

Annual Report

August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021

Assistance to the Mercy Project in Kenya



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 for girls arising in Kenya. The Mother of Mercy Girls School is building a foundation and strong of empowering girls in Kenya to achieve their dreams.

The second half of 2020 brought real hardships for all of us with Covid19 hitting the U.S. and Kenya, forcing our schools to close in Spring for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. We managed to salvage some of the Senior girls programs in Kenya and exams however, students will need to repeat the year as we were unprepared for remote learning in Kenya. This was a major setback we continue to try to overcome in order to be ready for the next pandemic.

Despite the health pandemic, we continued to connect with the girls in Kenya with Commissioned by Christ, a ministry of the Arlington Diocese in Virginia. A virtual missionary program exchange connected us through zoom to the needs and spiritual health of the girls who discussed their daily lives with several missionary volunteers. So, in the face of the worst hardships we showed our faith and dedication and continued to work towards building a deeper friendship with those in Kenya. We invite all to review our annual report and see the pictures of our great progress included herein and enclosed in the appendix.

We hope as the Mercy Project trajectory moves towards completion of its on site campus that we will continue to sustain the dream of girls education and excellence for our community in Kenya.

With my deepest thanks and prayers for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SR. ROSE WANGUI', followed by a horizontal line.

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. 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 that will inspire teachers and students to work together cooperatively. In this way, strong bonds of friendship and a culture of serious learning are being forged. These incremental changes gradually impact the culture and spirit of the school in very positive ways. A proud school spirit is growing amongst students and is taking root at our school each year! Alumni are also coming back to show their support!

Summary of Project Activities

For the current year under review, the projects we focused on for the fiscal year ending July 2021 included: funding a water project that installed new water tanks on campus, completion of the science labs and establishing new greenhouses for the vegetable farming project. A new biogas project was begun with a small grant from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This new project is part of an overall environmental effort and will be a useful source of renewable energy. An exciting pilot STEM Project was launched. The project which is being piloted from June 2021 until March 2022 with Moonshot Jr., Inc. will evaluate the possibility of

establishing a permanent modern STEM program for the school. We also continued with virtual missionary programs and established a new scholarship fund!

NEW ADMIN BUILDING TO SUPPORT SCHOOL'S GROWING NEEDS

A large effort in 2020-2021 focused on raising funds for the construction of a new administration building at the entrance of the new campus that will allow for principal, teacher and parent/teacher meetings, planning, and full administration processes to be implemented. The former structure on campus now housing the school's administration will be used to house guests visiting and for senior teaching and student seminars.

A major effort to raise funds to build a new administration building on campus is now underway. We hope to complete the building with funds raised by the end of 2022. The new building will be used to house the teaching and professional staff of the school and allow for appropriate meeting space needed.



The construction of the administration building began in 2020.

NEW WATER TANKS INSTALLED TO HELP SUPPORT WATER HARVESTING

Two new water tanks and filtering systems were installed in 2021 to help support new construction and water requirements for girls on campus. The two tanks will collect additional rain water and will be used for the showers in the dorms and the new science labs. Shortages of water in Kenya are a frequent problem and installing new tanks will allow for further preservation of water for critical usage needed. With a growing student population on campus, clean water is critical to the health and welfare of the girls doing well at school.



Mercy Girl Seniors sharing a moment of reflection and prayer continued to work together through the school year with patience and dignity.

THE SCIENCE LAB - COMPLETE AND READY FOR NEW CONTENT PROGRAMS

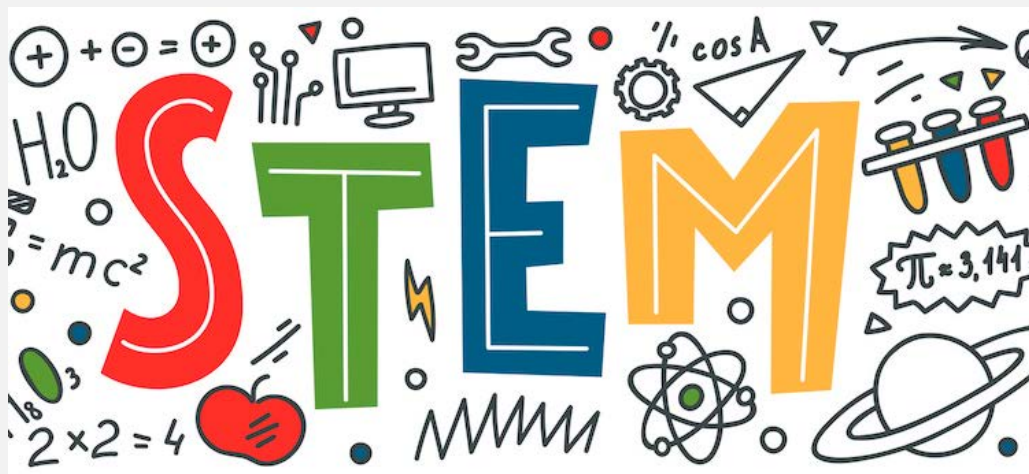


All students now take classes in the science labs at the Mercy School.

