



I CAN!

ANNUAL
REPORT

2016





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Dear Friends

A letter from the president

In January 2017, we completed ten years of work at *Friends of Ngong Road*.

In those ten years, we have directly and positively had a profound effect on the lives of more than 400 children and their families. And, during the past ten years there have been many joys and challenges. Constantly, I am inspired by the children in our program. Despite facing daily and seemingly overwhelming challenges and obstacles, children supported by Friends of Ngong Road are joyful, hopeful and determined to reach and succeed. It is in that spirit that we adopted "I Can!" as this year's theme.

As I write this letter, our sister organization in Kenya, Ngong Road Children Association (NRCA) is its strongest ever and has recovered fully from the theft from the organization in 2015—discovered in early 2016. Our new program director, Maureen Mulievi, brings optimism, determination and competence to the assignment. NRCA's new Board of Directors is made up of impressive professionals in Kenya who are devoting many volunteer hours each month to provide local governance. To ensure independence, stronger infrastructure of financial controls as well as checks and balances, accounting for NRCA is now outsourced to a professional accounting firm, KKCO East Africa. Despite the challenges faced in 2016, the operations in Kenya are now positioned, capable and determined to build a healthier future.

Meanwhile, our students kept doing what they needed to do: attend school, learn, and focus on their futures. The staff and board in Kenya have embraced the challenge of ensuring that at least 75 percent of alumni gain employment in the formal Kenyan economy, year in and year out. In a country where the unemployment rate is normally at least 40 percent, this is an outstanding challenge and accomplishment. As of this writing, among our 19 alumni: essentially half (53%) are working full time, and one is

working part time; one-quarter (26%) are performing as interns or volunteers; and just one-fourth (21%)—half of the national average rate—are unemployed. Our alumni are living the spirit of "I Can!".

Several of our NRCA alumni have earned positions with NRCA and our 2015 start-up business Karibu Loo. As an intern at NRCA, Emily Wanjiku helped develop an effective procurement program, and she is now working as a Procurement Assistant. George Odhiambo was a very effective Caseworker Intern, and recently joined as a full-time Caseworker in the Primary Department. Asaph Waweru, began working as an intern for Karibu Loo and quickly demonstrated great effectiveness in sales and marketing. He now works there full-time. Beyond our organizations, NRCA alumni are successfully earning full-time employment in the Kenyan marketplace: Faith Mumo is a Procurement Assistant for Flaming; Esther Wangari now works as a Travel Agent in Nairobi; Gerald Waitthaka is a Photographer/Graphic Designer for Artful Eyes; Jackline Nyarwai is a Customer Care Attendant for Bimeda; and Flavia Auma is a Sales Attendant for Premier Bet. Our alumni are living the spirit of "I Can!".

Personally, I cannot help but feel the constant "I Can!" spirit embodied by the community we've created whose mission is to support and transform the lives of children in need. Likewise, I am ever-grateful to each and every one of our Friends of Ngong Road sponsors and supporters whose "I Can!" spirit has helped make all this possible today and into the future. *Thank you.*

Sincerely,

Paula Meyer
Founder & President

In 2016, the board began to invest in creating a more robust development program and to transition the organization from its volunteer-run history. There were also one-time costs related to the 2015 theft discovered in early 2016 and investments in Karibu Loo to assure financially sustainable growth. These investments were made to ensure the mission of transforming lives is available to children today and in the future.



