



MERCY BEYOND BORDERS

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2020 Annual Report
July 2019 – June 2020

WORKING IN CHALLENGING PLACES



HAITI

- Literacy rate: 59%
- Fewer than 30% of children reach high school
- 2.5m Haitians earn < \$1.90/day

SOUTH SUDAN

- Median age: 18.6 years
- Ranks worst in the world for girls' education
- Has the world's lowest literacy rate

UGANDA

- Hosts 1.4 million refugees (1m from South Sudan)
- Fertile land: "The Breadbasket of Africa"
- 21% of the population live below the poverty line

KENYA

- Hosts 1/2 million refugees, 25% of them South Sudanese
- East Africa's economic, financial and transport hub
- Women's literacy: 65%

MALAWI

- Half of all girls are married as minors
- Per capita income is \$516/yr (extreme poverty is < \$694)
- Fewer than 5% of girls complete high school



OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

A world in which all women are educated, connected and influential.

OUR CONVICTION

When women learn, women matter.
Then everything changes.

COVER PHOTO: MBB high school Scholar Kettie Saint-Hilaire at home with her mom in Haiti.

A MESSAGE FROM MBB'S LEADERS

September 2020

Dear Friends of Mercy Beyond Borders,

We write while COVID-19 grips our world. Anxiety, isolation, and loss loom large for all of us. We see how pandemics have power to shrink the geography of our concern for others, particularly those far away. Yet theologians remind us of one name for the Divine: "The Far-Near One". Great love bridges great gaps. The poet Mary Oliver sums it up:

"Except we love, all news comes as from a distant land."

The board and staff of Mercy Beyond Borders applaud YOU for maintaining an expansive love that embraces neighbors both far and near. We are awed by your continued support of women and girls struggling with extreme poverty in South Sudan, Haiti, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi. In the world we envision and are working together to create, no lands or peoples will ever be distant.

Grateful, always, for your crucial engagement with our mission.

Sr Marilyn Lacey, RSM
Executive Director

Bill Coats, Esq.
MBB Board Chair

HOW IS YOUR SUPPORT LIFTING UP WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM EXTREME POVERTY?

1 BY EDUCATING GIRLS

- Awarding high school and university scholarships to South Sudanese & Haitian young women
- Building computer learning labs for girls in South Sudan, Haiti, and Uganda
- Paying the annual operating budget of the only all-girl primary school in South Sudan
- Giving a yearly subsidy to the only all-girl primary school in Gros Morne, Haiti

2 BY TRAINING YOUNG WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

- Hosting annual leadership camps for our South Sudanese and Haitian Scholars
- Producing original radio broadcasts with Scholars voicing the value of girls' education
- Linking our university graduates into an Alumnae Advocacy Network

3 BY PROVIDING ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

- Providing business training and micro-enterprise loans to displaced women
- Offering literacy classes and vocational skills training to adult women in South Sudan and Haiti
- Supporting professional training and jobs for healthcare workers.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

	OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS	DURING FY 2020 ONLY
Girl-Years in Primary School	13,350	1,453 girls at St Bakhita Primary (South Sudan) and St Gabriel Primary (Haiti)
High School Scholarships awarded	648	324 currently on full high school scholarships
High School Graduates	194	New graduations delayed by COVID
University Graduates	56	58 currently on university scholarships; new graduations delayed by COVID
Women-owned businesses started	340	60 businesses launched by refugee women in camps



SCHOLARS:

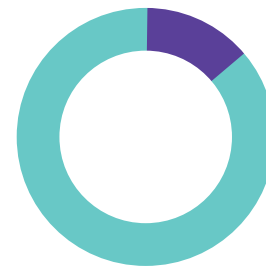
- 57% South Sudanese
- 43% Haitian



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES TO DATE:

- 60% Graduates (194)
- 40% Dropped (141)

Note: Over half of dropouts were due to forced marriages, illness, relocation, or displacement — factors beyond the control of the students themselves. We are making programmatic changes to improve this outcome.



UNIVERSITY GRADUATION RATES TO DATE:

- 86% Graduates (56)
- 14% Dropped (9)

Note: For comparison, the graduation rate for females in the US is 65%.



MICRO-ENTERPRISE WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESSES:

- 66% Businesses launched in refugee camps (225)
- 34% Businesses launched in South Sudan villages (115)

EDUCATING GIRLS

MY STORY OF WAR AND GRIEF AND HOPE

by Julia Adyang



War came to our village when I was young. My mother fled into the bush with us four children. We hid there from the enemy for three days. My father, who had been shot, was airlifted by the UN to a hospital in Juba. We later joined him there.

