

Annual Report

August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019

Assistance to the Mercy Project in Kenya



MERCY

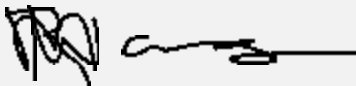
CENTER FOUNDATION U.S.A., Inc.

Message from Sr. Rose

The Mercy Center Foundation has accomplished much in this past year, and we continue to try to respond to the most critical needs arising in Kenya. In the first part of 2019, the foundation raised funds towards completion of science labs for chemistry/biology and physics/agriculture programs planned. The Mother of Mercy Girls School is attracting serious students each year, building a foundation and strong tradition of empowering girls in Kenya to achieve their dreams.

This year we continue close cooperation and partnership with Commissioned by Christ, a ministry of the Arlington Diocese in Virginia. This program exchange brings us closer to Christ and towards building a deeper friendship with the U.S. Communities. We are happy to share the work of the mission and vision of the Mercy Project and for the friendship that you demonstrate towards our community in Lare, Kenya.

With my deepest thanks and prayers for continued support in the years to come,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RW' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sr. Rose Wangui, VHM

Founder, Mercy Project and Mercy Center Foundation, USA

MISSION

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA seeks to provide the Lare community in Kenya with international, humanitarian and technical assistance to support access to clean water, a basic health care clinic and a girl's secondary school which assists more than 250 girls to attain a high school education. The work of the Mercy Project also directly impacts the lives of villagers and has dramatically improved their future opportunities for a better life. Previously excluded from going to school, girls (ages 13-20) are doing well in school and approximately 75% are attending universities and colleges upon completion. The school is now ranked fourth in the district of Njoro in Nakuru County. These are enormous steps since opening our doors with one classroom in 2011.

The Mother of Mercy Girls School employs fourteen full time teachers, and three security guards, three cooks, a nurse and lab technician for the health clinic, a driver, two farm hands, a secretary and Principal of the School. A Mercy Project Manager directly oversees the implementation and operations of the Secondary School, the farm project and the health clinic. The school is working on acquiring modern learning tools, updated study areas and space so that girls can be inspired to work together more cooperatively and to build strong bonds of friendship and a culture of serious learning. These changes gradually impact the culture and spirit of the school in a very positive way. There are girls from many different tribes in Kenya working together at the school and learning the spirit of cooperation.

Report on Project Activities

Third Missionary Trip to Lare, Kenya in July 2019

The Mercy Project is building a supportive relationship with Commissioned by Christ, a non-profit Catholic organization in the Diocese of Arlington. The third mission team to Kenya was led by Commissioned by Christ's Executive Director, Michelle Haworth, and team leader Tom Edwards, included adults, families and teens from the Arlington Diocese in Virginia. The mission team worked on

several projects including; gutting two large rooms that housed broken classroom desks and tables that could then be converted into storage rooms for the school. Many in the group broke out into teams and provided help in the garden and tending vegetables, provided assistance with building the science lab classroom and food preparation for girls' lunches also. Finally, students also served the Mercy students food and participated and helped them in English and math classes.

A number of participatory discussions and group exercises with the Mercy Girls and the missionaries helped focus on cooperation, fun, faith and building a positive faithful community.



Pictured above is the 2019 Commissioned by Christ Kenya Mission team together with the Mercy Girls liturgical dancers.



Getting to know the girls at the Mercy School through song. New dormitory is in the background.



Ana Haworth and Olivia Filpi paint the classroom together. The 2019 missionaries focused their mornings working hard on many tasks.

In the daytime, everyone works hard, and, in the evening, there were deliberations, reflections, singing and discussions among all who wished to participate. A joint mass was celebrated by Fr. Richard Miserendino of St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Springfield, VA during the mission trip with the Kenyans and Americans in the Kenyatta Dining hall on campus.

Many students on the trip were able to get to know one another and began to understand the Kenya experience from the position of the students there. Strong bonds of friendship developed as several of the participants returned to the U.S. with a renewed enthusiasm for the opportunity to meet the girls and faculty at the Mercy Girls School. Many described the experience as providing an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and our responsibility of faith and service to others.

The Mercy Project continues working on acquiring modern learning tools, updating study areas and space so that girls can be inspired to work together more cooperatively and to build strong bonds of friendship and a culture of serious learning. Currently, there are more than 250 girls enrolled from many different tribes in Kenya working together at the school and learning the spirit of cooperation.

