



THE
KILGORIS
PROJECT

2012 Annual Update

Welcome



Growing tea plants to maturity is slow work. For five years you water, weed and prune until stick-like seedlings fill into thick, waist-high shrubs. And then comes the payoff.

Acres of plants start producing a harvest. Every week fresh, three-leaf clusters appear, ready to pluck. Unlike most crops, that can be harvested once or twice a year, a tea harvest is ongoing. Once it achieves momentum, the weekly harvests continue for more than 100 years.

In 2012, the growth and expansion of The Kilgoris Project mirrored the growth at our tea farm. Education, health and economic development “seedlings” that were lovingly planted over the last few years burst into our most productive year ever.

In the next few pages, you'll read about exciting details— a sixth school, new classrooms and kitchens, expanded student health access, stellar hires in Kenya and strengthening of the United States staff, new pilot

efforts, media accolades and Kenyan awards. You'll also read personal stories from our students, staff and partners.

But first, let us give you a high-level view of the year ... or what you'd see from the top of the hill looking down on our blossoming project.

You'd notice a sea of people. That's the 600-plus students and their families we serve every day. Each local school board, the Kenyan board, and a host of local community colleagues would join them in this growing community.

You'd see a tight community of staff members. They'd be using their creativity to stretch donor funds. As you'll find when you check the numbers, they do a huge amount on a relatively modest budget. They look for partner organizations and programs to pilot, continually bringing new ideas to the schools and students.

You'd observe a buzz around the office. That's the staff working to improve processes and systems. TKP's rapid growth has fostered a need to improve organization-wide communication and efficiency and our staff has delivered.

You'd spot many of the adults on the phone. They'd be engaged in conversation, sharing information and building consensus across two countries (and an ocean!). They would be working collaboratively to write a comprehensive five-year plan that will yield new opportunities for the community.

We hope you'd smile as broadly as we do when we look back on such an amazing year for TKP. We'd give you a hug, a high-five or a handshake to thank you for your part. All of this would not be possible without so many volunteers, donors, advisors, travelers, cheerleaders, friends and co-laborers.

Please read on to take a look at this bountiful harvest.

Your partners in serving kids,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caren McCormack'.

Caren McCormack
Co-founder & President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon McCormack'.

Jon McCormack
Co-founder & Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Anderson'.

Eric Anderson
Board Chair

Mission

The Kilgoris Project strives for a positive, long-term impact on the children and families in and around Kilgoris, a Maasai village in Southwest Kenya. Through community partnership, we deliver enhanced educational, health and economic- development opportunities.



Motivation

The Kilgoris Project germinated as an organic outgrowth of our journey as Christ followers. We continue to operate and serve from this basis, as an ecumenical, faith-based organization.



Four ideas drive what we do:

1. We love because we are loved (1 John 4:19)
2. Real love is lived out in action (James 2:16)
3. Effective service happens in the context of long-term relationships (1 Thess. 2:8)
4. We have much to give (1 Cor. 4:2)

All Are Welcome

The Kilgoris Project schools maintain an open-door policy: All students are welcome, regardless of religious preference, tribal affiliation, income or family background.

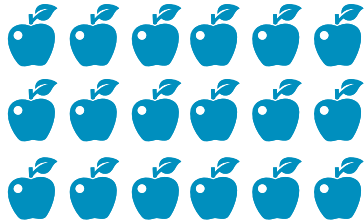
Supporting the Local Community

We recognize the important role local churches and community organizations play in strengthening their neighborhoods. In support of this, we allow The Kilgoris Project's facilities to be used by these groups outside of school hours. We actively partner with local communities of faith and other community organizations for the good of everyone.

