

# The Kilgoris Project

## 2013 Annual Update





# Karibuni

## *Welcome*

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# Big gifts. Small packages.

If you have given or received an engagement ring, you know the exchange is about more than a diamond. It's not just precious jewelry contained in the petite box, but also hopes, dreams, and the promise of a larger future. The little container only hints at what's to come. At the Kilgoris Project, we look at our students, and indeed the whole of our work, this way. We have so many big gifts that come in small packages.

*A camera.* In the hands of a 10-year-old it's more than just a tool for creative education. It's a door for a future photo-journalist, a financial supporter of her family, and leader of her community. *A Vitamin A pill.* A four-year-old swallowing it isn't just getting a little extra nutrition. He's strengthening his eyes and brain for a lifetime. *A bean seedling.* The two women chatting about the green sprout aren't just catching up. They're encouraging each other in the growth of local micro-businesses.

Think of this Annual Update as a similar treat for you. It's a small encapsulation of The Kilgoris Project's work for 2013. But we hope this document opens your eyes to a larger vision of what our communities, staff and partners

are building together. The following pages will open many more TKP boxes. You'll see the details of an exciting year—new classrooms, the tea farm expanded to include trees, a rise in in-country budget support and more.

You'll also read about matters from a more personal perspective. Our Health Officer shares the gift of a new electronic medical record system for students. Our enrichment counselor talks about opportunities for student leaders to gain new skills and confidence. The new Oltikampu women's co-op takes flight with business development and community service projects that impact and empower.

We couldn't have accomplished this year without the gifts of many. We'd like to say a big thank you to our many

volunteers, donors, advisors, travelers, cheerleaders, friends and co-laborers. So open this document like opening a little jewelry box, with excitement about what's inside. Read on to see the big gift of so many small packages.

Your partners in serving kids,



Caren McCormack  
**Co-founder & President**



Jon McCormack  
**Co-founder & Board Secretary**



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.

## 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 TKP 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.

### 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 Thessalonians 2:8

4 *We have much to give*  
1 Corinthians 4:2



# Health

TKP Impact

141,120

hot meals served  
to students

2,352

doses of Albendazole to  
treat intestinal worms

784

health and wellness  
checks performed

465

vitamin A supplements  
given to preschoolers

# Electronic Medical Records: Capturing a World of Data

Completing the annual well-child exams of nearly 800 students is no easy feat. Tracking and recalling the health history of each child and understanding school-wide or community health trends is an even greater task. But the introduction of Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) is making data management easier and more comprehensive for Francis Koskei, Student Health Officer in Kilgoris and Krista Blalock, Director of Student Health in the United States.

Over the past year, the TKP student health team began the process of creating an EMR for each student enrolled in TKP schools. The CliniPAK software, created by healthcare information technology company, Vecna, is widely used in large-scale government clinics, but was customized for TKP's needs to include sorting by schools, medicine and supply inventory, and data that the team needs for reporting to the Ministry of Health in Kenya.

"EMRs will allow us to start gathering and tracking basic

health and demographic information on our students," said Krista. "The data that we gather will be a powerful tool that will allow us to gain further understanding of the overall health needs of this community."

The convenience and accessibility of the data is critical to our future healthcare offerings explained Francis, who now carries demographics and medical history of every student on a laptop, rather than in notebooks and paper files. "Not only can we use the data to put together short-

*"The data that we gather will be a powerful tool that will allow us to gain further understanding of the overall health needs of this community."*

**Krista Blalock, Director of Student Health**

*"Not only can we use the data to put together short- and long-term plans to address health needs, but we can also assess our effectiveness over time."*

**Francis Koskei, Student Health Officer**

and long-term plans to address health needs, but we can also assess our effectiveness over time. We can also use our statistics to help us tap into programs offered by the Ministry of Health and other non-profits in the area, such as free vaccination clinics," said Francis.

EMRs are just one component of TKP's comprehensive student health program, which also includes annual wellness checks, acute illness case management and referrals, deworming medicines, and Vitamin A supplements for preschoolers (an international recommendation and standard to prevent blindness and other brain damage). These valuable elements, coupled with access to immunization clinics, clean water, meals and hand washing stations round out a holistic education and whole-child development at each of TKP's schools.



