Crean
Gertrude Nuttman
Janet Chau RSM
Jason King
Jeanne O’Rourke RSM
Jen Vossler
Jennifer Guethlein
Joan Ryan
Joe and Cheryl Guastello Family Fund
Joel Rathbone
John FitzGerald
Julia Shepardson
Katherine Hess
Kathleen Carey
Kathleen Mary Moross RSM
Kathy Curran
Kathy Thornton
Kathy Wade
Lisa Dalton
Lise Karna
Louise Murdock
Marcella Garneau
Margaret & Robert Murphy
Margaret Darrah
Margaret Miro
Margarita Soza
Maria Chiang
Maria Veloso
Mark Esteban
Mary Bona
Mary Knudsen
Mary Lorita Moffatt RSM
Mary Sheehan RSM
Maureen Webster
Melanie Westfield
Michel Joseph Fisher
Michele Aronica RSM
Mimi Woodeshick
Nancy Arnold
Natasha & Rich Hughes
National Catholic Reporter
Oran Arms
P.L. Simms & Lorraine Pagan
Pat Turay
Patricia & Lloyd Bracewell
Patricia Wozniak
Patty Creedon RSM
Paul & Carol Schrimsher
PayPal Giving Fund
Ralph & Paula De Rango
Renee Franken
Rosa Davis RSM
Sr. Carol Anne Smith HM
Stephanie & Daniel Capodanno
Up To $249

Adele Shepherd
Alan & Nancy Covington
Alejandra Enriquez
Alisa Belanger
Aliza Asbell
Alyssa Cassidy
Amy Johnson
Amy Loskutoff
Analisa Lonich
Andrea Bauer
Ann Dannelly
Anna Marie Covan
Annakutty Perumbally George
Anne & James Martens
Anne Marie Lahaie
Anne Marie Smith
Anne Sekul
Anonymous
Anthony McGuire
Anupama Sharma
Barbara Applegate
Bernadette Hart RSM
Bernadette Rodina
Brad Wastler
Bridget McCarthy RSM
Bruce & Nancy Egnew
Candace G. Fasone
Carlotta Oberzut RSM
Carm Paris
Carmen Rodriguez RSM
Carol Baetz RSM
Carol Bucci
Carol Mucha RSM
Carolyn Ervin
Catherine Kuper RSM
Catherine Sampson
Catherine Slovak
Catherine Tran
Celena Milliken
Charlene Poppa
Charles & Siobhan Cunningham
Charles Arthur Lintz
Charles Cacioppo
Cheri Huber
Christina Brown
Christina Wilson
Christine Stephan & Daniel Frueh
Chrisy Wong
Claire Collins
Claudette Schiratti RSM
Colin & Bethany Hurley
Colleen Hill
Collette Hinton
Community at Catherine’s Residence
Corinne Raven
Corita Burnham RSM
Courtland & Laurlynn Browning
Cristina Gheniou
Cynthia McReynold
Dan Meyers
Darlene Alberts
David & Judy Beggs
David Fox
Denise Guthrie
Denise Sausville RSM
Diane Davidson RSM
Diane Fahrner
Dianne & Charles Maddi
Dolores Moniz
Donella Hartman RSM
Donna Amaral
Donna Hetchler
Dorothy Walsh
Edward Trzebiatowski
Elaine Sebera RSM
Elise Valent
Elizabeth Bartelme
Elizabeth C & Bridget O’Donnell
Elizabeth E. Krogman
Elizabeth Rogers-Witte
Ellen & Marvin Schwartz
Ellen Fitzgerald
Ellen Hage
Ellen Munter
Ellen Perry
Esther McEgan RSM
Eugene & Barbara Gerwe
Evelyn Fogle
Fae Stone
Fanna Paula Younghanz
Fay Zenoff
Francis and Marie Murphy
Freda Milke RSM
Gail Chastain
Gail Presbey
Gayla J. Holliger
Genemarie Beegang RSM
Geni Quarteroli
George & Cynthia Meek
George Hohnsbeen
Gery LeGagnoux
Gina Ward RSM
Global Lightworks Foundation
Greg & Linda Gove
Greg & Lisa Niehaus
Helen McDonough
Hendershot Aubre
Hoa Kim Nguyen & Hieu Truong
Honora Nicholson
Irene and Thomas Tumpan
Irene Cullen
Irene Yoshida
Jacquelyn Curran
Jade Aguon
James & Claudia Hamm
James & Elizabeth (Betty) Steidel
James & Kathryn Vigliaturo Jr.
James DeFrancesco
Jamie Landry
Jane Meuse RSM
Jane Schlosser RSM
Jane Wong
Janet & Martin Winderl
Janet Baiardi
Janet Richardson
Janet Rozzano RSM
Janette Fiala
Janine Ter Kuile
Jean & Louis Galofaro
Jean Andrews
Jean Sitter RSM
Jeanne Christensen RSM
Jeanne Ward RSM

"MBB’s results are STUNNING!" – Mike and Pat
“I was chatting with a stranger in the post office one day about how difficult it is to know which nonprofits are trustworthy. She said, ‘Oh, I know Mercy Beyond Borders; their work is terrific!’ She was right!” – Mary
“God has provided for me abundantly and I like to let it slide through my fingers to you to turn it into gold for other people.” — Fr. Terry
“Thanks for giving us the opportunity to make life a little bit better for others.”

– Jo Marie
CY 2018 REVENUE: $930,536
- Foundations & Corp: $376,500
- Individuals: $554,036

CY 2017 EXPENSES: $1,021,836
- Programs: $771,774
- Administration: $215,831
- Fundraising: $34,231

CY 2017 PROGRAM EXPENSES BY TYPE: $771,774
- Education: $606,179
- Women's Econ Dev: $93,874
- Maternal/Child Health: $71,721

ASSETS
- Cash: $316,426
- U.S. Treasury Notes: $1,192,448
- Stock: $5,211
- Prepaid Expenses: $4,097
- Total Assets: $1,518,182

LIABILITIES
- Total Liabilities: $50,390

EQUITY
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $1,356,181
- Restricted Net Assets: $111,611
- Total Equity: $1,467,792
- Total Liabilities & Equity: $1,518,182

2018 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
- Gordon Howie, Treasurer
- Ching-yu Hu
- Sr. Marilyn Lacey
- Julie McKellar
- Eva Miehm, Secretary
- Bijal Patel
- Matilda Rial
- Theresa Samuel Boko
- Mark Stevens, Chair
- Chris White
Without Sr Edvine’s presence, commitment, courage and compassion, there would never have been a successful MBB Scholarship Program in South Sudan. She was Principal at St. Bakhita Girls Primary for many years and then transitioned to MBB as our Scholarships Coordinator. She knew all the girls. Blending strength and affection, she guided and motivated them. She stood up for them against a culture that bartered them for cattle. At personal risk of violence, she hid them when uncles came to claim them at gunpoint for forced marriages. She traveled across deserts, floods and mountains to visit them at their high schools and universities. She stood by them in their trauma. She nurtured their dreams. She saw them blossom. Truly, she taught them by her own example how to put their woman on!

Edvine was MBB’s boundless heart until her death from cancer in December 2018. The hundreds she mentored are now young women, carrying her torch for educating the next generation. In her life and in her death, Edvine continues to inspire us.
When Women Learn, Women Matter. Then Everything Changes!

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