

Tanzania Development Support 2017 Annual Report

Our Mission

The mission of Tanzania Development Support is to improve the quality of life of youth, especially girls, in the Mara region by supporting primary and secondary school improvements and other community-identified priorities.



Dear Supporters,

It seems hard to believe, but in 2017 we wrapped up our 9th year of impacting lives in Tanzania. The year featured several achievements but most importantly ended with an understanding of the way forward for us. The TDS board has guided an historic shift from funding new buildings (a dormitory for girls and the Madaraka Nyerere Library and Community Resource Center) to funding programs that make the Nyerere LCRC a lively center of learning for everyone.

Tanzania is a large, epic country with challenges just as big. Nearly half of the population lacks access to improved drinking water sources and nearly all have no access to improved sanitation. Women are especially adversely impacted by lack of access to clean water.

It is precisely for these factors that TDS works in the Mara region of Tanzania to give power and agency to the local population to develop. Since we launched TDS in 2008, we have powered schools, purchased books, and forged powerful clean water and career pathway programs. As Fr. Leo Kazeri, our friend and director of partner organization UMABU remarked, "Our work together has changed the lives of women and children, but we still have more work to do."

We are gratified to see our efforts impact the lives of children, women and families.

Through TDS, we have purchased books, built a library and helped so many families through our programs. Our career pathways program develops skills for sustainable employment. One participant, Anna Masatu, raved about the program and noted how the hands-on activities became a fun way to learn about science. Over the course of the program, she has developed skills in agriculture and has taken the lead in managing her school's garden.

We believe that through our efforts we can change the future of many Tanzanians. To help move TDS forward in this shift from bricks to books, we have hired an outside consultant, Sheila B. Lalwani, to steward our efforts in fundraising, programming and communications.

We mark our 10th year anniversary in 2018 and look forward to many more years of continued service. I invite you to go through this report and read about our accomplishments. As always, I would be glad to take your questions and honored to have your continued support.

Sincerely,
Kurt Thurmaier
Founder, Tanzania Development Support

Our Board of Directors

Dr. Kurt Thurmaier
Ms. Edith Njuguna

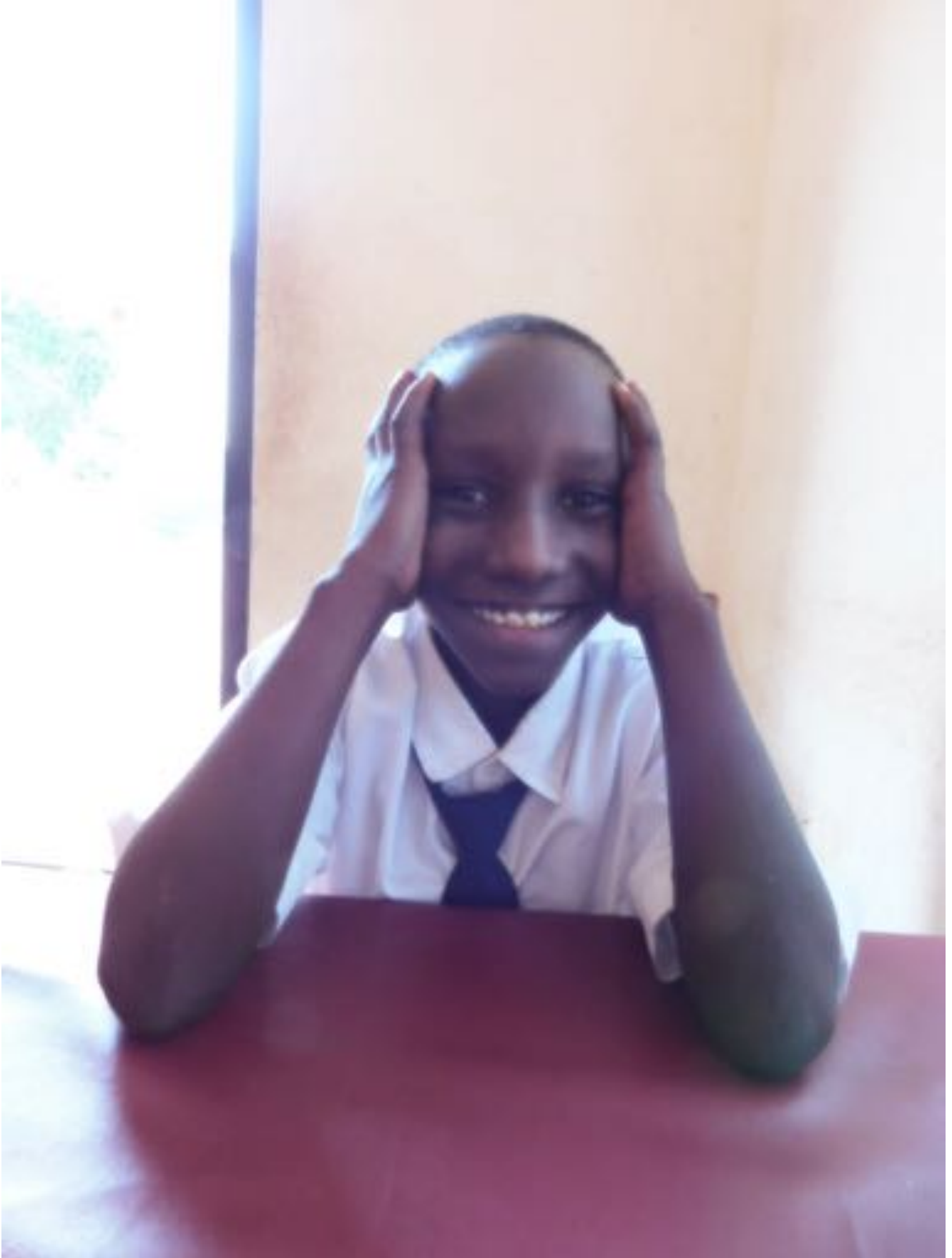
Ms. Tricia DeBoo
Mr. Tracey Swanson
Ms. Cynthia Nelson