TKP's Impact: Education



613
Students



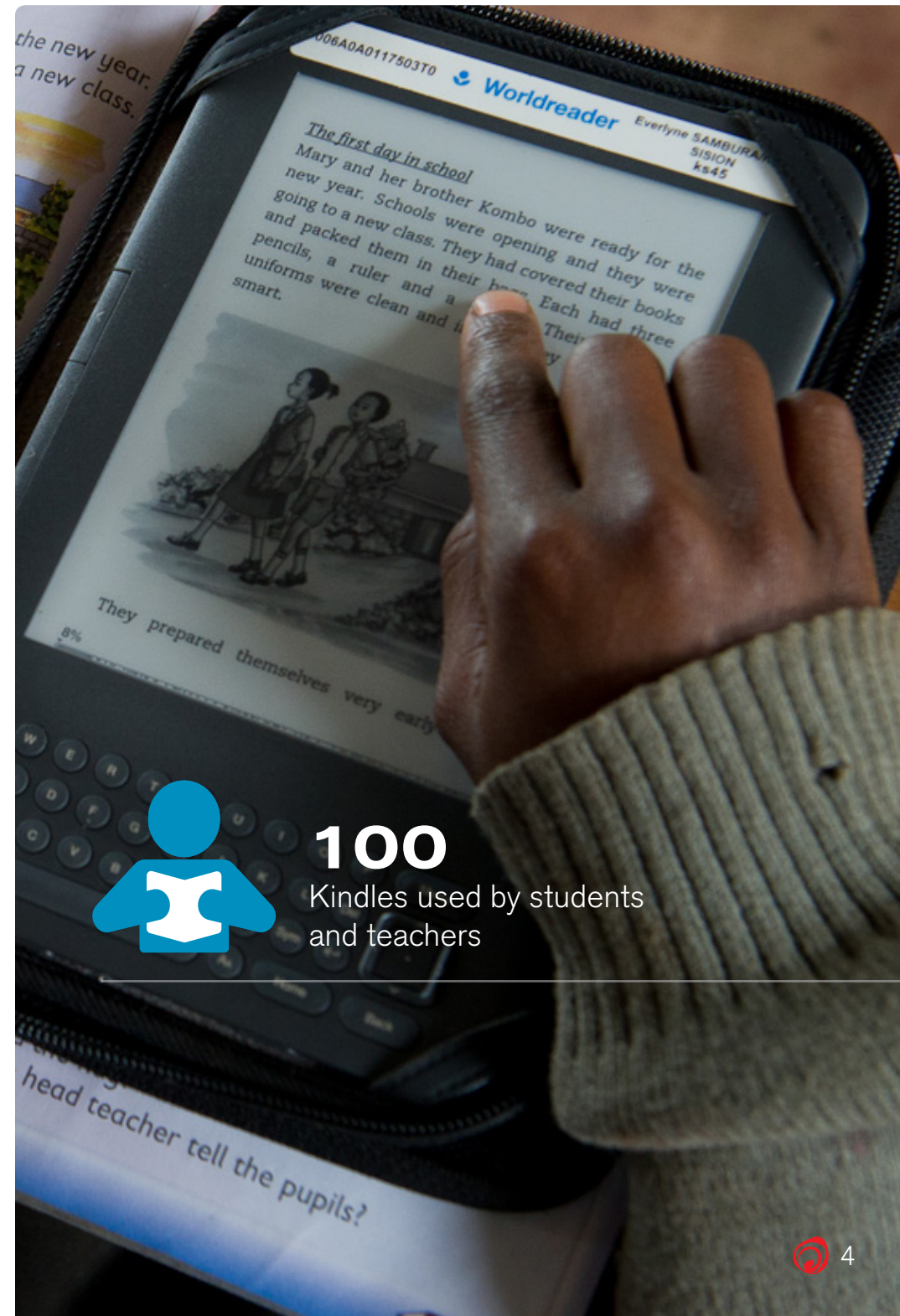
24
Kenyan teachers and staff



171
More students attended in
2012 than in 2011.



6
Schools
(2 primary, 4 preschool)



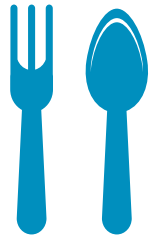
100
Kindles used by students
and teachers

TKP's Impact: Health



36

Hand washing stations



144,000

Nutritious meals served to students



600+

Well-child checks



2,400

Doses of Albendazole
(de-worming medicine) to prevent
malnutrition and improve immunity



