

Annual Report | 2020

REVE Kandale Foundation

Building Schools. Building Dreams.



REVE Kandale
FOUNDATION
Every Child · Every Dream

www.revekandale.org

MISSION & VISION

Since we founded REVE Kandale Foundation in 2016, we have been guided by the vision that every child in Kandale deserves quality formal and non-formal education and should develop to her or his full potential. Our Mission is to promote equal access to education for all girls and boys through the creation of a safe and protective learning and living environment.

BLM STATEMENT

Institutionalized racism on a global scale has had and continues to have crushing effects on the people of Africa. We support the movement of people in Africa and around the world to eliminate racism in all forms. At REVE Kandale Foundation, we focus on one community's efforts to improve their lives through concrete, community-led improvements in protection of the environment, access to education and clean water. We stand with the people of Kandale as they build a better future for themselves.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◇ Colette Ramm, Co-Founder
- ◇ Greg Ramm, Co-Founder/Treasurer
- ◇ Julie Martel, President
- ◇ John Sullivan, Vice President
- ◇ Christelle Kazadi, Secretary
- ◇ David Dorfman
- ◇ Chris Fowles
- ◇ Rebecca Jordan
- ◇ Peter Lane
- ◇ Jean Nguya Maniania

TEAM IN KANDALE

- ◇ Newton Kazongo, Co-Team Leader
- ◇ Merveille Mahele, Co-Team Leader
- ◇ Koko Masashi, Sewing Program
- ◇ Donatien Mputu, Custodian
- ◇ Matayo Kutumaka, Brick Machine
- ◇ Sira Medika, Girls' Dormitory
- ◇ Kisenda Munanyi, Night Guard
- ◇ Mireille Tumba, Tree Planting
- ◇ Elysée Nyongewa, Tree Planting
- ◇ Jeanne Lusambu, Tree Planting

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Message from the Board

from Julie Martel, President of the Board of Directors



As I transition into the role of President of the Board of Directors, I am inspired by the level of commitment I see from the Board, members of the local organization in Kandale and the growing network of donors who make our work possible. I am delighted both at the progress made to date as well as the many opportunities in front of us. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, I was posted a half day's journey from Kandale. While there I learned to love the warmth and energy of the Congolese people. When I visited Kandale in 2018 I could see how the work of REVE Kandale energized the village.

The focus of 2020 was the ambitious goal of building seven new primary school classrooms. We saw a foundation go down and walls go up. One woman who was helping with the construction noted what joy it gave her that her sister would enjoy the quality classroom she did not have.

Water cisterns built in 2019 continue to provide water to make the bricks and provide a surplus that can be sold for home use and generate income to support other work. The education center continues to be a hub of activity. The thriving re-established forest is another source of pride (and food). A donor sponsored bringing an expert in agroforestry to Kandale to bring new seeds and train on tree planting and cultivation.

The year 2020 is one we will all remember. COVID has touched us all, and Kandale was no exception. The community struggled with schools closing, travel restrictions and limits on gatherings. The sewing machines in the education center helped when masks were required for students taking their exams. The Black Lives Matter movement in the United States generated discussion among our board members on our collaboration with the local REVE Kandale organization and how we can ensure we are aligning ourselves with the community-led leadership as the residents seek to build a better future for themselves.

"We are a small organization and we want donors to feel as though they can 'touch' the projects they bring to life."

The Congo is not easily accessed, and the lack of stability constrains the ability of organizations to provide support. Through our co-founder Colette Ramm we have a unique conduit. We are a small organization and we want donors to feel as though they can "touch" the projects they bring to life.

We are deeply grateful to every one of our donors. I was touched by one donor whose unfulfilled dream of joining the Peace Corps when she was young motivated her to support REVE Kandale. Another donor lost a close friend to COVID and wanted to build something positive out of the pain, so she generously committed to furnishing the new classrooms. Donors are encouraged to reach out to any of the board members. We are an enthusiastic bunch who have a passion for the people of the Congo and are inspired by this work. We appreciate the opportunity to offer this Annual Report as a celebration of another year of growth for the Kandale community.



