



2024: A YEAR IN REVIEW

MONTESSORI GLOBAL GROWTH FUND

MGGF GRANT SPOTLIGHT LILIMA HIGH SCHOOL

Serving students with unique challenges, abilities and learning needs, Lilima High School opened in 2017, initially serving 22 adolescent students in a temporary location. Lilima has grown to serve many more students in a permanent location—a **pioneer in their community and country of Eswatini where education opportunities for children with disabilities are sparse**—and serves as the second international school in Eswatini and one of the very few Montessori High schools in Southern Africa. Thanks to the support of our donors and dedicated grant liaisons, MGGF has helped Lilima in their prioritized goal to operate their school with Montessori-trained staff. When faced with the obstacle of insufficient funding to train one of their teachers, we were able to help Lilima find new solutions and, with an additional grant, to enable training for four of their staff, with two earning diplomas and the other two earning certificates, all within the same cohort of teachers. **We are thrilled to serve as an ongoing support to enhance Lilima's growth into an exceptional learning community.**



Read more inspiring stories like this online at www.montessori-mggf.org or scan the QR code!





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

JULIE JOHNSON

Without our volunteers, the success of MGGF would be greatly limited. This is especially true for one of our star volunteers, Julie Johnson, who works as one of our Grant Committee Liaisons. Julie joined us after first hearing about MGGF in the Spring of 2022 as part of her school's initiative to be part of the Children for Change campaign to raise money for children in Ukraine. Inspired by her desire to gain

international perspective, Julie is passionate in her belief **in the depth of learning and**

peace-building that can come from human connections beyond the borders of our home countries.

Julie began volunteering with MGGF in early 2023 and has played an integral role in our grant-making processes ever since.

She enjoys the opportunity to use her experience in granting, nonprofit administration, and Montessori to support the fulfillment of others' dreams.

We are honored to count Julie as one of our esteemed members and feel incredibly honored that she has offered her passion, talents and commitment to our shared purpose. Our grant liaisons perform one of our most important roles—**helping us to understand our applicants' needs and situations better.** This not only facilitates our grant-making processes, it also enhances the rigor of our organization and our capacity to serve communities in sustainable ways to increase access to a Montessori education worldwide. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with MGGF, please contact us via our website at www.montessori-mggf.org/volunteering.

CURRENT GRANT APPLICANT

UNIDAS PARA VIVIR MEJOR

UPAVIM (Unidas Para Vivir Mejor) is a grassroots organization dedicated to empowering the community of La Esperanza, Guatemala, through education and economic opportunity. Founded in 1988 by a group of determined women, UPAVIM has evolved into a key community organization that addresses the urgent threats of poverty, violence, and social isolation facing the residents of La Esperanza and surrounding areas. One way they are addressing the needs in their community is through Montessori education. They are sending one of their teachers to acquire her AMI Elementary guide diploma, after which she will coordinate and facilitate Montessori implementation, providing training to other teachers at the school and leading parent workshops.

Through a transformational gift, MGGF will support UPAVIM in their aim to provide well-trained Montessori teachers to ensure high-quality education from infancy through 6th grade.

“ I HAVE ALWAYS FELT PASSIONATE ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, AND SECURING ACCESS TO A MONTESSORI EDUCATION PROVIDES JUST THIS, THE RIGHT OF THE CHILD TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN DESIRES AND INTERESTS AND FALL IN LOVE WITH LEARNING IN A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT. I SAW IN THE MGGF THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SOME SMALL PART IN REALIZING THIS DREAM FOR SCHOOLS GLOBALLY. ”



2024 IN REVIEW



More than doubled
our grant-giving
over last year to
serve 17 communities!



Enhanced grant
processing to serve
more applicants
with increased rigor



Developed new
partnerships to
magnify support for
growing Montessori
communities

ONGOING GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY



ENHANCED MONITORING
AND EVALUATION



INCREASED EXPOSURE FOR
MONTESSORI EDUCATION



BROADENING OUTREACH OF
SUPPORT TO NEW APPLICANTS



EXPANDING ADMINISTRATIVE
CAPACITY TO MEET DEMAND



INCREASING GRANT
AWARDS



MAGNIFYING PARTNERSHIPS
TO BOLSTER YOUNG PROGRAMS

MONTESSORI GLOBAL GROWTH FUND WHY IT MATTERS

Although access to formal education worldwide has vastly improved over the last century, the last few decades has seen a flat-line of growth. Why? I believe this is because these are the most marginalized and difficult-to-reach children in the world. The numbers are staggering: recent estimates indicate that **258 million children worldwide are not attending school, and that by the year 2030, 63% of the world's children will be living in the countries with the lowest access to education.**

While some institutions and organizations strive to insert formal schooling opportunities in remote locations, we recognize that the greatest strengths lie in the community itself—**where self-determined application brings the highest likelihood of long-lasting impact for children and families.**

At MGGF, we recognize that community-driven Montessori programs are the best way to reach children where they are at in culturally-appropriate ways. The greatest changes in society happen in small but meaningful ways by individuals and communities who are determined and passionate about serving where they are planted.

Montessori education is uniquely positioned to serve children where they are at, in holistic ways to prepare them for their unique circumstances with a life that they value. That's why we support communities in their own settings and with their self-initiated projects, to enhance their work to provide Montessori education to children in their community.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.MONTESSORI-MGGF.ORG
TO LEARN MORE!

A MESSAGE FROM

Victoria Johnson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a joyful journey this last year has been! After years of research on how Montessori is used worldwide—and how it is uniquely positioned to transform global education opportunities for marginalized children worldwide—it was the most natural thing in the world to step into the position of Executive Director to lead this organization.

I am in awe of the fundamental work that Eleanor Latimer generated in founding this organization. Her tireless effort and energy has manifested into a strong, vibrant, and healthy organization that is growing and blossoming in remarkable ways.

This year, we have built on that foundation to build awareness, enhance our grant-making processes, define new areas for growth, and meet the demands of an expanding organization.

We are thrilled to see the number of—and diversity across—our grant applications expand each year, and we are stretching the resources at our disposal to answer those requests with greater rigor than ever before. This has happened in three ways:

by building awareness to fundraise on behalf of these Montessori communities and bolster support across partnerships and the broader Montessori community;

by creatively learning how to “do more with less” to safeguard funds for their intended purpose while maintaining and building an organization that is fully prepared to meet an ever-increasing demand for the work;

by using research- and evidence-driven decisions to ensure the greatest likelihood of sustainable and meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

“

WE ARE GAINING MOMENTUM TO ANSWER THE CALL OF OUR MISSION—TO SUPPORT THE INFINITE POTENTIAL OF CHILDREN BY ENSURING ACCESS TO MONTESSORI EDUCATION WORLDWIDE TO CHILDREN IN MARGINALIZED AND UNDER-RESOURCED SETTINGS.

”

As we look ahead, The opportunities for growth are astounding, and we are gaining momentum to answer the call of our mission—to support the infinite potential of children by ensuring access to Montessori education worldwide to children in marginalized and under-resourced settings.

We do this by supporting the communities that are passionately serving these children; enhancing and supporting their practice by providing access to teacher training, Montessori materials, and necessary infrastructure. **We are continually learning and identifying how best to support these passionate programs on their path of growth, and we invite you to join with your support!**

With Gratitude,

Victoria Johnson
Executive Director