Dear Friends,

The Haitian proverb, “Mete fanm sou w”, translates literally to “Put your woman on!” When facing problems, Haitians never say, “Man up!” No, they say: Put your woman on! They even say it to men: Deal with it like a woman. Be determined like a woman. Be courageous like a woman. Be inclusive like a woman. Be compassionate like a woman. The proverb reminds women to be their best selves, yes; but it also reminds men that being strong is more about heart than muscle.

At Mercy Beyond Borders, we see the truth of this every day. In places of extreme poverty women and girls do the hard work. They hold families together against all odds. Instead of being recognized and celebrated for their sacrifices they are treated as property in some cultures, without basic human rights such as the right to education and voice.

All women and girls around the world, no matter the circumstances of their birth, deserve better. We know they can learn, connect and lead, when given the chance! That’s where YOU come in. YOU are making education and advancement possible for women and girls in the mountains of Haiti, the villages of South Sudan, and the refugee camps of Uganda and Kenya.

YOU are the heroes and heroines of their stories. We can never thank YOU enough!

Mark Stevens  
MBB Board Chair

Sister Marilyn Lacey  
Founder & Executive Director
FONI SILER
Nurse in South Sudan

One of MBB’s 55 newest alumnae, Foni Siler grew up in a mud-and-thatch hut in South Sudan. With your financial support, she completed primary school and high school and then, in 2018, graduated as a nurse from the Kajo-Keji Health Training Institute. She was immediately hired by Save the Children International to serve as a Clinical Officer in South Sudan. What a joy to see Foni focused on her goal all these years, and now serving her fellow South Sudanese.
2018 marked the graduation of MBB’s first Haitian cohort of high school Scholars. (The education system in Haiti follows the French model: high school is 7 years long, stretching from 7th thru 13th grades). MBB awarded a full university scholarship to our top graduate, Valencia Alexandre, who was accepted into Université Notre Dame d’Haiti.

“I don’t find words to explain how much happy I am [at getting] this news. It is a miraculous gift….I thank MBB from the bottom of my heart for helping me to realize my dream and construct my life.”

Valencia is the first recipient of the Pat Conlin College Scholarship Fund, established by the Conlin family this past year to honor their mother! Valencia’s goal is to become a doctor to heal the poor in Haiti. We’re with you all the way, Valencia!

You can view a charming 5-minute video of Valencia on our website: www.mercybeyondborders.org. Scroll down to the bottom of the main page to find it.
Abuk Ajook remembers the exact day when her village was attacked by armed cattle rustlers in Jonglei, South Sudan, in 2012. “It was horrible,” she says, holding her head in her hand. “It killed dozens of people including my relatives and all of our cattle. We scattered for dear life. After some months barely surviving we joined some people walking south. At first we stopped in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, but life there was impossible. We feared the violence, especially against women.”

Abuk and her five children made the long trek to Uganda where she was eventually allowed to settle in a camp. “We received rations,” says Abuk, “but we always felt hunger.”

“A new dawn came for me when I enrolled with MBB micro-enterprise. For 3 days they taught us how to form a group, elect officers, convene meetings; how to record our savings and know the difference between my loan and my profits. At first, with my loan I stocked sugar, onions, and rice. But I faced challenges as a seller, so I changed my business to money-lending. Now I, a woman, am a respected community lender! Up to today this has made me a fortune. Since we were born cattle keepers, I feel happy to have bought two heifers after repaying my MBB loan.”

Abuk encourages other women to join the MBB program. She tells them: “You will be able to support your own families even when husbands are not with you. Our children’s school fees and stomachs and medical needs cannot wait for men.” Abuk lifts her head and says to Sister Marilyn, “We women pray for the MBB supporters because they are the great ones who are lifting us up. Shukran (Thank You).”
MBB works to alleviate extreme poverty. **Why?**

Because no one should have to live without adequate shelter, clean water, sufficient food, basic health care, and without education, voice, dignity.

Because extreme poverty prevents world peace. Extreme poverty worsens pressures on civil society, increases early marriages, creates instability, fosters violence, causes displacements and mass migrations, wreaks havoc on fragile environments, and makes it harder to contain/eliminate epidemics. Extreme poverty threatens us all.

**MBB alleviates poverty by working with women and girls. Why?**

Because research proves that extreme poverty can be alleviated! It’s not rocket science. Educating girls is the single most effective intervention for lifting families up from extreme poverty. Education is also the most powerful predictor of global health.