Mr. Jason Michnick
Ms. Helen Martin

Our Programs

Over the years, Tanzania Development Support has led efforts to strengthen education and health for the people in the Mara region.

In 2017, your dollars supported books, education, technology, careers and health programs.



Providing Books To Benefit the Nyegina Secondary School: Impacting Lives Everyday

It is early in the morning at the new Madaraka Nyerere Library and Community Resource Center (LCRC). About 30 children are in the library, hunched over books and taking notes for class. And, that is the point.

"We are about self-improvement," said librarian Moses Deogratus. "The students can come to the library and develop their learning further."

TDS built the new library that now houses thousands of books ranging from science to algebra to English to Swahili. The library is the main resource not just for the students, but for the surrounding communities as well. Many primary and secondary schools are in the villages nearby but none of them have libraries and in fact lack the textbooks needed for students to study.

Firm believers in education, TDS built the new library that also includes rooms designed to store and distribute textbooks for the local schools.

The return on the investment is real. Students are able to access more books than ever before and curriculum is based on student learning. The students frequent the library to study and read.

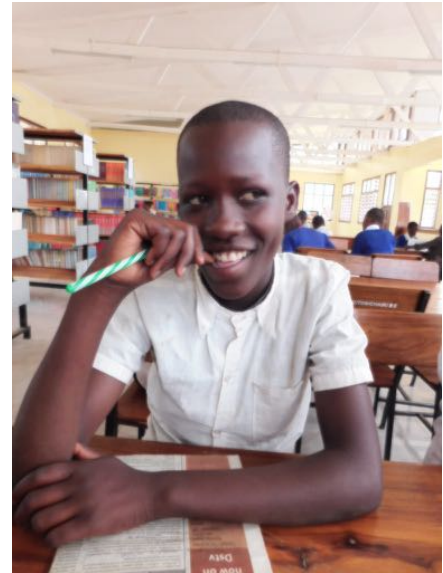
"We are about self-improvement. The students can come to the library and develop their learning further."

"I like to go to school because I am learning different things," said Elizabeth Emani, 14. "I want to be a doctor to cure people. I come to the library for the aim of knowing different things."

TDS continues to raise support to supply for new books and resources for the library.

