

# GO FUND REPORT

## 10 year anniversary



**GO**  **FUND**

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



Pathfinder students with new laptops / Ghana 2017

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In 2016, Approx 3411\* women and 2390\* children's lives improved substantially by GO Fund programs

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The Global Opportunity (GO) Fund is a non-profit organization that promotes the empowerment and enrichment of the lives of women and children in Africa via educational, social support and entrepreneurial projects. We work hand-in-hand with African-based grassroots organizations to simultaneously build their capacity to serve their own communities while launching sustainable development projects that will carry on their work for years and generations to come.

\*Women; 3000 by library programs, 408 by microloan programs (this is estimated), 3 by scholarships

\*Children: 2000 by health insurance, 350 by Pathfinder, 40 by Home for Hope (this is estimated)

PLEASE NOTE: A few beneficiary names have been changed in this report to respect their privacy



Pathfinder International Academy students / Ghana 2013

# Message from the Executive Director



A mother waiting to receive free health insurance for her child / Ghana 2016

## DEAR GO FUND SUPPORTER

The GO Fund celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2017. I want to start by thanking our individual donors who are responsible for the life-changing and life-saving programs that I will share with you in this report.

Over the past 10 years we have directed our energies, financial support and human resources to projects throughout Africa, serving different countries and diverse cultures across the continent and working with local organizations who have demonstrated solid, positive outcomes. A fundamental tenet of the GO Fund is to work under local mandate and management. This means the GO Fund operates where it is needed most, with the local organization applying for support; once it is approved, we provide technical support and guidance while the local organization takes the lead in running the project on the ground.

As we look back over the past decade, we are proud

of all that we have accomplished. Through these projects, women gain the skills, resources and opportunities to lift themselves out of poverty, and children gain access to healthy food, medicines and educational benefits that allow them to enjoy productive lives.

At the same time, we are reviewing what our next steps should be in order to make best use of our resources and to maximize our impact by enhancing current partnerships by serving their evolving needs, while creating or supporting new initiatives. All this shows our commitment to responsive programming: because we are small, we can pivot to new types of projects or adapt to local circumstances as needed.

Ultimately, we seek projects that have deep roots in the community and that will be run by and for community members long after the GO Fund has finished its work.

**Sarah Davie**

*Executive Director*

*Global Opportunity Fund*

**'For development in Africa to succeed education is critical. You have to make sure infrastructure is there, electricity, paper and text books.'**

**-Bill Gates, TIME 9/18**

### **2007 - GO FUND FOUNDED**

After five years of working on a project to send critical medical supplies to Kenya, Sarah Davie decides to found an organization that specifically focuses on the needs and challenges women in Africa face. The GO Fund begins small projects in Kenya and Tanzania based on the philosophy that educating and supporting women will lead to better outcomes for society as a whole.

### **2008 – FIRST PARTNER, AYD / GHANA**

Alliance for Youth Development is our first partner organization in Ghana. We learn of this grassroots organization from its founder Elvis Donkoh while he was in the US to receive a youth leadership award. Our initial project together is Gift-a-Goat, a livestock program for women in rural Ghana with the objective of empowering women economically; it still benefits many of the same women today. Our second larger-scale project is a women's sewing and batik program Sew for Sisterhood. We donate 16 sewing machines; the women learn batik, and professional tailoring, and transform their products and skills into economic benefits.

### **2010 – 2012 HOME FOR HOPE/ GHANA**

After learning about Elvis' years of support for orphans and

vulnerable children in rural Ghana, the GO Fund holds a benefit in support of a permanent home for the children he has been housing in an abandoned post office. The fund-raiser is a huge success: we raise \$30,000 in one night! The children move into their own home in June 2012.



Home for Hope under construction / Ghana

### **2012 – PATHFINDER SCHOOL / GHANA**

Pathfinder International Academy opens its doors to the general public in September, 2012. Pathfinder provides a quality education to orphans, and vulnerable and needy children in Cape Coast, Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese District and its surrounding districts in Ghana. Pathfinder is also a free school for the most disadvantaged in the communities, yet who strive to be future community leaders. While GO Fund is not the original funder of Pathfinder, we have been the leading donor for the school for many years, since the founding donor backed out.