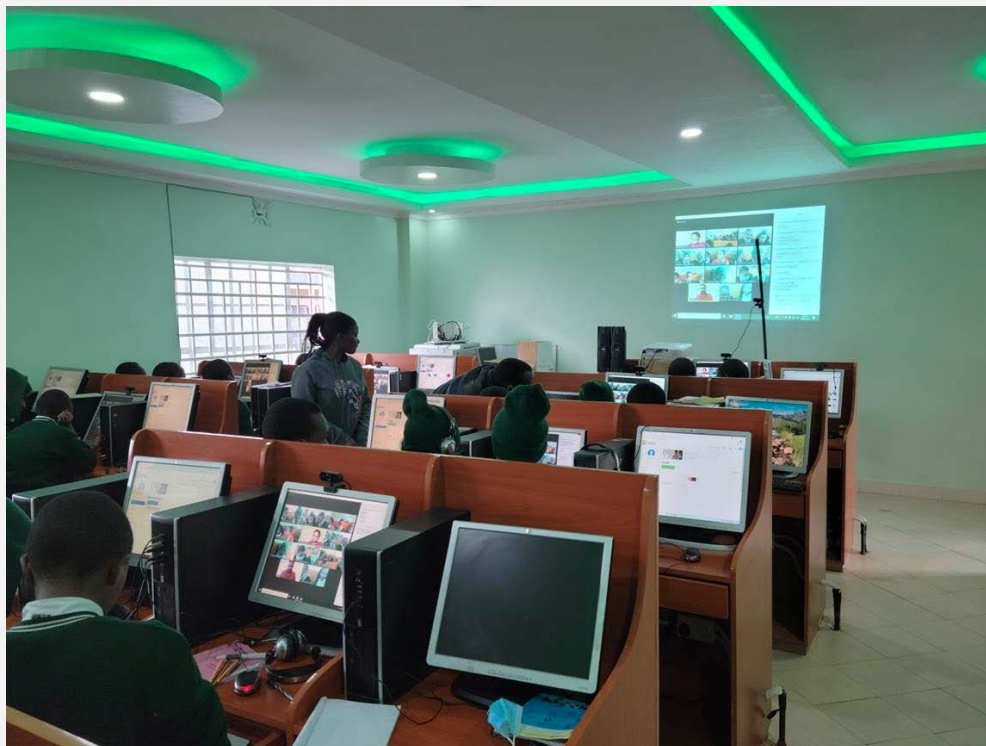
A new modern science lab --- provides updated new practical lab spaces needed to inspire girls for their future science careers. The lab consists of four parts for students learning biology, chemistry, physics and agriculture. Girls now have the ability to practice what they are learning in their science books directly improving their chances of going on 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.

Pilot STEM Project and Biogas Project Begun in 2021



The computer lab completed in 2019 was the center of a new pilot project. In partnership with the online teaching company Moonshot Jr., Inc. the school is offering students the opportunity to learn not only about technology, but also to learn the skills needed to become an entrepreneur. The program hopes to enable students to identify needs in the school or community, to use technology to respond with a solution, and if successful to bring the inventions to market. In addition, the STEM project will assist students aspiring to meet the challenges of future college level course requirement programs. The new information technology program is being piloted with 20 students. *“STEM is such an exciting and necessary part of our school’s desire to gain modern content and skills training and we are deeply grateful to the IMF for their timely and great assistance” said Sr. Rose, VHM.*



Girls taking part in the STEM pilot program of 2021 in the new computer lab.

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.

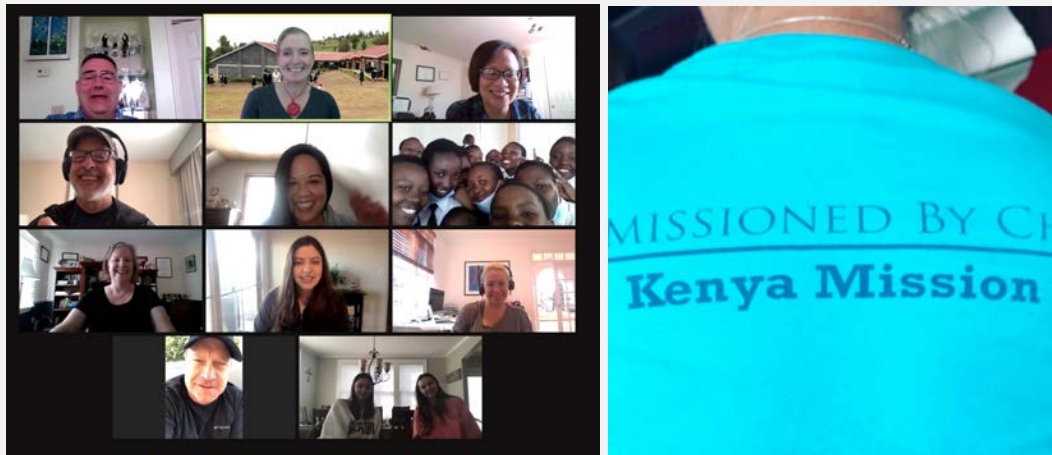
ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE CAMPUS ADOPTS BIOGAS