THE SCIENCE LAB PROGRESSES

A new modern science lab --- will provide updated new practical lab spaces needed to inspire girls for their future science careers. The lab will consist of four parts for students learning biology, chemistry, physics and agriculture. Girls will have the ability to practice what they are learning in their science books in the new labs and improve their chances of going to the university. The Mercy Project continues to pace its growth but, "The addition of modern high school classrooms, well equipped programs, combined with great teachers and students will certainly place us in a top position in future," says Sr. Rose, VHM. Funds provided by the Talitha Cumi Foundation were a major support for the building of the new science lab project.

The Mercy Board expresses its deepest gratitude to the 2019 CBC missionaries and the Arlington Diocese for its dedication and great support through the missionary teams. We also thank the team of leaders in Lare, Kenya led by Madam Rose Njoora and Mr. James Ruga Macharia, the Principal of the School. The Mercy Project Board of Directors proudly sponsors the annual Commissioned By Christ dinner at St. Luke's to honor their missionary work.



CBC missionaries and the girls taking a selfie in front of the new Science lab in progress.

New Computer Lab Completed for Mercy Girls School

The computer lab was completed in current classroom space in 2019. It will allow advanced IT programs and electives to be taught in 2019-2020. Students are meeting the challenges for future college level course requirement programs. The new information technology program is now being offered for all students.

The Mercy Project thanks the Conrad Hilton Foundation and the Talithacumi Foundation and the many donors for its critical support of science and computer labs and income generating projects in Kenya. These grants supplemented donor and event income for the year and fulfilled specific short-term needs of the school.



Girls are always ready to learn at the Mother of Mercy Girls School.

2019 Annual Race for Girls in Kenya

The race attracts new supporters, runners and citizens from all over the area. Bach2Rock and their talented young musicians who offered great entertainment which followed the race! With wonderful support from the race sponsors including Georgetown Running Company, Saxby's, ULLICO, Bach2Rock, the Bricklayers International Union, Soft Edge, Down Dog Yoga, Barrel Oak Winery and the local community, we raised 20.5K towards the building of a new Science lab.



Tom Edwards led the Kenya trip team in 2019 and joined the Mercy Project Board in 2020.

Georgetown Half Marathon @ Fletcher's Cove raised 40k

for Girls in Kenya and Nepal

Partnering with Kaimont, LLC and the Safety and Health Foundation, the Mercy Project hosted its third half marathon to support girls' education in Kenya and in Nepal. Kaimont, LLC, headed by Monika Paris is also supporting girls' education, girls' empowerment and healthy lifestyles in Nepal. Together our partnership has increased runners and supporters and was a very successful event! The leading corporate and organization sponsors were , AMNION, Georgetown Running Co., Bricklayers Int'l Union, the Union Labor Life Insurance Co., Georgetown Visitation.

Additionally, our runners received great in-kind donations and awards from Down Dog Yoga, Barrel Oak Winery, Balducci's, Saxby's Coffee. Finisher medals are given to all male/female finishers.

The races have become our annual tradition and many now look forward to each year with the support of the broader United States and friends of Sr. Rose and those interested in the cause of supporting girls' education. We are pleased to continue this in 2020 with the Towpath Half & 5k and the Georgetown Half & 5k.



[Team Kaimont supports the Georgetown Half Marathon in 2019.](#)

[Financial Report](#)

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA undergoes financial reviews or audits each year and continues to be an organization in good standing. The board meets regularly to address the ongoing issues and projects as well as fundraising plans of the Foundation. Our financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2019 can be found on our website under the donate button.

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA supports a fully transparent and accountable approach towards financing of the Mercy Project. We do this by encouraging volunteerism and partnerships with other like-minded companies, trade unions, and organizations and donors.

Looking Ahead to 2019-2020

We will also seek to improve and advance the school's plan to become self-sustainable over the long term, by providing continued support for micro-enterprise programs focused on income generating agribusiness farming and skills training. We will support a scholarship fund going forward after the school facilities are completed. These programs will help support their independence and strengthen their ability to support their own administrative budget and school programs.

We welcome your ideas and volunteer service and support for our fundraising efforts. A very special thanks to Georgetown Visitation for its help with this project including all of the student and parent volunteers.

Thank you for standing up for girls in Kenya and for sharing this project with your friends, family and colleagues!

Mercy Center Foundation, USA

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Fr. Daniel Leary, Advisor

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Please visit us at www.mercyproject.org

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We are a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax exempt. Tax id: 54-2124269