### **2015 – LUTINO ADUNU / UGANDA**

GO Fund continues its strong interest in working with organizations committed to causes related to women's empowerment. We are fortunate enough to meet and partner with this amazing organization [Lutino Adunu](#) in post-war torn Uganda, Nwoya District, which offers literacy and entrepreneurial programs for women and children.

# GO Fund 10 Year History



Women's literacy program, Uganda

### **2016 – SCHOLARSHIPS / TZ, GHANA, & KENYA**

In 2016 GO Fund is proud to have funded [Your Sisters](#) as it supports individual scholarships for girls in Tanzania. We began supporting a girl, the youngest of five with four older brothers, through high school. Defroza excels in science and history.



Defroza, scholarship Recipient / Tanzania

# Home for Hope Progress Report



Home for Hope just prior to completion / Ghana

Prior to our introduction to AYD, the Children's Home for Hope was established by Alliance for Youth Development, led by Elvis Donkoh (AYD's founder) in June 2007, with the aim of caring for and supporting orphans and vulnerable children in the local community. The Home is situated in the rural town of Asebu in the Abura Asebu Kwamankese (AAK) District in the Central Region of Ghana. Asebu is a community of over 80,000 with no facilities for orphaned children. From 2007-2012 the Home was located in a building that had been an abandoned post office; once word spread about it, local residents began to drop off children whose parents had died or were found by the side of the road.

However, the building was only a temporary home. In 2010 the GO Fund was solicited for aid, and so held a benefit to raise funds to build a permanent home on land owned by AYD. At the height of



Home for Hope today plus clinic built by Montchevre / Ghana

its capacity, this new home was a residence for over 40 children. Children at the Home were happy, healthy, and enrolled in school, while being exposed to English and other cultures from volunteers around the world.

However, we now find ourselves at a crossroads. Despite dedicating many years to this project, with grants totaling nearly \$100,000, there has been a dramatic change in Ghanaian governmental policies regarding children's homes and orphanages. This change, while centered around the desire to reunite children with their extended families, has largely halted our ability to serve new children in the Home, as they are now being directed away from it.

Regardless of this new mandate, The GO Fund wishes to continue to fund The Home for Hope, to support children in need of housing. One such child is Jeff, who is both special needs and HIV positive; because of these and other reasons, he still requires the security of the year-round home. Jeff is joined by other children - the nominally reunified students (numbering approximately 13 children who attend boarding



Home for Hope family in 2012 / Ghana

schools) - as they return to the Home to sleep and eat all of their meals there when on school break. They do this because, despite the government's mandate, to find good homes and fund basic needs for at-risk children, the reality on the ground means that mandate cannot be totally fulfilled. In short, some children simply don't go to their new homes or return to their families of origin because the families cannot support them. Indeed, these children see the Home as their home, so they return to where they know they will have housing and food security.

Thus, although we will do all we can to support the Government of Ghana's initiatives to reunify families, we see a need to provide support to children in this time of transition. We will work hand-in-hand with Elvis Donkoh - who as an MP in the government, knows as much as anyone about the importance and value of this policy - to align our practices with the governmental mandates while identifying children who remain homeless and unwanted.

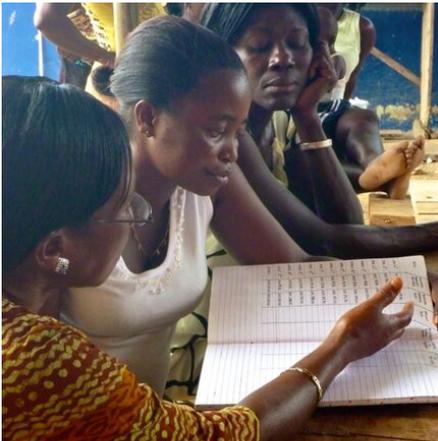
Home for Hope will continue to serve as a haven and shelter for those that need it the most. Most likely that will be in the form of a boarding facility for Pathfinder Int'l Academy.



