

## Annual Report

August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017

Assistance to the Mercy Project in Kenya



# Mercy Center Foundation, USA

## Message from Sr. Rose

This 2016-2017 year has come so fast and we have enjoyed tremendous growth at the Mother of Mercy Girls School and Project in Lare, Kenya. The Mercy Girls Secondary School has 400 girls enrolled and more than 125 new freshmen bringing our overall enrollment to more than 400 students for next year.

This year we succeeded in establishing a partnership with Commissioned by Christ of the Arlington Diocese in Virginia. The mission trip hosted 21 volunteers from all over the U.S., eager to help us with our dormitory efforts, and to meet the girls at the school. This first trip was a big success and brought us closer to Christ and towards building a deeper friendship with the U.S. Communities. I look forward to our continued collaboration with the Arlington Diocese in future.

I am happy to share this report about the progress we made in 2016-2017. This year, two of our graduates received scholarships! One is attending the University of Texas in El Paso with a full track scholarship! Another graduate is in Italy attending the University of Gastronomic Sciences to study bio-diversity, nutrition and organic food farming. These are great successes for us!

Thank you so much for supporting the mission and vision of the work of the Mercy Project over these past years and for the love and friendship that you demonstrate towards our community in Lare, Kenya.

With my deepest thanks and prayers for your continued support in the years to come,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SR. ROSE WANGUI', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Sr. Rose Wangui, VHM

Founder, Mercy Center Foundation, USA

## Summary

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA seeks to provide the Lare community in Kenya with international, humanitarian and technical assistance to support access to clean water, a basic health care clinic and a girl's secondary school which assists more than girls to attain a high school education. The work of the mercy project directly impacts the lives of villagers and has dramatically improved their future opportunities for a better life. Previously excluded from going to school, more than 400 girls (ages 13-20) are doing well in school and many have the real prospect of attending universities upon their graduation.

The Mother of Mercy Girls School has fifteen full time teachers, and three security guards, three cooks, a nurse for the clinic, a driver, two farm hands, a secretary and Principal of the School. This year, a Mercy Project Manager been employed by the school directly to oversee the management and operations of the Secondary School and the Farm Projects. With more expansion, we will need to hire additional employees to help with sharing responsibilities of the growing school and farm program.

## Report on Project Activities

### First Missionary Trip to Lare, Kenya in July 2017

Our main efforts in 2016-2017 focused on building a supportive relationship with the Diocese of Arlington and sending the first missionary team to Kenya. The team led by Michelle Haworth, Executive Director of Commissioned by Christ and Fr. Jamie Workman brought 21 missionaries to help build and construct the new girls' dormitory. As of this writing those dormitories are more than 60% constructed and we anticipate their completion in Spring/Summer 2018.

The missionaries were so moved by the experience and have volunteered to lead some fundraising efforts in their communities as well as support the Mercy Center Foundation's activities for 2018.

Many students on the trip were able to get to know one another from high schools, colleges began to understand the Kenya experience from the standpoint of the girl child. Strong bonds of friendship developed as several of the participants returned to the US and began to support efforts to help finish the construction of the school. Our first Georgetown Half Marathon held in October 2017 followed the July 2017 trip. Many in the group expressed that they learned more about themselves through the missionary experience. Cathy O'Brien from Philadelphia had a tremendous experience and is now raising 20K for very needed furniture and supplies for the newly built dining hall. Others helped to secure support from their companies and for the Georgetown Half Marathon and the Mercy 5K to help support the Mercy Girls' School.





The Missionaries (Alex Manos, Tyler Glotfelty, Fr. Jamie Workman and Brynn Doherty) moving the cement to fill the walls of the new girls' dormitory. Everyone worked hard to help get the first floor up during their stay in Kenya.

Another mission trip now scheduled for July 5-16, 2018 will help with the light painting and construction needs for the school. Groups will also conduct visits to the homes of local villagers to gain first-hand knowledge of living conditions and the difficulties encountered by families in rural Kenya today.

Many pictures highlighted the great work of this first mission team as well as their one-day Safari trip to Lake Nakuru. Carmen Hamm, a graduate of Georgetown Visitation posted a video for all sharing her experience to help spread the word about this project. [CBC 2017 video](#) Great photos were shared by all at the annual Commissioned by Christ fundraising dinner held at St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia in September 2017.

