

FY2023 Annual Report

mercy
beyond
borders





September 2023

Dear Friend,

True story: when Monet's doctor recommended surgery to remove the artist's cataracts, Monet refused. He insisted that age had graced him with a shimmering worldview that had eluded him when his eyesight was keen.

In "Monet Refuses the Operation", poet Lisel Mueller¹ describes Monet's insight that perfect eyesight had led to his "youthful error" of thinking each thing existed as distinct and separate from every other thing: the horizon from the river, the bridge from the wisteria, the lilies from the water. Cataracts, Monet felt, were sheer gift to "soften and blur and finally banish the edges" of separateness.

Our hope: That Mercy Beyond Borders will soften and blur and finally banish the borders that separate us. That you, our amazing supporters, will experience deep connectedness with the women & girls you are educating and uplifting through your partnership with MBB. That you can rejoice with us and with them across the miles and distances and the seeming differences.

Your goodness makes our world more equitable, more beautiful, more hope-filled. Your generosity spurs us on for this important work. The Board of Directors and staff of MBB send you our heartfelt thanks!

Chris White
MBB Board Chair

Sr Marilyn Lacey
Founder & Executive Director

P.S.: Because of you, thousands of women and girls are better off now than a year ago, despite continuing chaos in the regions where they live. You are their lifeline!

¹*Second Language, Louisiana State Univ, 1966.*

Cover: Mercy Mwenembako is the first in her family to attend university. She's in her 2nd-year pursuing a degree in Nursing & Midwifery in Malawi. In her spare time, she volunteers as a tutor for young children.



PROFILES IN COURAGE

THE FACTS

These 7 girls are fugitives. That's why we're protecting their identities.

Each escaped from being trafficked into a forced marriage by a relative in rural South Sudan.

Today, 70 of them live on this one school campus year-round.

They range in age from 9 to 13 years old.



This is what courage looks like.

Look at them: courageous survivors with an incredible thirst for education. They braved rejection by their families (and in some cases, brutal whippings). They trekked alone for days through dark, fearful forests. They asked total strangers along the way, "Where is the school for girls?" and they kept walking until they found it. Finally, they reached the campus gate, sometimes in the dead of night. Each stood alone, exhausted, unsure what awaited her.

They can never go home again.

Because of donors like you, the school has the caring teachers and resources to welcome, shelter, feed, affirm and teach them. Now they have uniforms, friends, a dorm, and more....

You're their hero, gifting them with education and hope!

A FEW GLIMPSES OF YOUR IMPACT IN FY2023



1,450 girls are thriving on all-girl primary campuses in Haiti and South Sudan. Besides guarding against early marriages, these schools are safe and supportive places for girls to learn. They also serve as feeder schools for MBB's higher-level Scholarship Programs.

70 survivors of human trafficking have escaped from forced marriages in rural villages and fled to safety at St Bakhita Girls' Primary School in South Sudan.

The school community welcomes, shelters, and includes them year-round into the 800+ member student body. Some of these trafficked girls are as young as 9 years old.

Note: AI-altered image representation of a forced marriage survivor.



488 young MBB women Scholars continue their post-primary education in Haiti, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi: **351 at high schools and 137 in universities**. They also benefit from MBB's monthly **leadership workshops and computer skills courses**.



MBB Scholars contributed 4,500+ hours of volunteer service this past year, improving their local communities in a variety of ways. Josephine, majoring in environmental health at Malawi University of Business and Science, spent her vacation weeks teaching math to pre-school children in her home town and also assisted frail neighbors with heavy chores.

After helping 847 refugee women start small businesses in East Africa, MBB phased out its micro-enterprise program in favor of a more strategic 2-year model for sustainable economic empowerment of women. Kuol Akech, one of those 847 beneficiaries, proudly manages a coffee shop from her tiny tukul, parlaying her profits into growth assets: a goat and a cow. **She's proud to have become a successful entrepreneur** able to support her family while living in a refugee camp where food rations have been drastically slashed due to funding shortfalls at the United Nations.



Responding to severe food insecurity in Haiti and South Sudan, **MBB staff prepared over half-a-million hot meals (607,400 to be precise) for young girls last year.** Special thanks to the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and the John and Susan Sobrato family who "stepped up to the plate" to fill those plates, easing hunger and contributing to good health in these growing girls. **Astounding!**

YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

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"Money goes directly to those in need and transforms the lives of young girls who are now becoming community leaders....If I had to choose one group to whom I would donate, it is this one."