Lutino Adunu Community Library / Uganda

# Women's Literacy & Opportunity

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION**  
**LUTINO ADUNU / UGANDA**



Women's Literacy Project / Uganda

## WOMENS LITERACY PROJECT / UGANDA

## WOMEN'S MICROFINANCE

The microfinance program was a great success: Lutino Adunu loaned a total of one million Uganda shillings (equivalent to US\$400) each to four women's savings groups, with the expectation that the loan would be returned so that the funds could be offered to other groups in the future. In turn, each group administered loans to its individual members, according to the rules of its charter. One woman reported "involving myself in the revolving fund's collection has saved me so much. Before I was borrowing loans from a microfinance institution charges high interest rates on their loans."

Working with our partner Lutino Adunu in post-war Northern Uganda, the GO Fund was the primary funder for a local library running innovative literacy programs for women and children, as well as entrepreneurial and microfinance programs for the women.

The library - projected to have 3000 visitors in 2016 - saw over 9000 people participate in these programs. In total, since 2014 40,000 people have participated in its programs, including from a broader community of 16 villages and 20 primary and secondary schools.

Thanks to our collaboration with Lutino Adunu, savings group members have started Income Generating Activities



Women microloan entrepreneurs, / Uganda

such as goat-rearing, small businesses in local markets, and alcohol brewing, among other activities. These initiatives have increased the income level among the different women's groups, and have enabled the groups to repay loans efficiently and promptly;

**40,000 library visitors, 50 microloan groups**

with interest rates of 10%, the funds available continue to grow, making larger amounts available in the next cycle of loans. Individual members use their business profits for household expenses such as school fees. Lutino Adunu has since expanded this project to over 31 groups. Recently Oxfam picked up the project to fund another 20 groups. We are proud to have laid the groundwork for such a successful microloan project.



Sew for Sisterhood / Ghana

# Women's Economic Programs

**PARTNER  
ORGANIZATION**

**AYD / GHANA**

## SEW FOR SISTERHOOD & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

One of the first programs AYD and GO Fund collaborated on was the 2009 project Sew for Sisterhood. Many women from the community applied to participate; sixteen women were chosen for six months of training in sewing and were given a personal sewing machine. Nine more women were selected to learn batik (tie-dye) along side the 16 original participants. Ten years after this program, some of the women used the funds they earned to further their education, others established their own

shops. Adjoa, pictured below, now has a shop in town with several apprentices, teaching these young women, and others in the community, how to sew.

1,440  
BIG  
snails!

### SNAIL FARMING PROJECT

Funded by a grant from the US-based non-profit [Stardust Start-Up Factory](#), our partner organization AYD, which we continued to support administratively, piloted a sustainable snail farming project with women in one of the poorest districts in the Central Region. Eight women participated and were given training, farming materials and 20 large snails to breed. When properly farmed and cultivated snails can lay over 1000 eggs and

multiply at a rapid rate, thereby providing a regular income to the women.

The project was intended to introduce sustainable



Close-up of the culinary delicacy snails / Ghana

non-wood resources farming, which is beneficial for the women and the environment. Each of the women underwent a five-day training on farming and cultivation, as well as training in running a cooperative business and the importance of saving and marketing.

An evaluation led by AYD resulted in identifying an average of 180 snails per farmer four months after the project began with a crop value of approximately \$720, since one snail can sell for as much as \$4 due to their short supply in Ghana.

This type of program not only provides income to the women farmers, it also provides training, confidence, and income and food security to them.



Adjoa - beneficiary of Sew for Sisterhood / Ghana



Children gather to obtain health insurance / Ghana



Child receiving care during outreach program / Ghana

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

The GO Fund supported Alliance for Youth Development (AYD) in Ghana to register over 2000 children aged 5 - 18 in 20 communities for a national health insurance program (age 0-5 receive medical care for free). In Ghana, a child over 5 is covered if their mother is covered; however many women cannot afford health insurance so their children are vulnerable.

