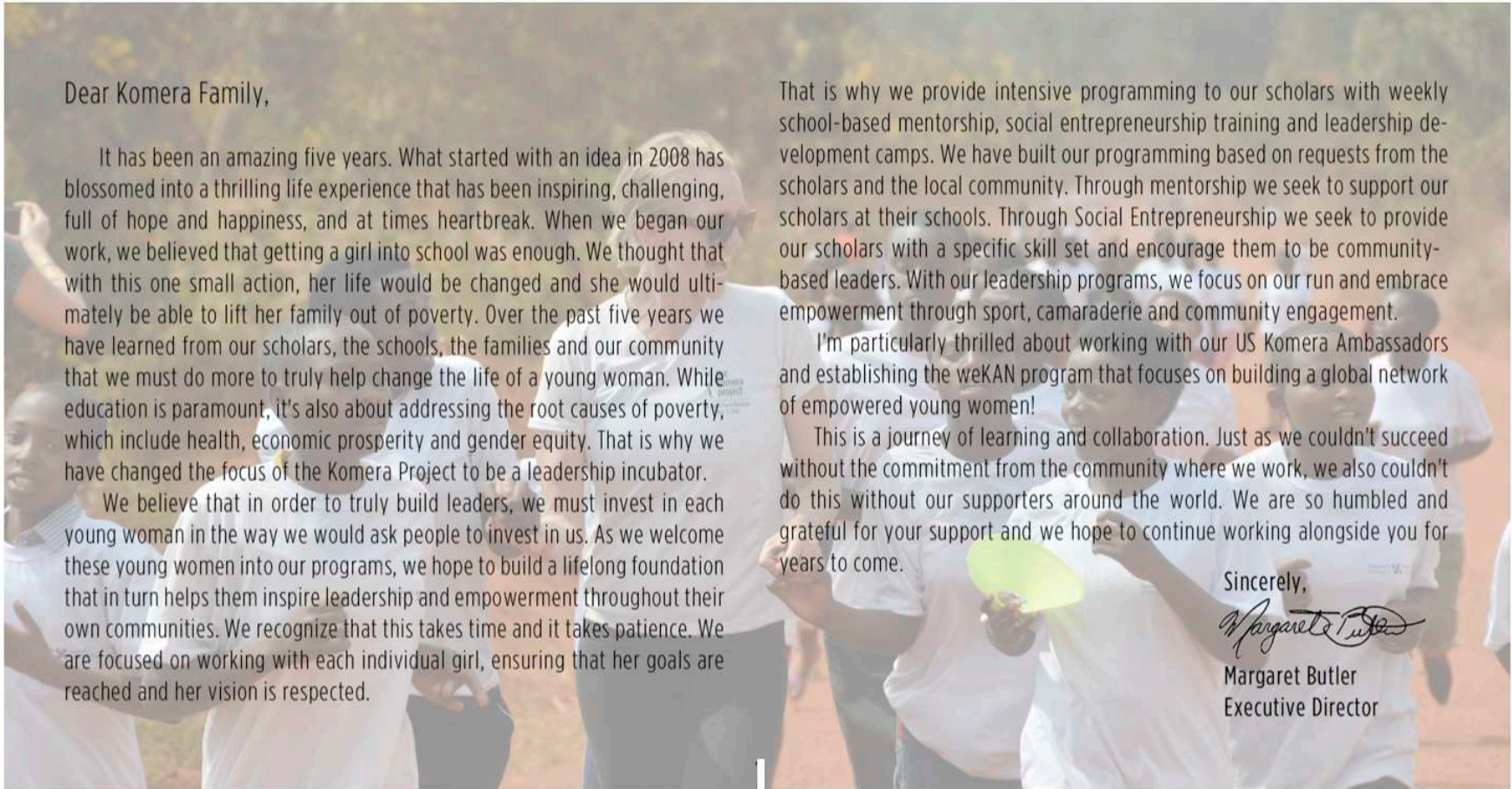




The Komera Project

Compassion. Determination. Leadership

A Year in Stories: 2012 - 2013



Dear Komera Family,

It has been an amazing five years. What started with an idea in 2008 has blossomed into a thrilling life experience that has been inspiring, challenging, full of hope and happiness, and at times heartbreak. When we began our work, we believed that getting a girl into school was enough. We thought that with this one small action, her life would be changed and she would ultimately be able to lift her family out of poverty. Over the past five years we have learned from our scholars, the schools, the families and our community that we must do more to truly help change the life of a young woman. While education is paramount, it's also about addressing the root causes of poverty, which include health, economic prosperity and gender equity. That is why we have changed the focus of the Komera Project to be a leadership incubator.

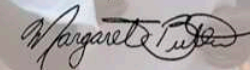
We believe that in order to truly build leaders, we must invest in each young woman in the way we would ask people to invest in us. As we welcome these young women into our programs, we hope to build a lifelong foundation that in turn helps them inspire leadership and empowerment throughout their own communities. We recognize that this takes time and it takes patience. We are focused on working with each individual girl, ensuring that her goals are reached and her vision is respected.