Achievements-2020

- ◇ Foundation and walls for seven new classrooms constructed
- ◇ Multi-Purpose Education Center furnished with 250 desks
- ◇ School kits delivered to Kandale for distribution to 40 girls at the start of the 2021 school year
- ◇ 50 soccer balls provided to students and youth
- ◇ Training in planting and care of trees provided by an expert in agroforestry
- ◇ Over 100 trees planted
- ◇ 158 individuals donated to RKF
- ◇ Six institutions donated to RKF
- ◇ Two new board members joined the board of directors



Our Programs

Education

Our team in Kandale broke ground for seven new primary school classrooms in December and exceeded projections by completing the foundation and erecting the walls to the roofing level early in the new year.

Overcoming the uncertainty posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in a ban on travel in DRC from May until November, the engineer in Kinshasa who is in charge of the project directed the volunteers in Kandale on all necessary preparations.

This meant several labor-intensive activities were taking place: clearing the site, hiring a truck for collecting sand and red clay from the Kwilu river, bringing stones and chipping them into smaller pieces for eventual use in the walls.

Two hundred bags of cement were purchased and brought to the site. Work began in earnest to use the brick-making machine to make a stock of stabilized bricks before the dry season began in May. Skilled masons were recruited from neighboring villages. Essentially, everything was ready by May, when schools were closed and the government imposed the internal travel ban, making it impossible for the engineer to reach Kandale.

The community responded with enthusiasm, and Kandale residents including young women, worked alongside the masons.

about to become a reality. The community responded with enthusiasm, and Kandale residents including young women, worked alongside the masons.

By November, the travel ban had been lifted and the project was



In two months, not only was the foundation completed as originally planned, but the brick walls of the seven classrooms were brought to roof level. All this was done in record time, and REVE Kandale far exceeded its goal for the year.

With the generous contributions of donors, the team fully intends to complete the roofing and equip the classrooms with blackboards and desks in time to make the classrooms usable for the new school year in September 2021. Finishings such as windows and doors and painting of the walls will take place during the remainder of the year, but the 300 students will have a proper place to learn and dream of their future in the meantime.

Construction work on new classrooms was not the only mark of progress in 2020. Carpenters in Kikwit finished the order of 250 curved-arm desks for the Multi-Purpose Education Center, and arrangements were made to transport them to Kandale so the upper-level students would have better conditions for their state exams.

School finally resumed in August and exams were scheduled for September. In spite of the disadvantage of not having had classes all year, students were socially-distanced at their new desks and sat for their exams.



Environment

One of the objectives of REVE Kandale is the rehabilitation of green space in Kandale. Previously the forest cover had been depleted due to tree cutting and bush fires which affected water catchments, agricultural productivity, and biodiversity.

Impacts after 10 years:

- ◇ 30 hectares of reforestation, contributing to the mitigation of climate change
- ◇ Restoration of biodiversity with the return of wildlife and edible insects such as the caterpillar species *Imbrasia petiveri*
- ◇ Over 10,000 trees planted including fruit and medicinal trees

Socio-economic impact:

- ◇ These caterpillars are a delicacy and source of protein and income
- ◇ Capacity building of the community in tree and vegetable nurseries
- ◇ Increased awareness among the community



In December 2020, REVE Kandale recruited an expert to train the team in Kandale, including 10 youth on how to plant and care for trees.



Water

In 2020, the Kandale community continued to reap the benefits of two 5,000-liter polytanks that were installed as part of a rainwater catchment system in 2019.

Children spent less time hiking a steep ravine to fetch water from the natural spring that is the principal source of water, thereby reducing tardiness at school. Families have access to clean water to cook and clean with, and water is essential to Kandale's construction projects.

An informal survey conducted by REVE Kandale leadership of 29 households shows that 25 of the households – or 86 percent – reduced the number of long trips they made to the source because of the existence of the polytanks.