The impact of this program was so great it was written up by the Ghanaian News Agency as a major service to women, children and society as a whole. [Click Here for Article](#)

## MONTCHEVRE HEALTH CLINIC

Recognizing that children and adolescents need a safe place to learn the skills to lead healthy lives, in 2014 [Montchevre](#), the leading goat cheese company in

the US, funded a clinic via the GO Fund which focused on the needs of young people. The clinic addresses issues like sexual education, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and general good health and hygiene practices. While the facility is located next to the Home for Hope, currently the clinic is not functional due to lack of resources to staff and supply the facility. See photo on Home for Hope page.

2000 kids  
obtain health  
insurance

## MUSUNKWA HEALTH CLINIC

One very special community where we work is extremely remote and has been slow to receive the benefits of development. However, when they are given the smallest amount of support they use their passion and collective will to take a project to the next level. The GO Fund was asked to provide funds to complete the building of a small clinic. Knowing their nearest health facility was a seven-mile walk away we were happy to help. Today that clinic sees 1000 visitors per year and is now fully funded by the government of Ghana, with a full-time nurse and medicines and medical supplies on site.



**PARTNER  
ORGANIZATION  
AYD / GHANA**



Musunkwa clinic dedicated to GO Fund (in white letters) / Ghana

## HIV/AIDS TREATMENT & NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

For over eight years GO Fund has been supporting children living with HIV whose parents have been unable to afford medicines and treatment. AYD helped identify the families that needed the most support, and GO Fund financed their medicines and food supplies monthly to ensure these children had the best chance possible to lead healthy and productive lives.

One such boy who began receiving support at age 11 is now at university pursuing a technical degree. His sister, who is also HIV positive, is now finishing senior high school.

# Education Programs

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION**

**AYD / GHANA**

## PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Founded in 2012, a partnership between AYD and [Blue Kitabu](#), Pathfinder International Academy was named by the children at the Home for Hope. Funded in recent years by GO Fund support, in 2017 it celebrated its fifth anniversary. The first enrollment consisted of 80 students from primary school grades one through four. The school has since added preschool through kindergarten, and classes through middle school up to grade nine.

As of September 2018, there were 350 students enrolled, with 19 teachers, one headmaster and four non-teaching staff. The school prepares students for high school qualifying exams, with all June 2017 graduating students passing the exam! We



Pathfinder students enjoying a photo opportunity / Ghana

are proud to note that Ghana's Education Service ranks Pathfinder as 4th out of 200 public and private schools in the district (and 2nd out of the 87 private schools). Pathfinder has a holistic and progressive educational philosophy, using unique teaching strategies and providing for complementary physical education programs (there too the school has enjoyed success, winning trophies in sports such as soccer and volleyball, among others!).

However, even as the school continues to grow, it faces funding shortfalls as the government does not give any financial support. The GO Fund continues to support this successful school, helping to create the next generation of Ghanaian scholars.