TKP's Impact:

Opportunity



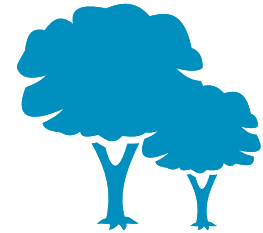
35

Upendo Women's
Co-op members who
were provided sales
& marketing training



52

Weekly harvests from
5-acre tea farm



1.5

Acres of Blue Gum trees
planted



5

Handmade bag businesses
launched by women artisans



9

Capital projects, all built
using local labor



Health:

Routine Well-Checks Lead to a Life-Changing Opportunity

Francis Koskei is one busy guy. As The Kilgoris Project's Student Health Officer, he performs more than 600 well-child checks per year – that's one check for every student in TKP schools.

But it doesn't stop there. Every student receives four doses per year of Albendazole, (a de-worming medicine that helps prevent malnutrition and improve immunity), vision assessment, and additional medical attention and care as needed. This is all part of TKP's comprehensive health initiative aimed at nurturing the whole child, so that they can remain healthy and in school.

"The well-checks and administration of the Albendazole allow us ample opportunity to get in front of TKP students on a regular basis," explains Francis. "During this time, I am able to assess the child's overall health and living situation. I gain a great deal of insight into their home life, access to clean water resources and hygiene practices."

All of this information allows Francis to carefully track and follow up on individual cases. Currently he is tracking 22 cases, including students who are living in extreme poverty, do not have adequate clothing or shoes, are orphans, are living with a chronic illness, or are missing school because they are taking care of the household due to a parent with HIV/AIDS.

The impact that well-child checks and case management has on families in Kilgoris recently became clear through

Sylvia's story. Sylvia (pictured upper left) is eight years old and attends TKP's Intimigom Primary School. Sylvia was born with an intestinal malformation that required surgery at birth. The surgery saved her life, but left her with an ostomy, a surgically created opening in her abdomen through which her body discharges waste into an ostomy bag. The process for cleaning and maintaining the bag can be cumbersome for adults in the western world, let alone a young child without access to the necessary supplies. Both Francis and Sylvia's teachers noticed that in the last year Sylvia was missing more school and becoming withdrawn due to teasing from other students.

After much research and communication with Sylvia's family (including 19 siblings) a plan was developed that would include two surgeries to repair her intestinal system and close the ostomy. Like nearly every family in Kilgoris, Sylvia's parents lacked the resources required for the extensive travel, consultations and surgeries.

Seeing the need and how it could change this young girl's life, TKP allocated resources from its health reserve fund to help this family. TKP's staff members in Kilgoris and the community also rallied together to raise the additional funds required for Sylvia to travel two and half hours (95 miles) to Tenwek Hospital, a state-of-the-art hospital in Bomet, Kenya. She underwent her first surgery in February 2013 and the second and final surgery is scheduled for May 2013.

Things are looking up for this family. Sylvia's sister, Meliza, is 13 and has the same condition. She will undergo the same surgeries next year at Tenwek. Sylvia is back



Francis Koskei meets with a student during her well-check.

in school and is thriving. Her family has realized many blessings through the treatment of their daughter and now regularly attend Intimigom Church. Her parents are more open and understanding of the value of education, which will surely impact the rest of her siblings.

It all started with early intervention, well-checks and case management. Francis and TKP are tracking 21 other cases like Sylvia – 21 more opportunities for lives changed, families impacted, and futures without restraints from illness.



Education: Enriching Young Minds

Growing up the youngest of nine children, Sabina Lenkarie developed a love of children and passion for teaching at an early age. Surrounded by many young nieces and nephews, early on she began to appreciate the honesty, sincerity and unshakable love that children display.

TKP schools are growing, and with that growth the need emerged for a leader on the ground in Kilgoris who understands the challenges teachers and students face.

This is where Sabina (pictured upper left) comes in. After serving as an outstanding teacher in TKP schools for five years, she was appointed to the role of Education Officer in late 2012. Sabina is challenged every day to make learning not only fun and engaging, but relevant in a Maasai community that does not always place a high value on education.