The catchment system was installed at the Multi-Purpose Education Center, with gutters channeling rainwater from the roof into the two polytanks. Residents pay a small fee to draw water, and the fee is used to generate income to support other work.

Several survey respondents noted that the amount of water from the polytanks is insufficient and that water is not always available.

While the polytanks have had a significant impact it is clear additional work is needed to increase the accessible water supply in Kandale.

Women & Girls



Women and girls are at the heart of REVE Kandale's work.

In 2020, the Girl-to-Girl Initiative from the Youth Group at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Md., brought welcome benefits to 40 girls in Kandale. The Youth Group rounded up donors and put together kits for the girls residing in dormitories for Lycée Gin'a Gisanga to help them stay in school.

The kits, which were delivered in December, included school uniforms, bed sheets, solar lights, hand mirrors, flip-flops, pens, and reusable feminine hygiene kits provided by the nonprofit group Days for Girls.

School uniforms are required for the girls' participation in school. For some girls the lack of funds for purchasing uniforms can block their access to school.

All REVE Kandale projects aim to improve the lives of women and girls.

In education, 64 percent of the students enrolled in the six schools supported by REVE Kandale are girls. 50 percent of REVE volunteers in Kandale are women

The availability of water is a big concern that has a disproportionate impact on women and girls, who generally shoulder the burden of fetching water. The polytanks installed in 2019 as part of a rainwater catchment system have benefitted especially women and girls. When the tanks are full during the nine-month rainy season, they benefit by spending less time doing the back-breaking work carrying water from the natural spring that is the only other clean water source in the area.

As the REVE Kandale leadership team evolves, two women, Merveille Mahele and Sister Victorine Ilunga, have assumed core roles. Merveille has emerged as a co-Team Leader and Sister Victorine, who lives in the regional capital Kikwit, has an important role in receiving money transfers from the US, purchasing construction materials, and tracking local financial management.



Youth and Sport



Photo credit: Charles Buller

As the most popular sport in the DRC, soccer or “football” promotes a spirit of teamwork, hard work, pride, determination and unity within the community in Kandale. It is enjoyed by everyone-- men, women, and most of all young people. In recent years, with the support from Kick for Nick, the Kandale youth have engaged in many soccer endeavours, including playing in the Inter-Africa Mennonite Mission (AIMM) Leadership Coaching Forum, for which they bravely trekked 55 miles from Kandale to join. With 50 new soccer balls at their disposal, thanks to our generous donor, Dwight Short, they are preparing for their first ever tournament, which will take place in 2021.



Meet Gingeleji Lévitique

Gingeleji Tumba Lévitique is a teacher at Lycée Gina Gisanga in Kandale who returned to Kandale two years ago from his previous posting in Tago, a small rural village about five kilometers from Kandale.