The Mercy Board expresses its deepest gratitude to the 2017 CBC missionaries for your dedication and very hard work as well as your sense of humor and great team spirit!



Pictured are the 2017 Missionaries who assisted Sr. Rose in building the dormitories. Thanks to Ullico sponsors for our great tee shirts and all the support!

The missionaries also helped to promote the Kenya project in their own communities and schools and many have invited Sr. Rose to come and speak to their parishes. In 2016-2017, Sr. Rose succeeded in raising substantial funds for the dormitory project by speaking to parishioners' at St. Luke's in McLean, St. Anthony's of Padua in Falls Church, St. Joseph's in Alexandria, Our Lady of Victory in Washington, D.C., and St. James Cathedral in Florida. Many parishes welcomed the opportunity to meet Sr. Rose and to hear more about Kenya and the necessary work of supporting girls' education. Over \$100,000K was raised towards the building of the dormitories which will house all students at the Mercy Girls School once completed.

More pictures and videos documenting the Missionary trip can be found at [mercyproject.org](http://mercyproject.org) under the photo gallery.

Sr. Rose also loved being in Kenya during the visit of the Missionaries in July 2017 and said, "this visit cemented a new U.S. friendship with Kenya and gave the girls hope and deeper understanding of how international programs demonstrate U.S. support. We are about empowering girls to achieve their full potential."





Sr. Rose pictured on the upper level of the dorms which are in the process of being completed.  
(November 2017)



Enjoying their new friends in Kenya, the Mercy Girls and CBC missionaries.

### Conrad Hilton Fund Supports New Computer Lab for the Mercy Girls Secondary School

In late 2017, the Mercy Project applied for and received approval from the Conrad Hilton Fund for Religious Sisters for the purchase of 15 computers and two printers for a mini-computer lab to support students. The project will be undertaken in early 2018, and current classroom space will support the new Computer Lab. The teachers are excited to establish new computer lab classes for the students. Their wish is to help to expand it in future as it will allow advanced programs to be taught to upper level third and fourth year students to prepare them for future college level course requirement programs.

Sr. Rose and the Mercy Bd. express our continued gratitude to the Conrad Hilton Fund over the years; "We have been able to build a small income for the school through the piggery project and farming projects. We have also been able to support water harvesting efforts that help to maintain crops and food for the students attending the school. We would be nowhere without the Conrad Hilton Fund for Religious Sisters which has helped me to make the Mercy Project a reality."



### Completed Dining Hall will be named after President Uhuru Kenyatta

Constructed of quarry stones and steel with solid roofing, the expanded dining hall will provide sanitary and sheltered eating environment. With its special construction, the hall will remain cool, enabling the students to have a comfortable environment. The original dining hall project started initially with funds from the Loyola Foundation in the U.S. and was continued through successful fundraising efforts by the Mercy Board in Lare, Kenya. Local support for the Mercy School continues to increase each year.

The Hall once completed will serve as a main dining hall and meeting room for parents, students and it will also host the monthly masses for the girls. There are also plans to allow the villagers and farmers to meet here and to study bio-diversity and organic farming in the off season, to increase their cooperation and understanding of the new methods and ideas to help farmers boost their production and maintain their goals for annual incomes.



Sr. Rose in front of the almost completed dining hall, November 2017.



Since the President's historic visit in 2016, many support the idea of naming the hall in his honor as he laid the foundation stone for the hall and called upon all present to continue support girls' education, peace and cooperation in their local communities.

## Mercy Center Foundation, USA Continues Races for Girls Education in Kenya

### Annual Mercy 5k Race for Girls Education in Kenya

The Mercy Center Foundation is proud to report that more than 140 runners joined us for the 2017 Mercy 5k Race for Girls Education in Kenya held each year in the spring. The race has grown and attracts new supporters, runners and citizens from all over the area. We were so pleased to have the wonderful music talent of Bach2Rock and their talented young musicians who offered great entertainment which followed the race! With wonderful support from the race sponsors including ETS, Georgetown Running Company, Saxby's, ULLICO, Bach to Rock, the Bricklayers International Union, De Carlos Studios, Soft Edge, Wisdom in Nutrition, Clyde's Restaurant Group, Barrel Oak Winery and the local community, raising 14k for dormitory construction.