# Education

TKP Impact

784

students enrolled in six schools (two primary, four preschools)

23

teachers on staff

260

Kindles, loaded and ready for eager readers

8

extracurricular programs

# Leadership: Growing Through Holistic Educational Opportunities

*Reading. Writing. Math. Science.* These core subjects are taught in schools from North America to Asia and everywhere in between, including TKP-sponsored schools in rural southwest Kenya. But learning core subjects is just one piece of the education puzzle. To make a well-rounded picture, teachers are weaving arts education, leadership training, athletics, debate and other enrichment opportunities into the holistic schooling experience.

“When we look at the educational opportunities we can offer our students, we want to influence the entire child — from literacy and math skills to fostering innate athletic and arts talents and developing leadership abilities,” said Suzie McNelly, Director of Education.

In 2013, under the guidance of Student Enrichment Counselor Peter Leshan, TKP kicked off the inaugural Student Leadership Program at Intimigom Primary School. Twenty-four student representatives meet once a month to discuss how

they can become young leaders in their communities. The group also plays an important role in the upkeep of campus — they ensure the classrooms and grounds are well-kept, maintain athletic equipment, and organize the e-reader library.

“Our program teaches students that they can be leaders both now and in the future,” said Peter. “The students are showing greater ownership of responsibilities and we are seeing an improvement in confidence and academic performance among these students.”

*“When we look at the educational opportunities we can offer our students, we want to influence the entire child..”*

**Suzie McNelly, Director of Education**

*“Our program teaches students that they can be leaders both now and in the future..”*

**Peter Leshan, Student Enrichment Counselor**



## Extracurricular Opportunities

*Student Leadership Program  
Cameras in the Classroom Creativity Program  
Athletic/Soccer Teams  
Cultural Dance Team  
Debate Team  
Book Club  
Peer-to-Peer Tutoring  
Career Days*



# Opportunity



TKP Impact

2,000

tea plants maturing

2,000

blue gum trees  
maturing

39

Kenyan staff members

54

members in two  
women's co-op groups

# Oltikampu Women's Group: Funding the Future, Together



*"We see these women actively engaging in their communities and looking for ways to improve the financial position of their families and their neighbors."*

**Tia McNelly, Director of Programs**

*Friends chatting, babies babbling and coins clicking into a pot.* All familiar sounds at the monthly gathering of the Oltikampu Women's Co-op, where friendship, camaraderie and business are all moving forward in a supportive and unique setting. The 20-member co-op has developed creative ways to spur their business, savings and community goals forward — including a merry-go-round loan pool, a giving pool, and a group savings account at a local bank.

As part of the monthly merry-go-round pool, each woman contributes a small amount and the total (approximately \$110 USD) is distributed to an individual member. This money, which could take a year or more to save up, is often used to make improvements on homes and gardens, pay school fees or start a small business. Additionally, the group contributes to a giving pool, which has been used to initiate service projects and help neighbors in need. Finally, the group is working towards a savings goal of \$235 USD, to

rent a plot of land that will be used to grow produce for additional income.

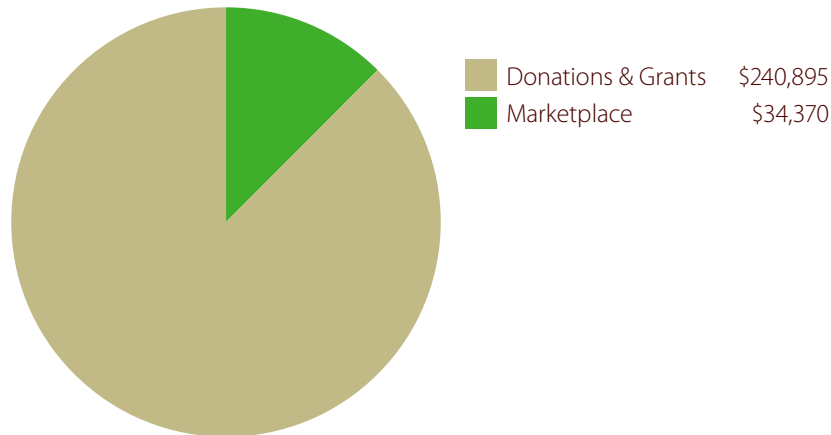
"In a culture where the demands of home and children often exclude women from the business environment, this group is seeking to further understand the economic levers of their community and how they can best tap into resources they need, while supporting their friends," said Tia McNelly, Director of Programs. "We see these women actively engaging in their communities and looking for

ways to improve the financial position of their families and their neighbors."