*Gingeleji Tumba Lévitique,
teacher at Lycée Gina
Gisanga in Kandale*

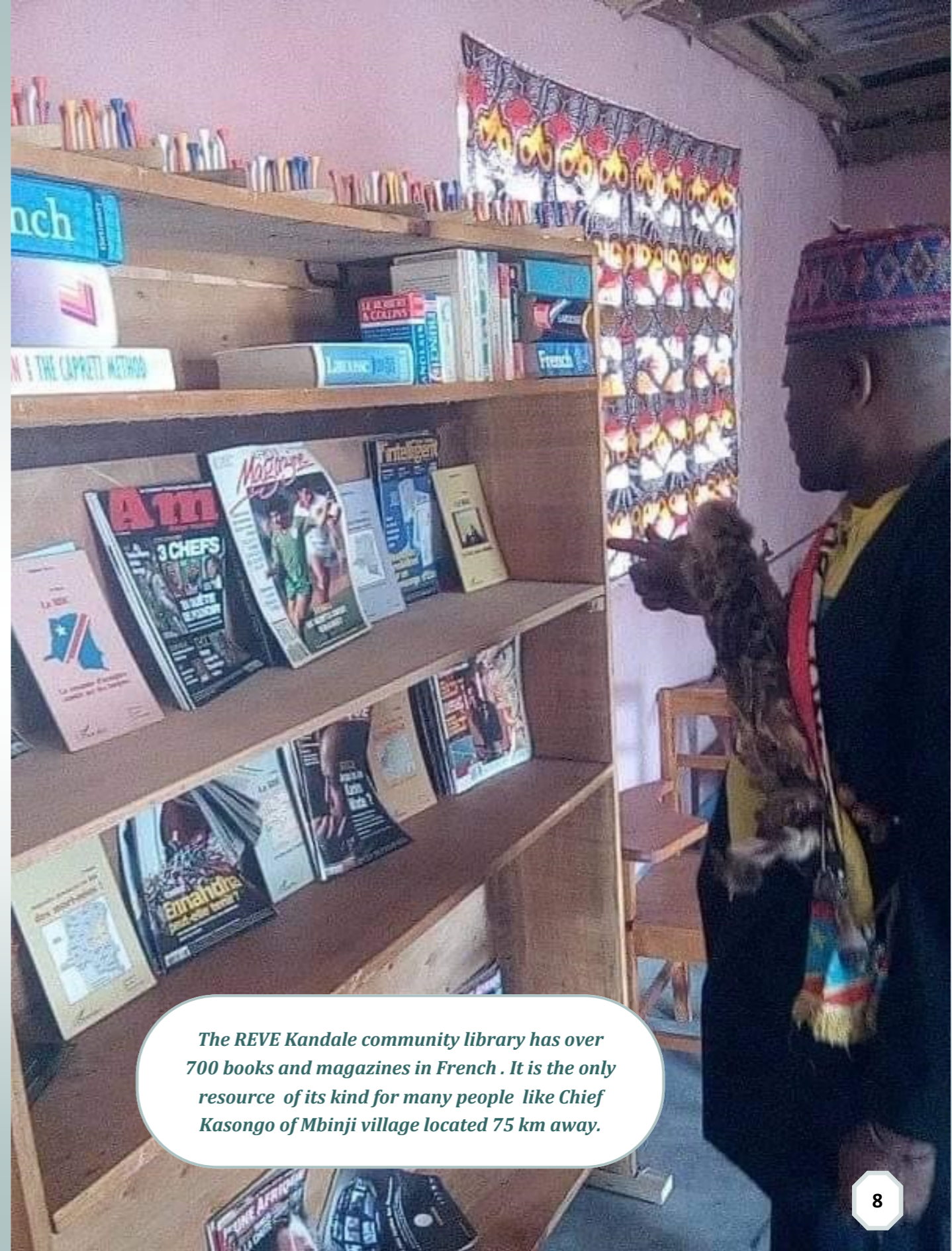
Gingeleji was prompted to come back to Kandale because of the recent developments in education infrastructure, which he found made Kandale a more attractive venue to continue his teaching career.

“Because of my career as a teacher, I realized that I couldn’t stay for a long time in the bush, and that I should leave to advance my career,” he said. “Because of the evolution of life and the changes I observed in Kandale, I decided to return and teach here. “

One of the projects initiated by REVE Kandale that had a dramatic impact on Gingeleji was the construction in 2018 of the Multi-Purpose Education Center, which is illuminated by solar-powered lights.

“Whether you are a teacher or a student, you need time for practical work,” he said. “You are in class in the morning, and in the afternoon you might be busy in the house. In the evening, you have a little bit of free time, and you can go to the Multi-Purpose center, where there is electricity, and you can study or prepare your lessons. “

That pleases parents and the children who study in the center in the evening, Gingeleji observed.



