

A WORD FROM MBB'S LEADERS

SUMMER 2019

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.

slates sing by

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

Thail Late

MBB Board Chair

Sister Marilyn Lacey

Lister Maily

Founder & Executive Director



FONI SILER

Nurse in South Sudan

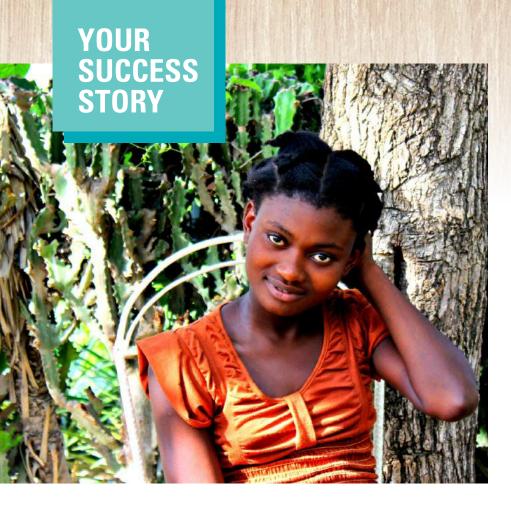
One of MBB's 55 newest alumnae, Foni Siler grew up in a mud-and-thatch hut in South Sudan. With your financial support, she completed primary school and high school and then, in 2018, graduated as a nurse from the Kajo-Keji Health Training Institute. She was immediately hired by Save the Children International 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.













Medical Student in Haiti

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.







YOUR SUCCESS STORY

ABUK In a refugee camp in northern Uganda

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)."









THE PROBLEMS MBB ADDRESSES

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.

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 incomegenerating skills 190

Small businesses launched by women via MBB micro-enterprise loans 1,154

Family members ifted up from extreme poverty through micro-enterprises

OUR IMPACT





585 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%)



88 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%)

55 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.

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

\$10,000 and Higher

Anonymous

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World of Business Class, Mother of Mercy HS

"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

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"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

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"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



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Remembering Elizabeth Amaral Donna Amaral

Remembering Brandon Jeffs Sr. Maura Clark

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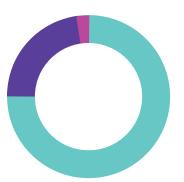
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FINANCIAL STATEM



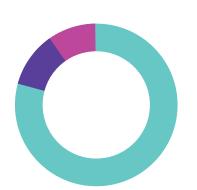
CY 2018 REVENUE: \$930,536

Foundations & Corp: \$376,500
Individuals: \$554,036



CY 2017 EXPENSES: \$1,021,836

Programs \$771,774Administration \$215,831Fundraising \$34,231



CY 2017 PROGRAM EXPENSES BY TYPE: \$771,774

Education \$606,179Women'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 \$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

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Sr. Edvine Tumwesigye 1958 – 2018

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!

MERCY BEYOND BORDERS

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