There is much on the horizon for this budding community. In 2013, the group connected with the Equity Group Foundation, a global non-profit, for further training on how to manage the co-op and increase financial literacy. The group is also beginning to explore collaboration options to sell beading and artwork at a local Maasai market.

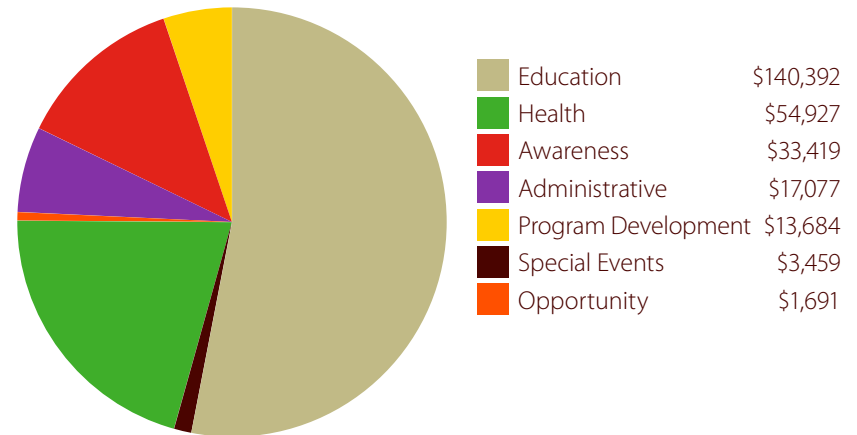
Before the weekly meeting wraps up, the group's treasurer will give an update on the bank account and they will share tea as children crawl, walk or run circles around the moms-turned-business leaders. They head out for the day with a smile or hug and look forward to the next co-op meeting and investment opportunities ahead.

## 2013 Sources of Money Raised



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.

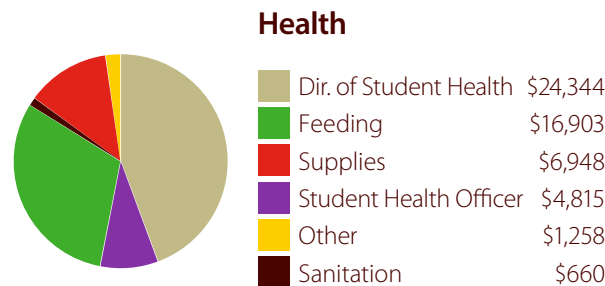
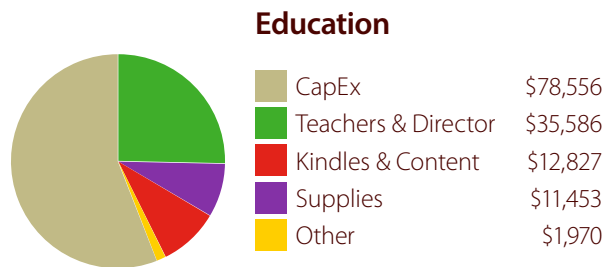
## 2013 Expenditure Overview



All grants are paid in cash; the value of granted services has not been recognized. Awareness is comprised of development, publication and delivery of information relevant to donors and other interested parties. Program Development includes the enhancement and delivery of existing programs (education, health and opportunity) as well as research and development related to potential new programs. Special Events includes a community outreach event and expenditures from a benevolence fund. Opportunity projects include the Upendo Women's Co-op and the Tea and Tree Farm.

The Kilgoris Project's U.S. staff members work as board-level volunteers, as contractors, or at below-market rates. Their generous time contributions provide approximately \$485,000\* of value to the organization.  
\*Sources: www.payscale.com and careerbuilder.com

## 2013 Expenditure Detail: Education, Health & Opportunity



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

## 2013 TKP Expeditions



TKP Expeditions are self-funded participant trips to allow partners to directly engage with TKP’s mission in Kilgoris. Trips are fully funded by nonrefundable donations; therefore, trip donations are recognized in the year of receipt which may be different from the year of expenditure. Over a multi-year period, trip income meets or exceeds expenses.



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# Asante

*Thank you*



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](mailto:info@kilgoris.org) or visit [kilgoris.org/donate](http://kilgoris.org/donate). All donations are tax deductible.

[www.kilgoris.org](http://www.kilgoris.org) 