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**OUR IMPACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2,650</strong></th>
<th><strong>585</strong></th>
<th><strong>88</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early marriages prevented by supporting girls in primary school</td>
<td>Girls developing academic &amp; leadership talent via MBB scholarships to high schools</td>
<td>Young Women pursuing professional careers via MBB scholarships to universities</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>122</strong></th>
<th><strong>190</strong></th>
<th><strong>1,154</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural women learning literacy and income-generating skills</td>
<td>Small businesses launched by women via MBB micro-enterprise loans</td>
<td>Family members lifted up from extreme poverty through micro-enterprises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
585 Girls Received MBB Scholarships to High Schools
- 144 Already Graduated (25%)
- 328 Still in High School (56%)
- 115 Dropped out due to war, displacement, illness, death, pregnancy or forced marriages (19%)

88 Young Women Received University Scholarships
- 55 Already Graduated from College or University (64%)
- 28 Still in Higher Education (32%)
- 5 Dropped out due to marriages or illness (4%)

55 University Alumnae
- 75% Employed in South Sudan or Nuba Mountains. They work as agronomists, nurses, teachers and nonprofit field workers.
- 15% Job Searching
- 11% Status yet unknown due to difficulty of communications inside South Sudan

Zero brain drain! These young women are the first cohorts of highly educated females in South Sudan.
"These are my mothers and sisters. How could I not share whatever I can?" – Kathleen
My husband and I really gravitate towards not just how MBB helps those in such despair, but also how these folks are given a foundation to sustain themselves going forward. It’s really fantastic!” – Anita

$500–$999
Adelaide Palmer
Alice Gruszka
Bernard & Joan Herman
Beth Garrett
Britt Theidinger MD
Catherine Wilkinson
Cathy Scofield Bogue
Christine Knudson
Claire Stary Whybom
Colette Lafia Gelade
College of Saint Mary
Cynthia Stover
Daniel & Christine Wilde
Daphne Luong
David & Paula Schaffner
Deborah & Gary DeFilippo
Dolly Miller
Donna Ray
Dorothy Hutchins
Douglas Rea
Dr. Louis & Sandra Acosta
Elsa Amboy & Paul Wilcox
Elyse Klein
Evan J. Rosenberg
George Lula
Gerard Ehrmann
Gholamreza Odabaee
Jane & Thomas David
Jean Evans RSM
Jeanette & Robert Lovi
Joan R. Roy
Joe & Rosemarie Wurtz
Judith Stanner
Kathryn Minogue
Ken Alexander
Lenore Greene
Loretta Chiofalo
Margaret & Mark McQuillan
Marian P. Rouse
Mary Ann Hartley
Mary Clemency
Mary Eileen Pazmino RSM
Mary Jo & Stephen Riehl
Mary Lou Simmermacher
Matthew Marino
Maureen & Timothy Hamilton
McAuley Convent
Melody Graham
Michael Roy
Michele Hartigan
Pat & Michael Moore
Pat Carson
Phyllis Hughes RSM
Rev. William Leininger
Richard Blaisdell
Robert Leathers
Salesforce Corporate Matching
Sandra Christensen
Sandra Woliver
Sarah Johnson
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sr. Clare Pratt, RSCJ
Susan McCarthy RSM
The GE Foundation
The Neal Pepper Family Charitable Fund
The Stone Church of Willow Glen
Thomas & Sandra Weise
Tom Driscoll

$250–$499
Agnes Doherty
Amanda Scanlon
AmazonSmile Foundation
Annette Fajardo
Beth Wissing-Healy
Brett & Angela Byamster
Bright Funds Foundation
Catherine O’Brien
Catherine Regan
Christine Baldin
Christopher & Donna Yeager
Claire Werner
Claudette Cusack RSM
Danielle Villasenor
Deborah Seefeldt
Deirdre Cherry
Donald & Kathleen Speranza
Donna Kelly
Elizabeth Gardner
Frances Crean
Gertrude Nuttman
Janet Chau RSM
Jason King
Jeanne O’Rourke RSM
Jennifer Guethlein
Joan Ryan
Joe and Cheryl Guastello Family Fund
Joel Rathbone
John FitzGerald
Julia Shepardson
Katherine Hess
Kathleen Carey
Kathleen Mary Moross RSM
Kathy Curran
Kathy Thornton
Kathy Wade
Lisa Dalton
Lise Karna
Louise Murdock
Marcella Garneau
Margaret & Robert Murphy
Margaret Darrah
Margaret Miro
Margarita Soza
Maria Chiang
Maria Veloso
Mark Esteban
Mary Bona
Mary Knudson
Mary Lorita Moffatt RSM
Mary Sheehan RSM
Maureen Webster
Melanie Westfield
Michel Joseph Fisher
Michele Aronica RSM
Mimi Woodeshick
Nancy Arnold
Natasha & Rich Hughes
National Catholic Reporter
Oran Arms
P.L. Simms & Lorraine Pagan
Pat Turay
Patricia & Lloyd Bracewell
Patricia Wozniak
Patty Creedon RSM
Paul & Carol Schrimscher
PayPal Giving Fund
Ralph & Paula De Rango
Renee Franken
Rosa Davis RSM
Sr. Carol Anne Smith HM
Stephanie & Daniel Capodanno
Up To $249

MBB’s results are STUNNING!

