

Circle of Friends



2013 Annual Report



Our Mission

We provide education and support for Nairobi children living in poverty whose families are affected by HIV/AIDS so they can transform their lives.





Dear Friends,

In 2013, our number of high school graduates increased to 17 and we had seven 8th grade graduates admitted to prestigious National High Schools in Kenya — a first for our organization! We continue to move closer to the “why” behind our mission – so they can transform their lives.

We are all familiar with the oft-quoted African proverb, “It takes a village to raise a child”. Before AIDS blighted Africa, both urban and rural villages, as well as families were able to lock arms and provide the support children needed to thrive. However, today it takes new kinds of villages to help children succeed. We call this dimension of our program Supportive Community.

Our central mission is, of course, education. We continue to spend more than 50% of our budget on education-related expenses. However, we have learned that without food and basic medical care, education is more difficult. And, without a supportive community children tend to lose their way. But with those ingredients, children who come from impossible circumstances achieve what they never believed possible. If you haven’t yet seen it, please watch the video Sarah’s Story on our website. It tells, in Sarah Wangari’s words, what the community has meant in her life.

In this year’s Annual Report, entitled Circle of Friends, we widen our scope to celebrate the communities around the world that have sprung to support Friends of Ngong Road in the seven short years since our founding. We appreciate that our supporters dot the globe, representing many towns and cities in 30 U.S. states, and five countries globally. From Minneapolis to Nairobi, from Saint Ansgar to San Antonio, from Boston to Walker, from Seattle to Madrid you find Friends of Ngong Road.

Each community of Friends of Ngong Road supporters is unique, with its own compelling story of connection to the organization. In this Annual Report we feature one such community, the circle of friends that formed at Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights in San Antonio, Texas. The seeds of this community of support were planted before Friends of Ngong Road was founded when Peter Ndungu, our Executive Director in Nairobi, and Leslie Moses (now Leslie Price), the pastor at Christ Lutheran, were on the same soccer team during their years in seminary. From that beginning, a community grew through the church’s members into a strong circle of friends.

We celebrate all of these communities of support and appreciate that we are linked by the shared concern that even the most unfortunate children on this planet deserve a chance to be educated and improve their life’s circumstances. By supporting Friends of Ngong Road, we see our children become students, our students become graduates and, hopefully very soon, our graduates become employed. They will become contributing members of society and supporters of the organization, expanding our circle of friends.

Sincere thanks for your belief that a circle of friends can make a difference. It is happening everyday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula".

Paula Meyer
President of Friends of Ngong Road



the San Antonio Circle



It's a story that first began in 2005 with two college seminary friends playing soccer in St. Paul, Minnesota. It blossomed to become a community of Friends of Ngong Road sponsors and supporters in San Antonio, Texas that embraces, encourages and enables the work of building a supportive community focused on educating children in Nairobi, Kenya. Just how these two friends, Leslie Price (in 2005, Leslie Moses) and Peter Ndungu, met is admittedly unique. But the storyline that follows is familiar; an expanding circle of friends getting involved with something that is making our global community better in a real and tangible way. It's the story of how a community in San Antonio, like other communities across the U.S. and abroad, has grown around a shared interest in recognizing and supporting the work of

Ngong Road Children Association in Nairobi through becoming a sponsor, donor or supporter of students through Friends of Ngong Road.

A Personal Connection

When they were students at Luther Seminary, Leslie appreciated that Peter planned to return to Kenya to do work with children in his community. They shared stories of their pasts and future plans following soccer games, at an Easter meal, and attending a small seminary where most everyone got to know each other. It was not until after they both departed for their respective callings that Leslie, now a pastor at Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights, read about Peter in an article in "The Luther Seminary Press" where she learned of his work in Kenya. "It was an inspiring story because a lot of the international students that come over (to the U.S. for college) don't get to go home and serve their native context," explained Leslie. "I was really impressed and inspired."



"It was an inspiring story..." — Leslie Moses

Leslie emailed Peter, and after learning more about Friends of Ngong Road, she was intrigued. "That's when I reached out to Paula and started building a relationship from there." Leslie followed up and using Friends of Ngong Road materials prepared a presentation for her congregation. She recognized that in the U.S., there are many charities we may consider supporting. But for her this one was different, "I was excited about building a relationship and tangible, concrete ways to make a difference."

Trusting Relationships that Make Things Happen

Leslie's message about trust and relationships, first voiced about four years ago, clearly resonated within her community. That presentation, coupled with Paula's initial visit, got things started in San Antonio. Five or six families immediately signed up as sponsors. One of those first sponsors was Lori Harris. She explained, "I always wanted to do something like this but did not because I could not trust an organization to put the majority of sponsor dollars towards the child." Knowing that Peter was in Leslie's circle of friends and after personally meeting Paula and hearing how Peter had benefited from such support she was encouraged. "Such a program can and does work" said Lori.