Pathfinder student with text book / Ghana

**350 Students  
educated per  
year**

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



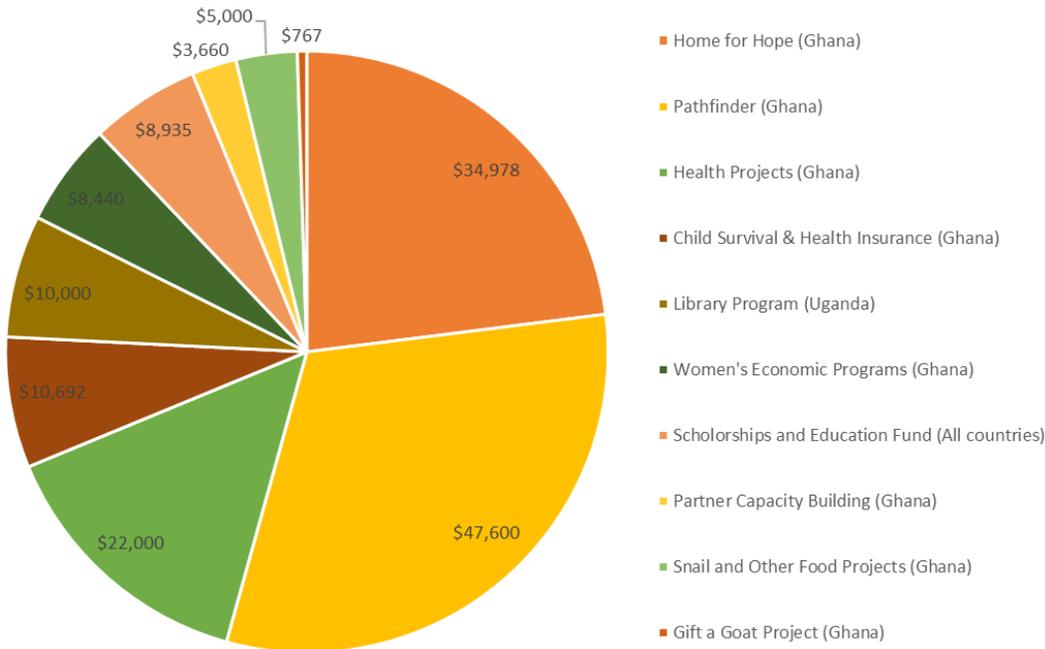
Delphine's senior picture / Kenya

Since 2015, the GO Fund has been providing scholarships to women and girls to complete their higher level education. In recent years we have given out eight scholarships to women and girls in Tanzania, Ghana and Kenya. One young scholar is Maggie from Ghana, who received support through senior high school and is now applying for teacher training college.

Delphine from Kenya graduated with a teaching degree from university in 2018 and we are speaking to her about running our programs in Kenya.

Since our last annual report was prepared with financial information from 2013, here we focus on financial and programmatic spending from 2014 - 2017. During this period the GO Fund spent just short of \$150,000 on programs in Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya with a majority of the support going to our key partner, Elvis Donkoh and his organization Alliance for Youth Development in Ghana, West Africa.

2014 - 2017 Program Grants

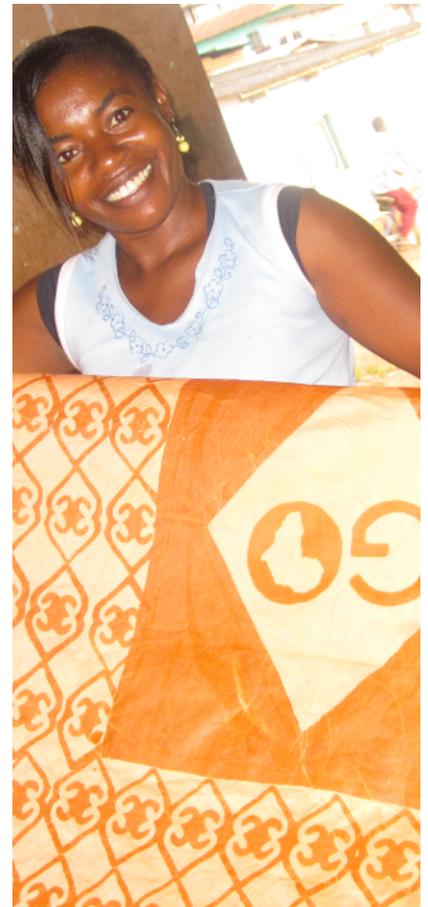


Numerous studies have shown that investing in girls' education is probably the most cost-effective measure a developing country can take to improve its standard of living. Educating girls produces considerable social and welfare benefits, such as lower infant mortality and fertility rates. The higher the education level of the mother, the greater the survival rate of her children.

### WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DO NEXT

Some of the projects we wish to raise funds for are:

1. A vocational training center for young women in Ghana, to teach sewing, batik, hairdressing and bead-making.
2. Re-open the Montchevre adolescent health center and run programs to prevent teen pregnancy, since our operational area has the highest levels of this in all of Ghana.
3. Expand the women's literacy program in Uganda and assist them in building an extension on the building for community reading and storytelling.
4. Expand the snail project to more women.
5. Convert the Home for Hope into a boarding facility at Pathfinder so that more orphans and vulnerable children can attend school.