"Having had the opportunity to visit Nyegina while the LCRC was still under construction, the most exciting thing about returning was to walk into the library and see dozens of Nyegina Secondary students reading. Being able to see what is possible through the generous gift of our donors, countless volunteer hours, and hard work of our local partners was incredible," board member Jason Michnick said of his 2017 visit to Nyegina.

"It truly was the realization of a shared dream to provide a greater opportunity for generations to come."







Profile: From Scholarship Recipient to Role Model

Nyegina Secondary School is fortunate to attract students throughout Tanzania, though mainly from the Lake Victoria region; but not all students can afford the cost of tuition. Among families with limited financial resources, girls in particular are often denied educational opportunities in favor of boys.

To understand the impact of the donor-driven girls scholarship program, look no further than Nyandaro Julius. Launched as a donor-driven initiative, TDS allows any donor to sponsor a girl with scholarships to attend Nyegina Secondary School.

Nyandaro received the Terre Des Hommes scholarship, which gave her the opportunity to study at Nyegina.

From a family that struggled with day to day living, Nyandaro knew the scholarship was her chance and took it. She excelled at Nyegina and went onto college to become a teacher. She now teaches math at Nyegina and is a role model for the other students.

“Without the scholarship, I could have gone to another school, but I would not have advanced,” Nyandaro said. “If not for the scholarship, I would not be here. Other girls like me get married and pregnant. I came here.”

TDS offers a scholarship to benefit girls from all over Tanzania in need of financial support.

“The scholarship made me who I am.”



Computer Labs Introduce Tech

The Nyerere LCRC was designed with community input to include public computers to give members of the surrounding communities access to a library and computer.

“Here we can improve learning,” Mama Justina said. “People can learn to type on a keyboard.”

There are also two Internet accessible computer labs for twenty computers

each to provide computer lessons to students and community members. Once the computers are purchased and the internet connection is completed, these computer labs will allow multiple types of programming for the students, teachers, and community members.



Developing a Career Pathways System in the Mara Region

The Career Pathways program bridges the divide between what students learn in the classroom and job opportunities available after they leave school.

A TDS-focused program that aims to connect education, training and support strategies that enable young people to transition into sustainable careers has been an ongoing program for several years.

TDS has partnered with the Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University (EdSystems) to study the sectors in high demand in Tanzania and introduce aligned careers. Students gain hands-on experience and develop critical skills to be effective in the workplace, including in agriculture and entrepreneurship.

*“Here we can improve learning.
People can learn to type on a keyboard.”*





Health: Safe Water For All

Lack of access to clean, safe water is a critical and persistent obstacle to improving the lives of people in Tanzania.

In Tanzania, women and girls walk long distances to forage for acceptable sources of water and wood. For all too many of them, this creates a burden that consumes much of their days, and, ultimately, leaves little or no time to attend school or study. Illnesses from waterborne contaminants also contribute to severe health problems.

The Safe Water Mugango Project is about changing that. The Safe Water Mugango Project brings together eight women to manufacture water filters that produce safe, clean drinking water.

This woman-owned business developed fast in 2017, building the drying sheds and equipment room so that they can begin manufacturing operations in 2018.

The women hope to earn enough money to educate their children.

"I have four children," co-owner Consolata said. "I am struggling to send money to pay for fees and accommodations for one to go to school. I hope that being part of this will change that."