—Maggie, Donor

"I am the most educated person in my family. My parents never attended school."

—Josephine, MBB Scholar, South Sudan



"This is such an important project for our community because there are so many parents like me who otherwise would have lost hope to educate our daughters."

—Linda, Mom of MBB Scholar, Haiti

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Denise & Jude Lirette

The Mucha Family

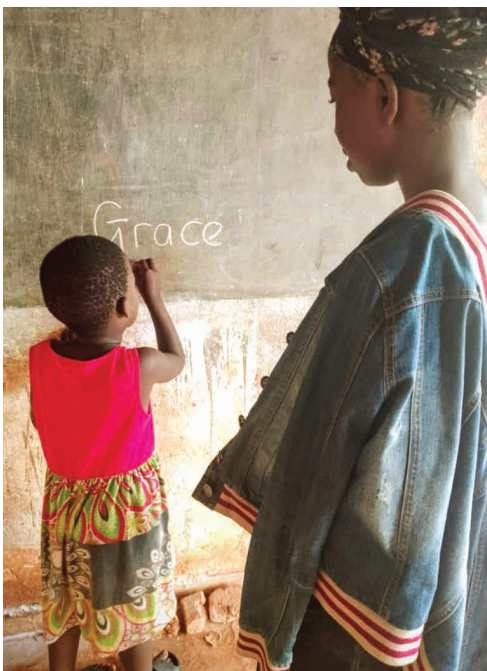
Carol Mucha

Virginia Ryan

Joan Ryan

William Majerle

Patricia Majerle



"The most important things I have gained from MBB are my academic progress and the value of acting with compassion. I tell everyone, 'MBB is a miracle for me.'"

—Mary, MBB alum & civil engineer, South Sudan



IN HONOR OF

All four of my daughters
Janette and Robert Fiala

Bebe & Jim Burke
Mikie and Dan Hay

Brad & Carol Stoll
Garrett Hannon

Brother Jim Keane, CFC
Mary Jo Keane

Carol Smith
Patricia Smith

Chris White
Alayne Sampson
Edie and Dennis Lott

Craig & Mary Noke
Tim Noke

Diane Andrews
Janie Gresham-Sullivan

Don & Kitty Speranza
Vickie & Carlos Simpson

Dr. Rosann Catalano & Ms. Julie Wojtisek
Patricia Smith

Faithful Women's Hearts
Teresa Ray

Govan Family
Greg and Linda Govan

Irene Donner
Kathleen & Nicholas Yatsko

Jason McDonald
Dave Roughan

Jen Roy
Kitty & Don Speranza

Jo Marie Guastello
Jeanne O'Rourke
Kathryn Barsotti

Joan Sellman
Holly Herrera

Joey Kotfica
Tom & Jane David

Joy Andrews Hayter
Roy G Hayter

Judith Carle
William & Juna Carle

Kate Ferland
Jonathan Ferland

Kay Nowatzki
Cindy and Andy Schoorl

Kayleigh Maimone
Patricia Smith

Kimmy Jo
Fred Gonzalez

**Laurel Koester Lamanno and
Chloe Andree Lula**
Marilyne Tron

Leah Pasquini
Darlene Antoinette Pasquini

Lizzie Dalton
Carol Nike

Sr. Lois Graver, RSM
Mary Sheehan

Margot Giusti
Marian Marsili

Sr. Marian Clare Valenteen, RSM
Rita Specht

Marilynne Homitz
Judith A Hulme

Mary & Rich Bona
Michele & Kirk Caya & Family
Julia Caya
Michael Arms

Maureen O'Connor
Karen O'Connor
Travis Harris

Melissa Durley Kreisa
Paul Maguire

Mercy Jubilarians
Margot Schueneman
Catherine McMahon

Mercy Sisters
Margaret Huber & Jerry Waris

Moses Makunje
Whitney Jackson

Nancy Thompson
Shirley Thompson

Nikhil Devireddy
Bradley Stoll

**Our Family Who All Have
All That They Need**
Edie and Dennis Lott

Relatives & Friends
Jeanne O'Rourke

Saavi Kumar
Bradley Stoll

Sr. Mary Laurette Betz, RSM
Pat Kelly

Sister of Mercy Jubilarians
Marianne Bennett

Sr. Patty Campbell, RSM
Teresa M Angier

Sr. Ancilla
Nancy DeStefanis

Srs. Doris & Marilyn Gottemoeller
Elizabeth G Bartelme

Sr. Ellen Fitzgerald
John & Libby FitzGerald

Sr. Jeanine Salak, RSM
Rose Mary Williams

Sr. Marianne Bennett
Lynne Bennett

Sr. Marilyn Lacey, RSM
Catherine O'Brien
JoAnn Persch, RSM &
Patricia Murphy, RSM
Kathy Schiro
King and Ginny Lear
Wilma Reichard & Gordon Howie
Ann Rooney
Kathy Schiro
Margaret and Mark A McQuillan
Maureen Ann Webster