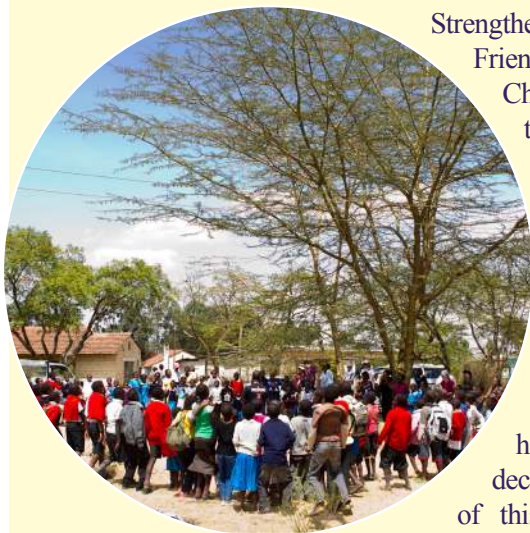
Bob and Mary Lynn Logan, also members of the church, have sponsored a student through Friends of Ngong Road for about three years. While they have not been to Kenya, their visit to Zimbabwe a few years ago provided them with a personal appreciation for the challenges and harsh realities of children born into poverty in Africa.



They saw an opportunity to support an organization that was making a difference. “Paula projects fidelity and fruitfulness,” Bob stated. “This was not one of those deals where only about 40 percent of your contribution gets to the ground. This is pretty close to 100 (percent). We were happy to get into that. When you spot a place where you can make it happen, you do it.”

Gathering and Growing Community

Following periodic visits by Paula and Peter and after Lori made a presentation about her 2012 visit to Kenya with photos and stories of personal connections with several local sponsors’ children, the San Antonio area community continued to grow and has even created a satellite community in the nearby town of Boerne. Today, the San Antonio area boasts more than a dozen donors. Leslie explained, “Even those who don’t sponsor a child (because they may not be able to at this point) have a strong connection to those who do.”



Strengthening and expanding the circle of Friends of Ngong Road at Christ Lutheran Church in San Antonio has come about

through occasional receptions and visits by Paula and Peter. It is at these gatherings where sponsors enjoy sharing their students’ letters, cards, pictures and personal stories as well as their progress. “Each time, we gain a little more momentum, and we may get one or two more sponsors,” said Leslie. Many are families who have joined and, sometimes, it’s been the teenaged kids who were instrumental in getting their families to sponsor a child.

Future Outlook

The San Antonio community is looking to continue its growth. “We hope to continue the partnership long-term and hopefully grow it,” declared Leslie. Growth will be based on building a community supportive of this well-run organization that connects children to their sponsors and is focused on students making progress. Bob observed, “You all are doing what you said you’d be doing, moving these kids along. As the program matures, children who move up and through the educational system are making progress. I find that very encouraging.” Leslie reiterated that point, saying, “We’re very impressed, both by what Ngong Road Children Association is doing with the children on the ground, and that Paula and Peter have done such a brilliant job of running it well. It feels like a solid organization at all levels.”

“You all are doing what you said you’d be doing, moving these kids along.” — Bob Logan

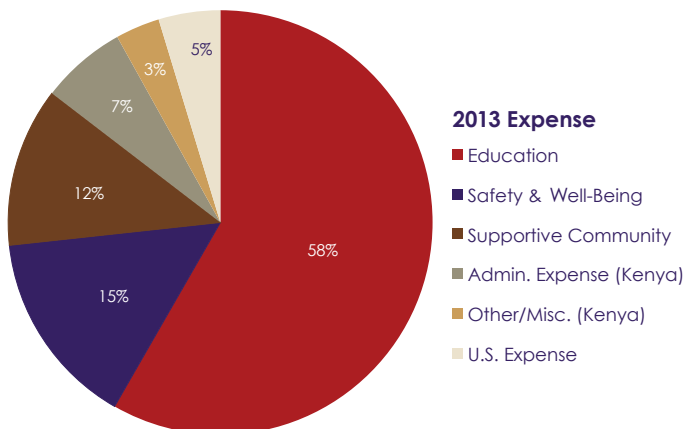
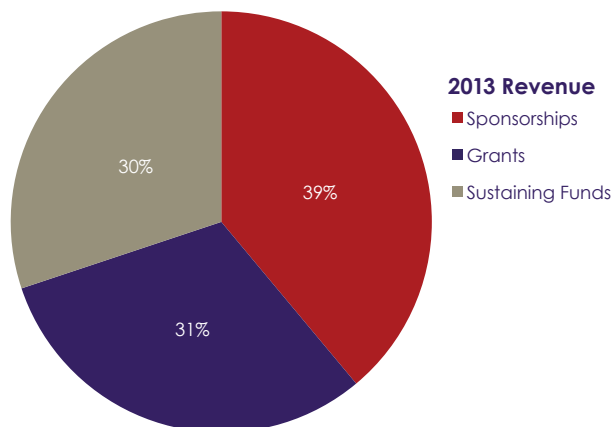
Communities Connected in Purpose

Many Friends of Ngong Road communities, like the one in San Antonio, dot the globe. While separated by time zones and miles, they are nonetheless closely connected in their support of Ngong Road Children Association. In essence, it’s a global community and one that all Friends of Ngong Road supporters may agree with Leslie when she says, “It’s an exciting thing to be part of.”