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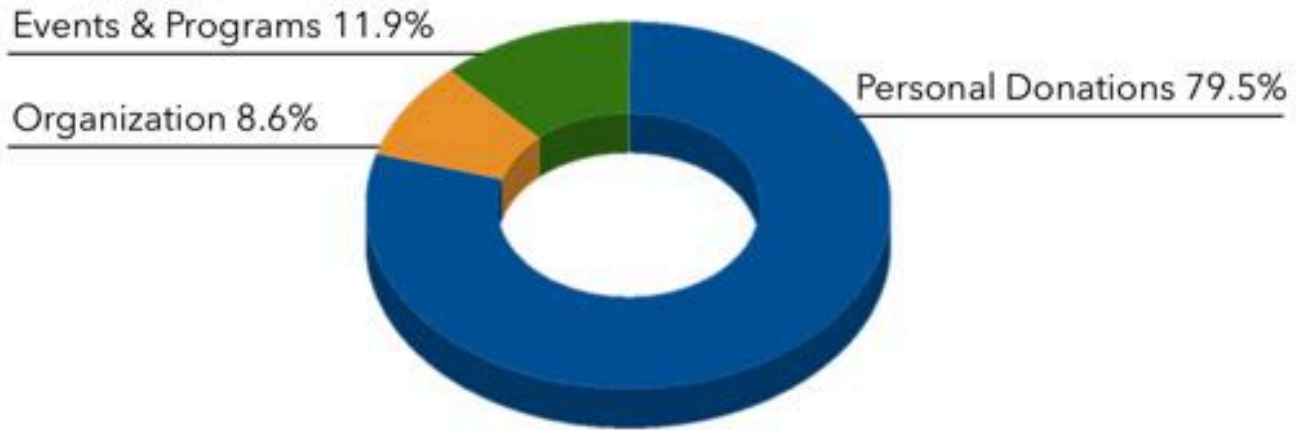


Revenue

Personal Donations \$44,840.01
 Organization Donations \$4,865.67

Events & Program Revenue \$6,698.59
 Interest & Other Income \$78.66

Total Revenue \$56,482.93



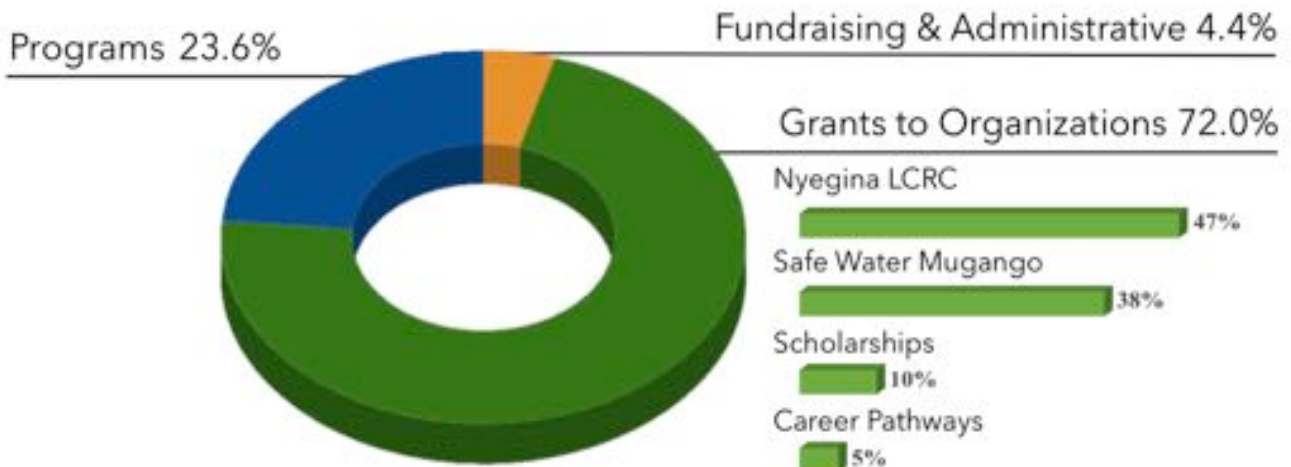
Expenditures

Grants for Projects \$59,515
 Programs \$19,477

Fundraising & Administrative \$3,650

Total Expenditures \$82,641.75
Fund Balance 12/31/2016 \$31,154

Fund Balance 12/31/2017 \$23,448.74
Change in Fund Balance (\$7,705.26)



* indicates board member

Gifts Of \$5,000 and above

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Jeanine & Kurt Thurmaier*

Gifts of \$1,000-\$4,999

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In-Kind Gifts

TDS strives to ensure accurate and timely recording of gifts from our generous donors.

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Please contact us with any corrections at info@tdsnfp.org

Donations to Tanzania Development Support are tax-deductible charitable contributions.

TDS is an Illinois-based, volunteer-driven, 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

It works to improve the quality of life of youth, especially girls, in Tanzania's Mara region by supporting primary and secondary school improvements and other community-identified priorities.



Thank you for your support