Sew for Sisterhood program participant / Ghana

# Financial Report



Students enjoying the library / Uganda

## GO Fund Financial Statement 2014 - 2017

### Income

Corporate Contributions	\$	29,500
Foundation Grants	\$	12,000
Individ, Business Contributions	\$	106,826
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>148,326</b>

### Expense

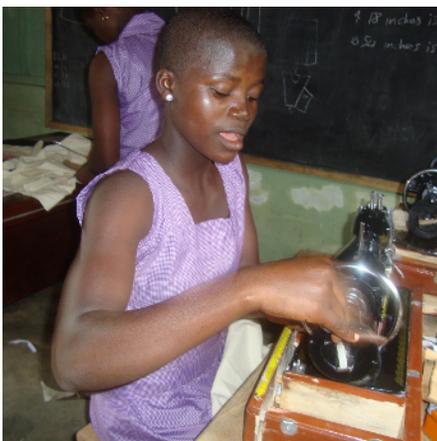
Fundraising - event supplies	\$	478
<b>Program Grants</b>		
Home for Hope (Ghana)	\$	34,978
Pathfinder (Ghana)	\$	47,600
Health Projects (Ghana)	\$	22,000
Child Survival & Health Insurance (Ghana)	\$	10,692
Library Program (Uganda)	\$	10,000
Women's Economic Programs (Ghana)	\$	8,440
Scholarships and Education Fund (All countries)	\$	8,935
Partner Capacity Building (Ghana)	\$	3,660
Snail and Other Food Projects (Ghana)	\$	5,000
Gift a Goat Project (Ghana)	\$	767

<b>Program Grants</b>	\$	<b>152,072</b>
Bank fees and website services	\$	3,648
Other Types of Expenses	\$	269
Travel and Meetings	\$	1,356
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>157,823</b>

2014 - 2017 Net Income	\$	(9,497)
Starting Bank Balance Jan 2014	\$	10,482
<b>Ending Net Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>985</b>

'Without GO Fund support I would not have graduated and now I am walking down the aisle and ready to be a teacher'

-Delphine, Kenya Scholarship Recipient



Sew for Sisterhood program participant / Ghana

# GO FUND



Jennifer Burlison, key volunteer whose fundraising and work in Ghana helped establish the permanent residence for the Home for Hope

The Global Opportunity fund wishes to thank all of our donors and supporters over the years. Our organization was built on the generosity of individuals since this is where a majority of our support comes from. Featured on this page are two key volunteers and a few corporate institutions that provided much-needed and much-appreciated support. These corporate sponsors and volunteers, together with individual donors, have provided opportunities to women and children in need. Our support and funding has, in many cases, been the catalyst that these beneficiaries needed to transform their circumstances and create a better life for themselves and their families.



Anne Louise Wagner, key volunteer who assisted in fund-raising, establishing new programs, a volunteer program, and professionalizing the GO Funds approach to program monitoring.



## **Dining Alliance, John & Ana Davie**

John Davie, a board member of the GO Fund, his wife Ana and his company Dining Alliance have given an annual gift to support Pathfinder for over three years. Without the Davies' generosity we would not be able to educate over 350 children per year. In 2017 their gift went to buying 16 computers and building more classrooms.

## **Appledore Marine & Robert & Darcy Snover**

Thank you for years of generosity from Appledore Marine and the Snovers. Appledore has been a founding donor for both the Home for Hope and Pathfinder, enabling us to make improvements to these facilities that serve hundreds of children each year. Appledore and the Snovers' graciously funded the children's health insurance program.

## **Montchevre**

Montchevre funded many critical infrastructure projects, the most significant being the construction of the adolescent clinic. This project also enabled water to be accessible to the orphanage. Also AYD was honored to host the family for a trip to Ghana several years back.



Microloan program participant / Ghana



Sew for Sisterhood / Ghana

# GO FUND



**Global Opportunity Fund**  
**24 Kosciuszko Street, Suite 4B**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11205**

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Pathfinder Academy opening ceremony / Ghana



Maggie, scholarship recipient / Ghana



Original microloan program, group members / Uganda