Three years passed before I could go to school. When I finally did enroll, the principal sent me home after one term for inability to pay tuition. I stayed out of school for two more years. We had no money. My mother hunted in the bush for wild vegetables that we could eat.

Later my cousin paid tuition for me at a school about 30 miles away. I worked hard to catch up academically. I felt lucky to be in school again! I did not know bad luck would follow.

My father died suddenly while I was in that boarding school. I cried so much. I remember his last words to me: 'study well and be responsible'. My mother visited the school to encourage me and we talked a long time. But that was the final time I ever saw her. Bandits hijacked the vehicle she was riding home in. They shot her dead. The news crushed me. I could not fathom losing both parents so quickly.

My aunt sent me to Uganda to protect me from the uncles trying to force me into marrying. Later I transferred to St Bakhita Girls' School in South Sudan. I studied every minute. Education is my only hope.

By God's grace I passed the final exam with top marks and qualified for an MBB high school scholarship. I am now confident that I can pursue my studies to the highest level and get a good job in future.

MBB Staff Update: Julia's score on the 12th grade national exam was the highest of all students in Eastern Equatoria County. She now defines herself by her dreams, not by her losses.

TRAINING YOUNG WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY



YEHIDHAH (left) and **KNIGHTLEY** are 8th graders at the largest, most academically rigorous high school in Gros Morne, Haiti. They frequent the MBB Learning Center nearly every day to use the library and laptops.

Yehidhah is always up for trying something new and motivating others to expand their horizons.

Knightley demonstrates her leadership as a member of the regional Student Environmental Action Committee. She lives in one of Gros Morne's roughest neighborhoods yet is often the first to volunteer for community service.



STELLA NIGHT (literally "Starry Night") is a proud graduate from the University of Eldoret, Kenya, Class of '17. She now works fulltime as the Child Sponsorship Director for a nonprofit in South Sudan that manages an orphanage.

Stella has come a long way from the village of her birth. She is the only one of her six siblings to attend school beyond primary. Stella's parents enrolled her in St. Bakhita Girls' School even though it was 15 hours away: 4 hours on foot down a steep mountain to the nearest dirt road; 11 hours more by any passing vehicle. She excelled in her studies and earned MBB scholarships to both high school and university.

"My dream," she says, "is to teach high school or even serve as a Principal someday. I want to share the gift of education that I received from MBB." Devaluation of the South Sudan currency, however, has flattened teacher's salary from \$100 per month to \$1 per month. For now, she'll keep her office job.

Widespread violence prevented MBB from activating its Alumnae Advocacy Network this past year, but Stella is eager to participate in the next alumnae training and to join her peers in working for changes that will eliminate barriers to girls' education.



Growing up in cultures where girls are not valued, MBB Scholars begin to blossom when they discover their personal worth and talents.

This room was bursting with joy during a recent Leadership Workshop in South Sudan. Scholars used a "speed friending" process to share with one another what they're REALLY GOOD AT. What started with hesitant, "I'm good at science" or "I'm good at music" soon grew into "I'm good at listening....At learning from criticism...At overcoming setbacks...At never giving up."



PROVIDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

When violence forced over 1.2 million South Sudanese to flee once again into refugee camps in Uganda and Kenya, MBB followed them. Over 83% of the refugees are women and children. Most of the women are non-literate, but that does not stop them from being industrious. Equipped by a few days of basic business training and a \$200 loan from MBB, they launch small businesses that save lives. Cash for better nutrition. Medicines. School fees for their children. Equally empowering; these businesses give the women self-confidence and higher status in their communities.

Some entrepreneurs embroider tablecloths for export to ex-pat communities in Australia. Others construct kiosks to sell food staples in the camps. Still others lend cash to fellow refugees or operate phone-charging stations or manufacture soap (now in high demand due to COVID-19).

Micro-enterprise moves refugee women away from the dependency model that cripples innovation. It taps the women's creativity. It also encourages them to move beyond the enmities and suspicions that war has imprinted in their memories and in their very bones.



Nyanua Chuong, shown here in her shop, says, "The same people whom I looked at as my enemies are now my customers and friends."

YOU ARE THE HEROES OF OUR STORIES!

\$10,000 AND HIGHER

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“With gratitude for your luminous work, and for allowing so many of us to be a small part of the web of interconnection.”

–Pavi and Viral

“MBB is one of my top priorities.... The administration is excellent.”