That is why we provide intensive programming to our scholars with weekly school-based mentorship, social entrepreneurship training and leadership development camps. We have built our programming based on requests from the scholars and the local community. Through mentorship we seek to support our scholars at their schools. Through Social Entrepreneurship we seek to provide our scholars with a specific skill set and encourage them to be community-based leaders. With our leadership programs, we focus on our run and embrace empowerment through sport, camaraderie and community engagement.

I'm particularly thrilled about working with our US Komera Ambassadors and establishing the weKAN program that focuses on building a global network of empowered young women!

This is a journey of learning and collaboration. Just as we couldn't succeed without the commitment from the community where we work, we also couldn't do this without our supporters around the world. We are so humbled and grateful for your support and we hope to continue working alongside you for years to come.

Sincerely,



Margaret Butler
Executive Director

THE JOURNEY OF A KOMERA SCHOLAR



WE WORK TOGETHER WITH SCHOOLS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO SELECT A PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN WHO NO LONGER HAS THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO CONTINUE SCHOOL AND SHE BECOMES A SCHOLAR.



SHE IS WELCOMED TO HER NEW SCHOOL BY OUR **SOCIAL WORKER**, SHE MEETS HER **MENTOR**, AND SHE RECEIVES ALL THE **MATERIALS** SHE NEEDS FOR A HEALTHY, HAPPY SCHOOL YEAR.



OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS OF HER SPONSORSHIP, SHE WILL ANNUALLY ATTEND



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS FOR GRASSROOT EMPOWERMENT



SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS THE GIRLS ACADEMY FOR CONSCIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE



THE KOMERA GLOBAL RUN AND EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT



IN THE END OUR SCHOLAR IS AN EMPOWERED LEADER, READY TO TAKE ON A **FUTURE** OF HER CHOOSING.

The Komera Project TIMELINE THEN & NOW

IN 2009, THE KOMERA PROJECT BECAME AN OFFICIAL NON-PROFIT WITH 501C3 CORPORATION STATUS IN THE USA.



2009



IN 2011 WE HOSTED OUR FIRST POST-RUN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT WHERE THE GIRLS WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO DEFINE WHAT BEING A KOMERA SCHOLAR WOULD MEAN FOR THEM.

2011



IN 2013, WE HOSTED OUR FIRST ANNUAL KOMERA GLOBAL RUN. ON JUNE 19TH OVER 40 CITIES FROM 6 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED BY ORGANIZING RUNS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE ALSO HIRED OUR SECOND STAFF MEMBER, A RWANDAN SOCIAL WORKER NAMED EVELYNE.

2013

2008



IN MAY OF 2008, WE HAD OUR FIRST ANNUAL FUN RUN IN RWANDA. OVER 300 GIRLS SHOWED UP TO RUN WHILE THEIR MALE PEERS CHEERED THEM ON. IT WAS A GREAT FIRST STEP TOWARDS EMPOWERING GIRLS WITH SPORT.

2010



IN 2010, TWENTY MORE GIRLS BECAME KOMERA SCHOLARS, ALL SCHOLARS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THEIR CURRENT BOARDING SCHOOLS, AND EACH SCHOLAR RECEIVED A HOME VISIT FROM MARGARET.

2012

IN 2012, WITH THE HELP OF THE HOW FUND, OUR MENTOR PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO HIRE OUR FIRST SOCIAL WORKER. MARGARET BEGAN WORKING FULL TIME FOR THE KOMERA PROJECT AND WE LAUNCHED OUR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM, THE GIRLS ACADEMY FOR CONSCIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE.



WHAT'S GOING ON FOR GIRLS IN RWANDA AND AROUND THE WORLD?

IN RWANDA

LESS THAN 13% OF GIRLS
ATTEND SECONDARY
SCHOOL, AND ONLY 29% OF
THOSE GIRLS GRADUATE

ONE EXTRA YEAR OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL
BOOSTS A GIRL'S EVENTUAL
WAGE EARNINGS BY 15-20%

FEMALE LITERACY

IS LINKED WITH
DRASTIC REDUCTIONS
OF UNWANTED
PREGNANCIES AND
CHILD MORTALITY.

IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

FEWER THAN 1
IN 5 GIRLS MAKE IT TO THE
SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL.

WOMEN

ACCOUNT FOR 70%
OF THE WORLD'S POOR,
AND ONLY 1% OF THE
WORLD'S WEALTHY.

INVESTING IN A GIRL'S FUTURE

CAN HELP BREAK A GLOBAL
CYCLE OF POVERTY.

THE KOMERA PROJECT 2013 IN STORIES

In 2008, **Janviere** was one of Komera Project's first scholars - she couldn't speak English and was barely passing in school. It was not because of a lack of intelligence or drive, it was an issue of circumstance. She lived at home with extended family and was treated as house help. She was never

able to get to school on time, finish her homework or study for her tests.