“Many in the Maasai community do not take education seriously,” explained Sabina. “It is not uncommon for families to choose for their children to look after cattle instead of attending school. But it is clear that Kilgoris and the Maasai communities need education to improve their economic and social well-being. Overall, I am working to influence the families of Kilgoris and help them understand and embrace the educational opportunities available to their children.”

As Education Officer, Sabina’s days are varied as she travels to the different TKP pre and primary schools to meet with TKP teachers and students, assess learning levels, and understand the challenges of both students and the teachers she manages. And her own job is not without challenges.

“As teachers, we also face student absenteeism, cultural practices such as early marriages, and HIV and AIDS, which leads to orphans,” said Sabina.

“Sabina’s leadership abilities and creative teaching style are what drew us to her for the Education Officer position,” explained Suzie McNelly, TKP’s Director of Education in the U.S. “Sabina was a star teacher, so pulling her out of the classroom was a difficult choice - but we knew that as Education Officer, she could influence all our TKP teachers and infuse her creative style across our classrooms. She is a cheerleader for our teachers and is such a great encourager for our students.”



While tackling program management with a problem-solving attitude, Sabina organizes and maintains new education programs, holds teachers accountable, and engages in steady communication with the U.S. staff to maintain strong relationships.

“I enjoy working together with the entire TKP staff in both the U.S. and Kenya to develop new learning ideas that ensure our students attain a high level of learning,” said Sabina.

With Sabina at the helm, TKP schools continue to grow and thrive. Under the guidance of a team of 25 teachers, TKP students attend school in a nurturing environment and have access to Kindles, books and the needed school supplies. She sees the same traits in TKP students that she first saw in her nieces and nephews so many years ago – infectious optimism for life and friendships, innate creativity displayed through songs and games, and the love of their families, friends and teachers communicated through hugs and smiles. And she knows that their future is wide open with opportunity.



Photograph courtesy of Photography
by Courtney Linnehan

Partnerships: kādi fit

Katie Dixon is a dreamer.

More than five years ago she began dreaming of a new career and a community movement centered around her passion for health and fitness. Her dream became reality when she opened her own lifestyle design and fitness studio, kādi fit. Now, she is adding a partnership with The Kilgoris Project to her dream. And at the same time moving from community impact to global impact.

Katie and her husband Mike first heard about TKP through their home church, Journey, in Huntersville, North Carolina – also the church of Tia McNelly, TKP's Director of Student Health. It was through a conversation with Tia that Katie began to envision a deep connection between her studio and TKP.

In Katie's studio, a former mill converted into a stunning and inspiring space, more than 300 studio members regularly engage in yoga, cardio and strength training. At the same time, the community supports one another in achievement of their common goals.

"Fitness is the foundation," explains Katie. "Our goal is to help members take that energizing feeling from a workout and infuse it into the rest of their lives. Together we have learned that energy and inspiration can come from the people around you and the success we witness together."

The more Katie heard about TKP the more she wanted to be a part of it – and encourage her studio members to do the same. In August 2012 she challenged her members to give up

one coffee or other \$5.00 treat a month. She envisioned their collective donation helping to build a school in Kilgoris. They didn't stop there. The studio hosts TKP's annual Charlotte-area Marketplace fundraiser and holds improv nights and other events to support TKP.

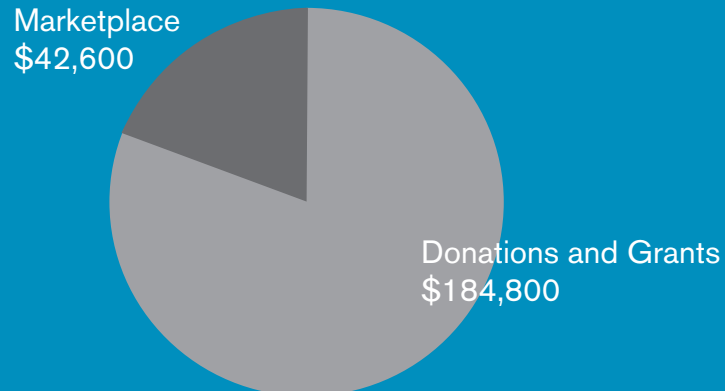
This inspiring fellowship of fitness enthusiasts is well on their way to raising the \$18,000 required to expand the campus of TKP's Oltikampu School in Kilgoris. (As of May 2013, the group has raised just shy of \$7,000.)