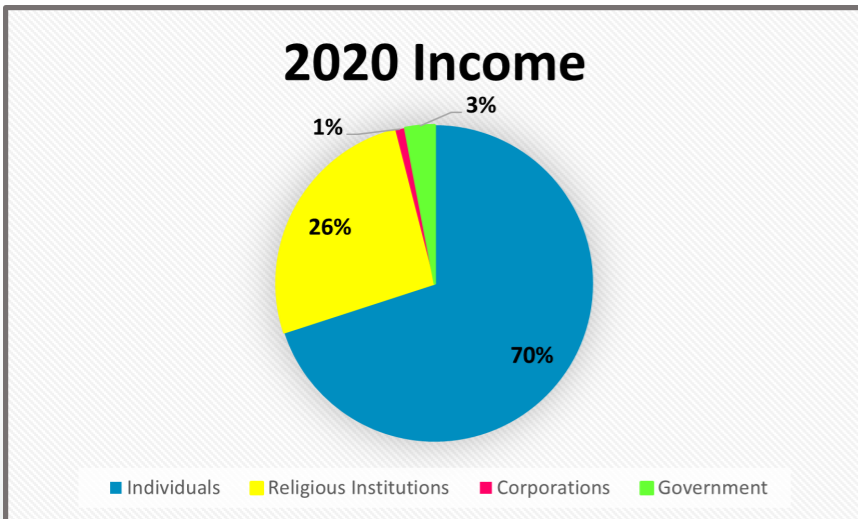
The REVE Kandale community library has over 700 books and magazines in French . It is the only resource of its kind for many people like Chief Kasongo of Mbinji village located 75 km away.

Financial Report

2020 Income - \$54,027

In 2020, REVE Kandale Foundation received support from 158 individuals, corporations, religious institutions, foundations, and government donors. We are grateful for this generous support in an extraordinarily challenging year.

- ◆ Corporate & Foundations.....1%
- ◆ Government3%
- ◆ Individuals70%
- ◆ Religious Institutions.....26%



RKF Balance/Net Worth

- ◆ December 31, 2019 starting balance.....\$8,793
- ◆ 2020 income..... \$54,027
- ◆ 2020 expenses.....\$59,172
- ◆ December 31,2020 ending balance..... .\$3,648

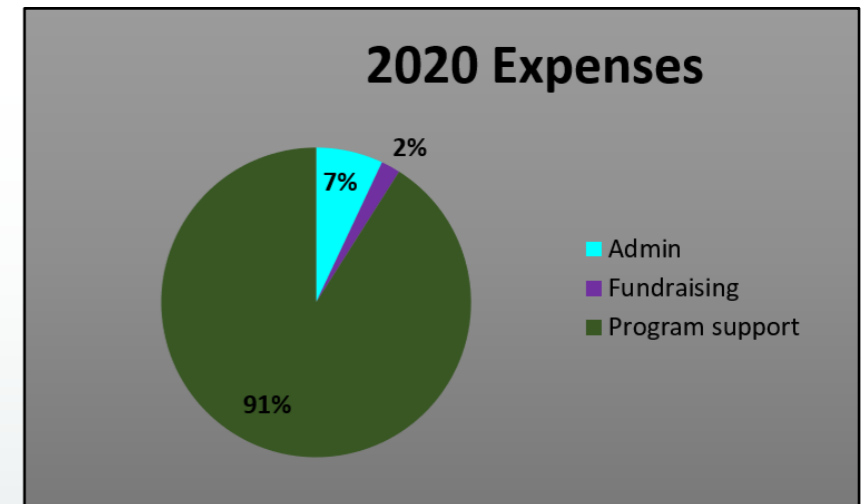


From Koko Masashi, who worked in the construction of the 7 new classrooms: "I was pleased to be part of the team with men on a complex task and proud that my two young sisters will study in better conditions than I did."

2020 Expenses -\$59,172

In 2020, REVE Kandale Foundation remained an all-volunteer organization working in support of the local community - based organization REVE Kandale. We strive to keep fundraising and admin costs to a minimum. Costs breakdown in 2020:

- ◆ Admin.....7%
- ◆ Fundraising.....2%
- ◆ Programs support.....91%



- REVE KANDALE FOUNDATION

"We are accountable to the communities , donors and partners we work with, transparently sharing our results, stories and lessons."



Thank You

to

All Our Donors!



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