– Mike and Pat
“I was chatting with a stranger in the post office one day about how difficult it is to know which nonprofits are trustworthy. She said, ‘Oh, I know Mercy Beyond Borders; their work is terrific!’ She was right!” – Mary
“God has provided for me abundantly and I like to let it slide through my fingers to you to turn it into gold for other people.” – Fr. Terry
IN MEMORY OF

Remembering Elizabeth Amaral
Donna Amaral

Remembering Brandon Jeffs
Sr. Maura Clark

Remembering Rose Guastello
Julia Nigro

Remembering Rev. Francis P. Kennedy
Sr. Judy Herrmann

Remembering Bill Majerle
Patricia Majerle

Remembering Connie Mendivel
Carmen Rodriguez RSM

Remembering Christian Molidor, RSM
Mary Maguire

Remembering Deceased Moross Family members
Mary Kathleen Moross

Remembering Carol Nielsen
Toni Ann Secrest

Remembering Rev. Jack O’Connor
Mary Jeanne Lewis

Remembering Mario & Esperanza Pazmino
Eileen Pazmino

Remembering Janet Selenger Robertson
Paul & Cheryl Robertson

Remembering Sr. Mary Ann Scofield, RSM
Natasha Hughes

Remembering William & Catherine Stoesser
Stoesser Enterprises

Remembering Sr. Rosemary Sullivan, RSM
Rita Cutarelli

IN HONOR OF

Honoring Anna Dagmar & her song “Mercy” for Sr. Marilyn Lacey
John Webb

Honoring Sr. Genemarie Beegan
Deborah Seefeldt

Honoring Beth Garriott’s mother
Beth Garriott

Honoring Brigitte
Frank Winiański

Honoring Kiri Cardegna
Patricia Smith RSM

Honoring Sherri Coats
Claire Whyburn

Honoring Pat Conlin
Maureen Hamilton

Honoring Susan Donald
Beth Wissing-Healy

Honoring Irene Donner
Kathleen Yatsko

Honoring The Fogle and Hughes Families
Evelyn Fogle

Honoring Sr. Charleen Koenig & Sr. Marcia Kinces
Dolores Moniz

Honoring Paula McLaughlin
Susan Wojciechowski

Honoring Mercy Jubilarians
Gloria Miller, RSM
Sheila Devereux, RSM
Kathleen Kearney, RSM

Honoring Mercy Sisters
Joanne Kennedy

Honoring Denis and Dick Meredith
Claudette Schiratti RSM

Honoring Janet Morello
Patricia Fianagan

Honoring My Family
Amanda Scanlon

Honoring My Mom
Joseph O’Donnell

Honoring Judi Pogue
Sandra Woliver

Honoring Leanne Roberts
Christina Brown

Honoring Kerry Schmidt
Janine ter Kuile

Honoring Sr. Doris Gottemoeller, RSM
Anonymous

Honoring Sr. Ellen FitzGerald, RSM
John FitzGerald

Honoring Sr. Emily Kemppi, RSM
Mary Sheehan, RSM

Honoring Sr. Marie for her 80th Birthday
Carlotta Oberzut RSM

Honoring Sr. Marilyn Lacey, RSM
Britt Thedinger, MD

Honoring Sr. Phyllis Hughes, RSM
Van Mason and Sharon Lavender

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to make life a little bit better for others.”
– Jo Marie
2018 ASSETS
Cash: $316,426
U.S. Treasury Notes: $1,192,448
Stock: $5,211
Prepaid Expenses: $4,097
Total Assets: $1,518,182

2018 LIABILITIES
$50,390

2018 EQUITY
Unrestricted Net Assets: $1,356,181
Restricted Net Assets: $111,611
Total Equity: $1,467,792

Total Liabilities & Equity: $1,518,182

2018 CY 2017 REVENUE: $930,536
- Foundations & Corp: $376,500
- Individuals: $554,036

2018 CY 2017 EXPENSES: $1,021,836
- Programs: $771,774
- Administration: $215,831
- Fundraising: $34,231

2018 CY 2017 PROGRAM EXPENSES
- Education: $606,179
- Women's Econ Dev: $93,874
- Maternal/Child Health: $71,721

2018 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
Gordon Howie, Treasurer
Ching-yu Hu
Sr. Marilyn Lacey
Julie McKellar
Eva Miehm, Secretary
Bijal Patel
Matilda Rial
Theresa Samuel Boko
Mark Stevens, Chair
Chris White
Without Sr Edvine’s presence, commitment, courage and compassion, there would never have been a successful MBB Scholarship Program in South Sudan. She was Principal at St. Bakhita Girls Primary for many years and then transitioned to MBB as our Scholarships Coordinator. She knew all the girls. Blending strength and affection, she guided and motivated them. She stood up for them against a culture that bartered them for cattle. At personal risk of violence, she hid them when uncles came to claim them at gunpoint for forced marriages. She traveled across deserts, floods and mountains to visit them at their high schools and universities. She stood by them in their trauma. She nurtured their dreams. She saw them blossom. Truly, she taught them by her own example how to put their woman on!

Edvine was MBB’s boundless heart until her death from cancer in December 2018. The hundreds she mentored are now young women, carrying her torch for educating the next generation. In her life and in her death, Edvine continues to inspire us.
When Women Learn, Women Matter.
Then Everything Changes!