“A time for a new focus on how to make our campus environmentally responsible is now a reality that we can all learn from and get behind for our collective future.”
Sr. Rose, VHM

After research and application, the IMF Giving Fund awarded the Mercy Project with a support grant for the development of a biogas pilot project in 2021. Utilizing cow manure waste to generate clean energy for cooking in the kitchen will enable the school to move towards becoming an environmentally friendly campus. In addition, biogas converted from cow manure converts into clean

energy and saves approximately 6-10k now allocated for the burning of wood used to cook on campus. This new energy project installed two medium-sized units which have the capacity to meet the energy needs of the school kitchen running at full capacity, and to help meet the energy needs of the farm.

CBC VIRTUAL MISSIONARIES STAY CONNECTED TO GIRLS IN 2020



In March 2021, Commissioned by Christ launched its inaugural virtual mission trip program to The Mother of Mercy Girls School. The program is a six-week, daily experience and is a spiritual and human journey - transporting our missionaries virtually to communities we would serve in-person during normal years. The Kenya mission team of 14 included a CBC team leader, priest chaplain and 12 missionaries. The team most enjoyed being able to connect on Zoom and hold basic discussions about their day-to-day routines and aspirations for the future. Given the health crisis, a majority of time was spent talking about the impact of the pandemic on the students and their families. CBC missionaries were deeply impacted by these interactions and collectively donated \$5,000, which will be designated to help with immediate needs, such as food costs, tuition, and teacher pay. Plans are being made to continue virtual mission trips to the Mercy School, in addition to resuming in-person mission trips in the summer of 2022. The Mercy Project thanks Michelle Haworth, Executive Director of CBC and the team there for their overall successful partnership and missionary help to Kenya.

2020 Races Continue to Support Girls Education



The Towpath Half and 10k in 2020 raised 10k for girls education in Kenya. The race brings together runners from many diverse communities in the USA to help support girls' education.

Due to Covid19, the Spring race planned for 2021 was cancelled.

Partnering with Kaimont, LLC and the Safety and Health Foundation, the Mercy Project hosted its fourth half marathon to support girls' education in Kenya and in Nepal. Runners received great finisher medals and awards from Down Dog Yoga, Barrel Oak Winery and REI. Balducci's and Saxby's Coffee sponsors donated all the light fare for the race.

The fall Georgetown Half Marathon did go virtual and we were able to support Kenya with a 10k donation despite the Covid19 pandemic's restrictions.

Additionally, strong race sponsors including [Georgetown Running Company](#), [AMNION](#), [WANU Water](#), [Saxby's](#), [the Bricklayers International Union](#), [Down Dog Yoga](#), [Barrel Oak Winery](#) made the race a success and supported the completion of science labs and new construction of the school expansion.

These races have become a well known success in the Washington, D.C. area. So many look forward to competing each year as it has grown to include hundreds of runners from the broader United States and all of those interested in the cause of supporting girls' education.

ACACIA Girls' Scholarship Fund Begun at the Mercy Girls Secondary School



The Mercy Board of Directors raised funds to help support the girls scholarship fund in Kenya. The Acacia tree, known for its strength and endurance through treacherous, heavy storms and devastating droughts was chosen to symbolize the strength that girls demonstrate when they aim to succeed and chart their own path in life. Named after this famous national tree, the Acacia Girls' Scholarship Fund will help to assist girls most in need and qualified to attend the Mercy Girls Secondary School. Each year, depending on funds and donations to the fund, we will seek to assist the Mercy Girls by providing a certain number of scholarships each year.

Funds raised in 2021 will be used to fund 2022 scholarships since schools were closed during the Covid19 pandemic, ending the school year prematurely in Spring.

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, 2020 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, organizations and donors.

Looking Ahead to 2021-2022

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. Adding content programs that the school needs including STEM, Art and other programs may be a continued focus in the years ahead.

We will also continue to 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.

A very special thanks to Georgetown Visitation community for its special help with this project including all of the Sisters of the Visitation, the students and parent volunteers.

Keep standing up for girls in Kenya and sharing this project with your friends, family and colleagues! We thank you all!

Mercy Center Foundation, USA

Brian J. Doherty, President

Nick Guglielmo, Finance Officer

Tony DeCarlo, Communications

Tom Edwards, Member at Large

Julie Waddell, Legal Counsel

Adrianne V. Doherty, Special Projects

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

Appendix of Pictures of Mercy Project's 2020-2021 Progress



The roofing work continues on admin building



Digging the hole of the biogas



Men working on biogas construction



The biogas work going on



How the biogas holes looks



1 Biogas hole completed and pipes conne



Setting up the drilling water equipment



More drilling



Casing of the new borehole



After the put connecting the pump



Tomatoes growing in the greenhouse



Peppers growing in the second greenhouse



Dry onions waiting to be harvested in greenhouse