"The engagement of the kādi fit community and their financial contributions have put us on a strong path toward much-needed new buildings for our sixth TKP school in Kilgoris," said Caren McCormack, TKP President and co-founder. "In the coming years, the expansion will allow us to meet the educational needs of more children and families."

"Every day I witness both our staff and members drawn to the global reach and impact we can have an ocean away," said Katie. "Our current and new members ask about Kilgoris and the kids there on a regular basis, and our fundraising progress is proudly displayed in the studio. Together, we are doing something that not only inspires our members and community, but that will have a lasting impact on Kilgoris, Kenya."

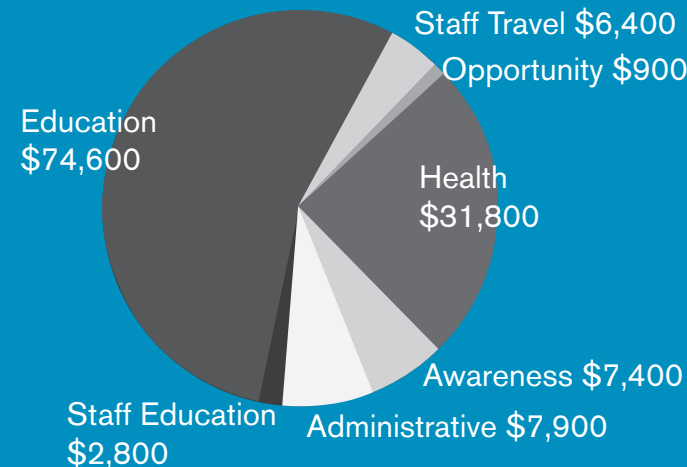
To learn more about kādi fit, visit <http://www.kadifit.com>.

2012 Sources of Money Raised



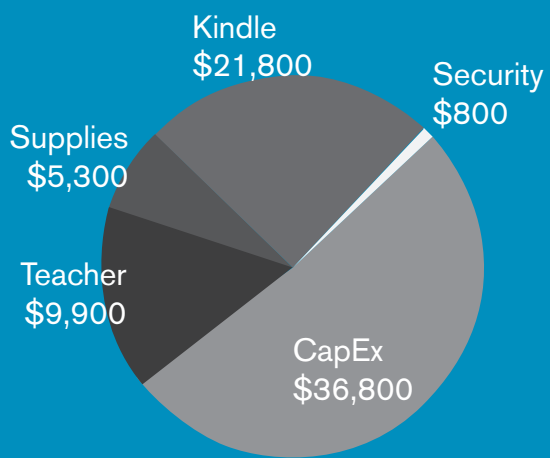
Notes:
 All donations are received in cash; the value of donated services has not been recognized. Proceeds from Marketplace are net of applicable expenses. The value of donated items for sale at Marketplace is recognized at the time of sale of the item. Marketplace fundraisers are annual, multi-city arts and crafts sales events.

2012 Expenditure Overview

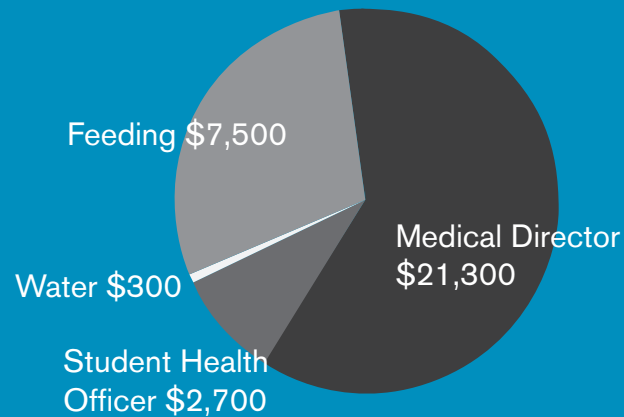


Notes:
 All grants are paid in cash; the value of granted services has not been recognized. Opportunity projects include the Upendo Women's Co-op and the Tea and Tree Farm.