Sr. Patricia Smith, RSM
Rosann Catalano

**Srs. Jeanne O'Rourke &
Johanna Burnell**
Jo Marie Guastello

Stephanie Theron
Vickie & Carlos Simpson

Sr. Terese Marie Perry, RSM
Sr. Mary Ann Hills

Terেসita Taitano Perez
Susan Kanehailua

Thai Ngoc Huong
Truc Dam

The Clough-Andrees Family
Joy Clough

The Dew Family
Patricia Smith

The Father, Son & Holy Spirit
Janette and Robert Fiala

Vincent N. Cook
Catherine & Michael Cook



*"I am a HeartBeat
monthly supporter. I highly
encourage others to join
this program as well!"*

—Leslie, Donor

*"Based on a solid
commitment with solid
vision, this organization
promotes practical
long-term change for the
common good for the
poorest of the poor."*

—Suzanne, Donor

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 2022 – June 2023



SUPPORT & REVENUE: \$2,493,862

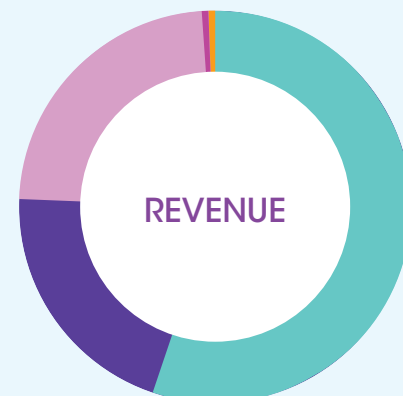
- Foundations & Corporations: \$1,376,290
- Individuals, Small Businesses & Nonprofits: \$508,800
- Donor Restricted Contributions: \$607,499
- Legacies & Bequests: \$1,000
- Other Net Revenue: \$273

EXPENSES: \$1,689,364

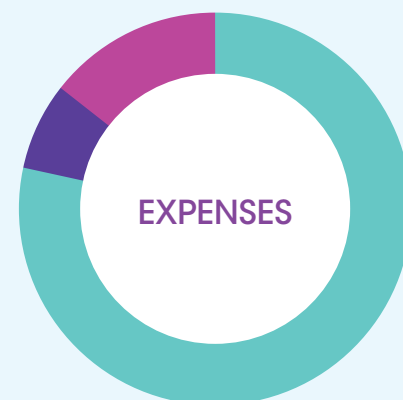
- Programs: \$1,318,153
- Administration: \$230,388
- Fund-raising: \$140,823

EXPENSES BY LOCATION:

- East Africa: \$794,727
- Haiti: \$221,807
- Malawi: \$213,570
- USA: \$459,259



■ 55% ■ 24% ■ 21%
■ Less than 1% ■ Less than 1%



■ 78% ■ 14% ■ 8%



■ 47% ■ 27% ■ 13% ■ 13%

ASSETS

Total Cash & Equivalents	\$1,953,057
Total Accounts Receivable (Includes Multi-Year Grants)	\$981,960
Total Fixed & Other Current Assets	\$105,662

Total Assets **\$3,040,679**

LIABILITIES **\$28,877**

EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,705,753
Donor Restricted Net Assets	\$1,306,049
Change In Net Assets	\$804,498

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$3,040,678**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris White, Chair
Kevin Grimes, Treasurer
Theresa Samuel-Boko, Secretary
Sr. Marilyn Lacey, Ex Officio
Catherine Cook
Paul Kim
Rocky Lin
Stacy Markel
Julie McKellar

OUR MISSION

Forging ways for women & girls
in extreme poverty to learn,
connect & lead.

OUR VISION

A world where all women are
educated, connected & influential.

OUR CONVICTION

When women learn, women matter.
Then everything changes!

PHOTO CREDITS

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beyond
borders



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Tax-exempt 501(c)3
with EIN 26-0323282