–Johanna





*“This work is a gift
to all humanity.”*

–Chandra

*“You provide the
opportunity to
stretch our hearts.”*

–Krista



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“So grateful to have a channel of giving that I can trust to touch the lives of these women and girls.”

–Anonymous



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*“I am so amazed,
grateful and inspired by
all MBB does.”*

–Rachelle

*“Thank you so much for
all you do to change
so many lives!”*

–Jill



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My dear brother, Larry
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IN HONOR OF

Omaha Mercy Associates

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William & Juna Carle

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Mary & Craig Noke

Timothy Noke

Young people of the world

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Judith Pogue

Sandra Woliver

Provost Leanne M. Roberts, Ph.D.

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Mary Anne Saylor

Geni Marie Quartaroli

Kerry & Erin Terkuile Schmidt

Janine Ter Kuile

Gail Woods Smith

Sidney River Woods

Mr. Stoll

Sophie Wang

Michael H. Ward

Wendy A. Olin

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Sara Wissing

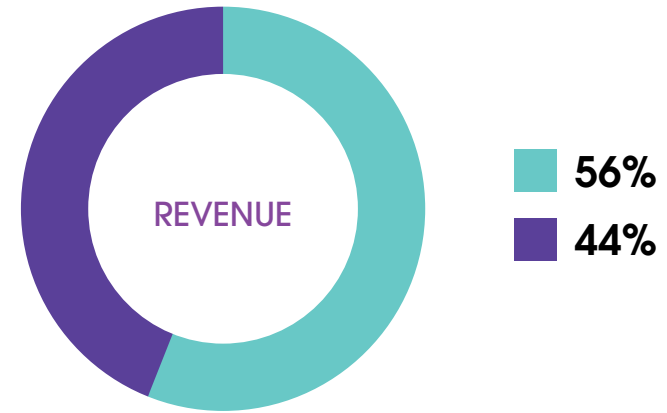
Beth Wissing-Healy



LET'S DO THE NUMBERS

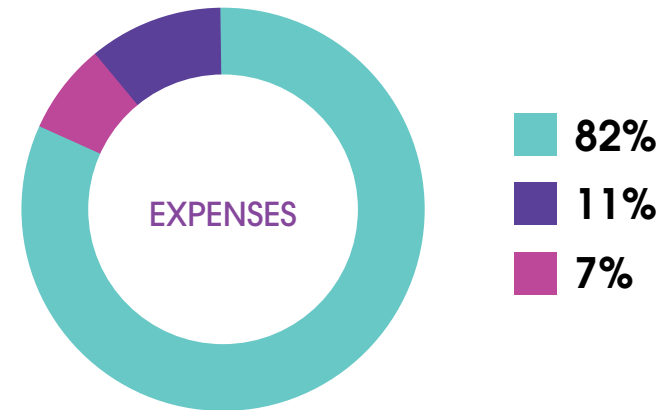
REVENUE: \$838,510

■ Foundations & Corp	\$470,806
■ Individuals	\$367,704



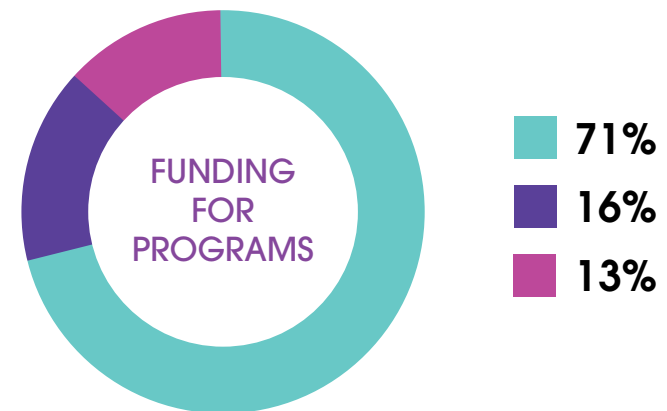
EXPENSES: \$1,020,561

■ Programs	\$834,131
■ Fundraising	\$112,286
■ Administration	\$74,144



FUNDING FOR PROGRAM TYPE: \$834,131

■ Education	\$592,233
■ Women's Econ Dev	\$133,461
■ Advocacy/Leadership	\$108,437



ASSETS

Cash	\$1,286,371
Prepaid Expenses	\$1666

Total Assets **\$1,288,037**

LIABILITIES **\$40,250**

EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,241,990
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$46,047

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$1,288,037**



MERCY BEYOND BORDERS

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info@mercybeyondborders.org

Donations are tax-deductible.
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“When women learn, women matter. Then everything changes.”