As the years progressed, Janviere quickly picked up English and became one of Komera's most trusted advisors. As a student she was able to share with the staff what the needs were of the scholars and recommend what would be most valuable moving forward. She continues to do this on an annual basis and this year, Janviere took her role as President of the Komera Scholars to a whole new level.

Without any consultation she recognized that someone needed to step forward to organize the annual Komera Empowerment Summit. She therefore wrote a play, a song, and organized a dance with the other scholars perform. She took everything that she has

learned with the Komera Project about leadership and implemented it to perfection. It was a proud moment as we realized that we truly are building a group of **empowered young women**.



Janviere and Margaret at the Empowerment Summit Camp in June 2013, following the Komera Global Run.

Mama Clenie, the mother of one of our komera scholars, represents the ripple effect of girls education. Before her daughter, Clenie, was a Komera Scholar, Mama Clenie saw how depressed and withdrawn she was. With each day that her daughter couldn't attend school, Mama Clenie felt more and more powerless and guilty that she couldn't provide the happiness of education to her daughter. She agonized over her inability to educate her daughter and provide for her family.

When Clenie became a Komera Scholar, everything changed. **Clenie's hope spread and hope grew within her mother.** Mama Clenie felt empowered enough to take control of her livelihood, and she bought a rabbit. One rabbit turned into many rabbits, and Mama Clenie now runs an effective rabbit empire. She sells the rabbits at the market and with that money she

has been able to send her other children to school. She also utilizes her garden to cultivate a number of things, buys and sells goats, and she is currently saving up to buy a house that she can transition into a store. In the long term, she hopes to start a loan business that would allow others to start up or expand their own businesses and encourage growth within the local community.



Margaret, Clenie, and Mama Clenie

Mama Clenie also plays an important role in the newly established Parent Association of

Komera Scholars, a group started by the parents of Komera Scholars to help raise funds. They meet on a monthly basis to engage the broader community and discuss issues of girls education.

The powerful ripple effect of girls education gave Mama Clenie the confidence to grow her own home business and enable herself to provide for her family. Clenie is doing very well in school and hopes to be a doctor someday.



Mama Clenie



THE KOMERA GLOBAL RUN

WHAT IT IS: THE KOMERA GLOBAL RUN IS THE WAY IN WHICH WE UTILIZE SPORT AS A TOOL FOR EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. OUR ANNUAL FUN RUN IN RWANDA IS A LONG TIME TRADITION OF THE KOMERA PROJECT, WHERE GIRLS CAN GATHER TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH SPORT AND BE CHEERED ON BY THEIR MALE PEERS.

WHY WE DO IT: WITH OUR ANNUAL KOMERA GLOBAL RUN, PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD CAN GATHER ON THE SAME DAY TO RUN IN SOLIDARITY WITH YOUNG WOMEN IN RWANDA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

THE IMPACT: THE ANNUAL GIRLS ONLY RUN HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT STEP IN RESHAPING THE HISTORICAL GENDER NARRATIVE FOR GIRLS IN RWANDA. IT IS ONE OF THE ONLY TIMES THAT GIRLS IN RWANDA CAN PARTICIPATE IN SPORT WHILE BEING CHEERED ON BY THEIR MALE PEERS, CREATING AN UNMATCHED SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT AND CONFIDENCE.

KGR THIS YEAR: THIS YEAR AT OUR FIRST KOMERA GLOBAL RUN ON JUNE 19, **OVER 400 GIRLS** SHOWED UP TO RUN IN RWANDA, AND PEOPLE FROM **40 CITIES IN 6 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES** CAME TOGETHER TO **RUN IN SOLIDARITY.**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED: THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN A KOMERA GLOBAL RUN! YOU CAN ORGANIZE A RUN IN YOUR COMMUNITY ON THE GLOBAL RUN DATE, YOU CAN SPONSOR A RUNNER FROM ANOTHER AREA, OR YOU CAN EVEN JUST COME AND CHEER US ON. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT OUR 2014 KOMERA GLOBAL RUN!

HERE ARE A FEW
OF OUR **KOMERA**
GLOBAL RUN
PARTICIPANTS
FROM THIS YEAR...



CALGARY, ALBERTA



LIAONING, CHINA



NEW YORK CITY, USA



BOSTON, USA



OREGON, USA



SEATTLE, USA



RWINKWAVU, RWANDA



BOWEN ISLAND, CANADA

WE HOPE YOU'LL
RUN WITH US IN
SOLIDARITY
AGAIN IN 2014!

THE **KOMERAGLOBALRUN** 2013



WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR FROM 2008-2013



75
KOMERA SCHOLARS



75
SUITCASES



75
BACKPACKS



500+
BEDDING MATERIALS



1200
PENS



2400
SANITARY PADS



5400
BATHING & LAUNDRY
SOAPS



6600
NOTEBOOKS



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
DONORS

& our past and present **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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