2012 Expenditure Detail: Education, Health & Opportunity



Education



Health

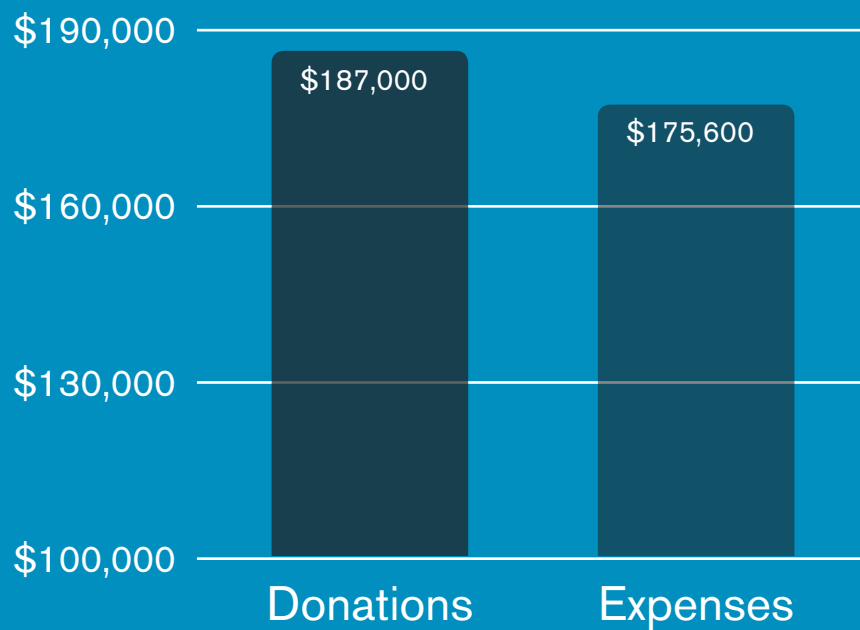


Opportunity

Notes: All grants are paid in cash; the value of granted services has not been recognized.

Financials

2012 TKP Expeditions



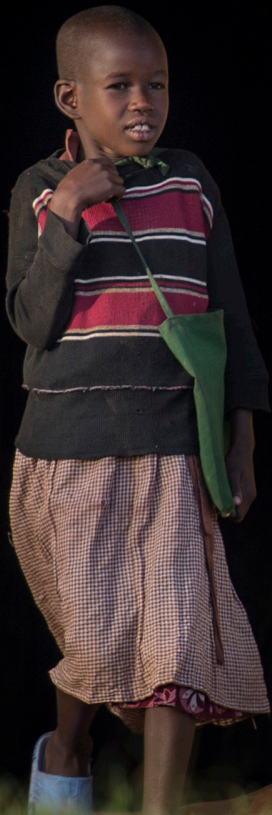
Notes:

TKP Expeditions are self-funded participant trips to allow partners to directly engage with TKP's mission in Kilgoris.





THE
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“We are simply inspired and moved by the incredible work and impact of TKP. We have known Caren and Jon McCormack for over 16 years and watched in amazement as their dream grew into such a positive, disruptive force, making a huge and growing impact for so many children and families in Kenya.

We feel truly fortunate to be able to help TKP both financially and spiritually. There are so many charities and organizations out there, but knowing that every penny we give so directly impacts the teachers and children in their schools is a real blessing.”

Ely & Gigi Tsern
The Kilgoris Project Donors

The Kilgoris Project was founded in 1999 by Jon and Caren McCormack.

The Kilgoris Project is a registered 501c(3) not-for-profit organization and we are committed to minimizing administration expenses and overhead.

If you would like to support The Kilgoris Project either contact us directly at info@kilgoris.org or visit kilgoris.org/donate. All donations are tax deductible.

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