Income (1)

Sponsorships	298,313	50%
Grants	65,000	11%
Sustaining Funds (2)	236,171	39%
Total Contributions	\$599,484	100%

Expenses

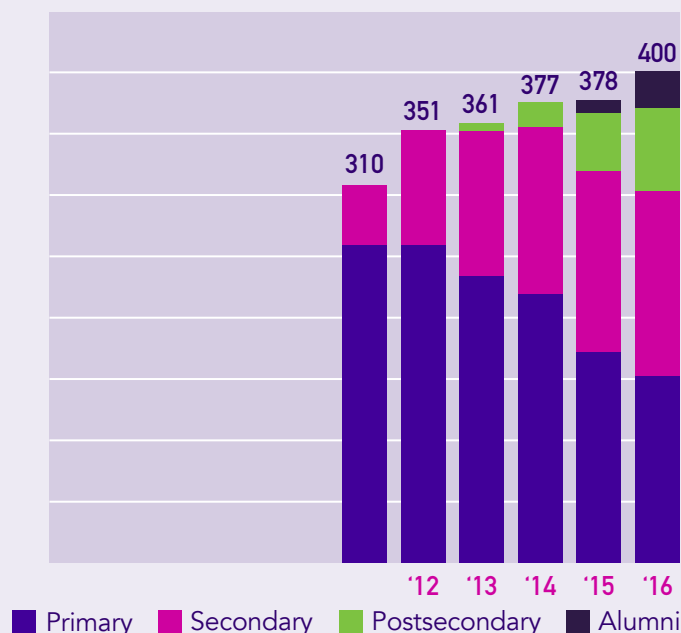
Core Program & Misc. Support	556,811	64%
Postsecondary Support	66,553	8%
Karibu Loo Support	83,664	10%
Total Support for Kenya Programs	\$707,028	82%
Business Expenses	156,750	18%
Total Expenses	\$863,778	
Net (3)	-\$264,294	
Endowment	\$597,649	

10%
Karibu Loo Support

18%
Business Expenses

(1) Excludes donated (in-kind) goods & services, net investment revenue from endowment and uncollected sponsorships.
 (2) Sustaining funds includes annual appeal donations, net revenue from handicraft sales and other donations.
 (3) Net amount was funded by a withdrawal from the Endowment.

Number of Students in Program (at year end)



Looking Ahead

In 2016, we focused on tackling arguably the most important challenge—ensuring graduates’ employment so they can transform their lives. This resulted in the creation of a new alumni department to support the transition from student to employee in Kenya, where estimated unemployment is around 40%. This year, 53% of our postsecondary graduates are gainfully employed. 26% are completing internships or volunteer work en route to employment. 21% are not employed.

Our goal is to consistently reach 75% employment. With your continued support, the local board’s dedicated network, and the new alumni department, we will continue transforming lives together.

Thank you for your support.



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

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 donate their time and talents to our mission.



ngongroad.org



“I Can”: Elisha’s Story

Elisha was born in the rural area near the coast of Kenya where life was tough but his family close. When he was 10, his father died from AIDS. Soon after, his mother learned she too was HIV-positive. She became very ill and unable to work. Elisha loved his mother deeply and remembers her instilling in him the importance of hard work and education. As she weakened she could no longer provide the basic needs of Elisha and his 13 year old brother.

Elisha moved away from his mother to join his uncle’s family in Nairobi, while his brother moved to a city six hours from Nairobi with a different uncle. In Nairobi, Elisha’s uncle earned income as a driver, an unpredictable career he now depended on to support his own four children plus Elisha. Food was scarce, school fees scarcer. In 2008, caseworkers from the newly launched Friends of Ngong Road (FONR) supported Ngong Road Children

Association (NRCA) program visited Elisha’s school. It happened to be on a rare day when he was in class with paid-up fees. His teachers advocated for his acceptance into the program and shared his story. Elisha was accepted, absolutely thrived in school, found friends in the program with similar backgrounds, and benefited greatly from the ongoing support of a caseworker and the supportive community of NRCA. Elisha said he no longer, “felt odd. I just fit in.”

When Elisha’s mother died a few years later, he was not left alone to deal with the tragedy. Instead he had the continuing support of a FONR sponsor and the NRCA team. Today, Elisha is 20 years old, attends Nairobi University, and is studying to be a civil engineer. He dreams of making Nairobi a better place that can compete globally. He is on the way to transforming his life, the lives of his family members, and the whole of Kenya. Elisha proudly says “I can go to college. I can be a mentor. I can have a different future.”



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