Sr. Rose with her girl supporters and runners from the 2017 Mercy 5k!



Caroline Caraci, Carmen Hamm, Katherine Fink announcing the awards for the Mercy 5K 2017 race held at Bluemont Park in Arlington, Virginia.

The Mercy Board is grateful to all of the girls in the Haruma Club and their parents for their very giving spirits and generosity showed to Sr. Rose and the Mercy Project.

Girls, we simply could not have done the race without all of you and your parents and friends!



## Georgetown Half Marathon – at Fletcher’s Cove raised 40k for Kenya and Nepal

Partnering with Kaimont, LLC and the Safety and Health Foundation, the Mercy Project hosted its first half marathon to support girls’ education in Kenya and in Nepal. Kaimont, LLC, headed by Monika Paris is supporting girls’ education, girls’ empowerment and healthy lifestyles. The half marathon was a very successful event which brought more than 323 runners! The leading corporate sponsors were ETS Inc., Leidos and PR Partners. Both Adrianne Doherty and Monika Paris visited Kenya together in November 2017 and delivered the support to the School directly. They met with the Mercy Bd. in Lare to discuss developments and future progress of the school.

These races will continue in future and have become events that many look forward to each year with the full support of the community, friends of Sr. Rose and families that show their support. We are pleased to continue the fifth annual Mercy 5k, now planned for April 28, 2018. Another Georgetown Half-Marathon is also confirmed for October 6, 2018 at Fletcher’s Cove on the historic C&O Canal. All who support girls’ education are invited!



Pictured are Desta Morkama, winner of the 2017 Marine Corps. Marathon, Monika Paris, Executive Director of Kaimont, LLC, and Adrianne Doherty of the Mercy Project.

## Financial Report

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA undergoes financial reviews or audits each year and continues to be an organization in good standing. The board meets regularly to address the ongoing issues and projects as well as fundraising plans of the Foundation. Our financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2017 can be found on our website under the Donate Button.

## Looking forward to 2017-2018

The Mercy Center Foundation has accomplished much in this past year, and we continue to try to respond to the most critical needs arising in Kenya. The first half of 2018, we will continue to try to raise funds to complete the girls' dormitory. With a well built school, the Mother of Mercy Girls School plans to attract serious students each year, building a foundation and strong tradition of empowering the girl child in Kenya to achieve her dreams.

We are also still working on connecting the Mercy Girls School to the outside world with high speed internet, more computers and new science lab and a library--- providing updated new study spaces to inspire reading and serious after school study areas. With updated areas, girls can be inspired to work together more cooperatively and to build strong bonds of friendship that will sustain them long after they graduate from high school. Currently, there are girls from all tribes in Kenya working together at the school and learning the spirit of cooperation.

We will also seek to improve and advance the school's plan to become self-sustainable over the long term, by providing continued support for micro-enterprise programs focused on agrobusiness farming and skills training. These programs will help support their independence and strengthen their ability to support their own administrative budget and school programs.

We also welcome your ideas and volunteer service and support for our fundraising efforts. The Mercy Board welcomes your participation and ideas. We want to thank Georgetown Visitation for its help with this project including the *Haruma Club* students club and all those who demonstrate their interest and support.



Thank you for standing up for girls in Kenya and for sharing this project with your friends, family and colleagues. We ask you to step forward and get involved and help Sr. Rose together!

Mercy Center Foundation, USA

Brian J. Doherty, President

Lisa Williams, Finance

Bret Berlin, Member of the Bd.

Julie Waddell, Legal Counsel

Patricia Repko, Outreach

Adrianne V. Doherty, Special Projects

Tony DeCarlo, Website Communications

Please visit us at [www.mercyproject.org](http://www.mercyproject.org)

The Mercy Center Foundation, USA, P.O. Box 62814, Washington, DC 20029

We are a 501c3 organization and all donations are tax exempt. Tax id: 54-2124269



President Uhuru Kenyatta and Sr. Rose walking together among the villagers of Lare, Kenya.