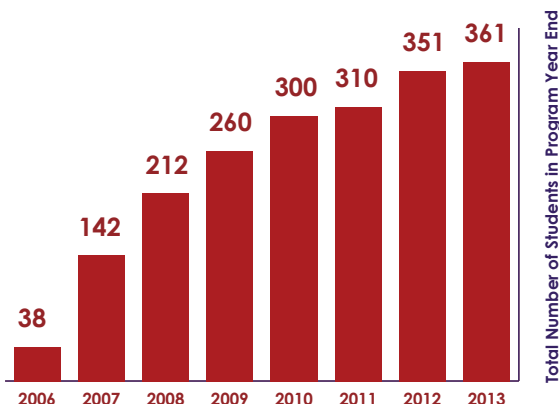


Financial Highlights

- Sponsorship contributions account for 39% of our total revenue.
- Education is our biggest expense, consistent with our mission.
- Administrative expense totals just 7% of our budget in Kenya, with 5% spent in the U.S. for audit, tax and other support services.
- Endowment fund grew from \$683,000 to \$820,697. Our goal is to exceed \$1 million by year-end 2014.



Growth of Friends of Ngong Road



2013 Actual Revenue & Expense

Accrual Basis

Revenue	2013 Actual	
Sponsorships	\$ 282,992	39%
Grants	225,000	31%
Sustaining Funds	218,896	30% ¹
Total Revenue	\$ 726,888	100%

Expense		
Education	\$ 325,335	58%
Safety & Well-Being	83,572	15%
Supportive Community	67,685	12%
Admin. Expense (Kenya)	36,345	7%
Other/Misc. (Kenya)	18,835	3%
U.S. Expense	26,227	5% ²
Total Expense	\$ 557,999	100%

Balance³ \$168,889

Endowment \$820,697

1) Sustaining Fund includes: annual appeal donations; net revenue from handicraft sales; other donations

2) U.S. Expense includes: audit; tax preparation; bank fees; accounting services; licensing fees; insurance

3) Donated goods & services, investment revenue and uncollected sponsorships have been excluded from revenue & expense as appropriate

Audited financial statements for Friends of Ngong Road are available at www.ngongroad.org

Looking Ahead

- With our second graduating high school class of 12 in 2013, we continue to refine our post-secondary program. In 2014, our first two students will enter university and most of the 17 high school graduates will be enrolled in post-secondary programs to enhance their employability.
- We are focused on making our model more financially sustainable and toward that end continue to work to grow our endowment fund. We are also finalizing plans to launch an income-generating mobile toilet business in Kenya in 2014. More about that next year.
- In 2014 we look forward to a September visit by the heads of our Primary and Secondary Departments — Tunda Lepore and Naomi Kamanda. This will be their first opportunity to come to the U.S. and meet sponsors and supporters. We hope you will join us for one of the many gatherings we will host in conjunction with their visit.

Supportive Community



Paula Meyer
President



Karen Bohn
Secretary &
Development



Tom Gleason
Operations &
Camp Leader



Amy Johnson
Treasurer & Finance



Keith Kale
Marketing & Planning



Susan Plimpton
Education & Strategic
Partnerships



Andy Waltz
Technology & Travel



Building a Supportive Community in Kenya Report

by Peter Ndungu, Executive Director

We had a good year in 2013. This is because we take care of the children just as we take care of our own. We make sure that they get enough food for breakfast and lunch. Food for these children means a lot since it is very hard for the guardians to afford rent let alone food. The other thing that the guardians appreciate is that when they are bed-ridden with HIV/AIDS we provide a food package that keeps them going until they get new energy to go to work. All they need is to give us a call and we make sure that the food is delivered to their doorsteps.



There is nothing as bad in Kenyan schools as when you do not have a proper school uniform. I suffered because I had only one torn uniform during my school days. Other children used to laugh at me and I would get very upset. When I look at these children I see myself and that is why we make sure that each child gets a uniform every year. This is one of my happy moments when I see their smiles when they get their uniforms. When

children join the program some are shy but with time they get to be more social. During Saturday Program children get a platform to mix and get to know each other, make new friends and feel that they are important. We even celebrate their birthdays. We also interact with them and get to know them better.

The most important thing is that school fees and supplies are paid for including their transport to and from school. This has allowed them to be stress free thus concentrating on their studies more. Most of the children say what they dread most is being chased from school because the guardians cannot afford to pay. It is therefore a relief to the guardians to know that the child will never be chased from school.

To sum it all I would like to state that I love working for these children and I give thanks that I met Paula and that I am part of this great program of transforming the lives of these children. I am really grateful to all who play a role in this important program.



Friends of Ngong Road is a volunteer-run non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The important work we do is made possible by dozens of dedicated individuals willing to devote their time and talents to our mission. In 2013, 95% percent of our funds were spent in Kenya, enabling the vast majority of your support to reach children and transform lives. **Thank you all!**