Local change through global exchange®
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Dear Friends and Supporters of MCW,

There is an African proverb that says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” At MCW we have built a community of development practitioners, passionate staff, and supporters that are committed to seeing our programs reach their highest potential to support community transformation worldwide.

We thank you for your continued support as we enter our 16th year as an organization. Over the past year, MCW made a commitment to take on an ambitious strategic planning process that brought together all of MCW’s stakeholders to contribute to the participatory exercise. Under the guidance and leadership of Wellspring Consulting, dozens of meetings, interviews, and conversations have taken place with MCW’s global stakeholders – beneficiaries, donors, staff, and volunteers – with the goal of creating a plan for the next chapter in our organizational history.

While undertaking this process, MCW has continued to foster global change through the continuation of our programs in global youth development, community development, oral health care, and partner initiatives. The programs have impacted the lives of thousands of individuals and communities in Africa, the United States, and around the world. This is all possible due to the continued support, energy, passion and commitment from our partners, supporters, and dedicated team members.

We invite you to enjoy this 11th edition of The Corner, which highlights MCW’s achievements from 2014-2015.

Thank you for supporting MCW and the communities we serve to go far.

Sincerely,

Eddie Bergman
Co-founder & President of the Board of Directors

Khalid Elachi
Chief Operating Officer
MCW (Miracle Corners of the World) is a non-profit organization co-founded by Robert Alsbrooks and Eddie Bergman in 1999 with the vision Local Change through Global Exchange® and the mission: to empower youth to become positive agents of change in their communities. Based in New York, with registered partner organizations in Africa (Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia), MCW offers three core programs.
Global Youth Development

Helping youth build the skills, confidence, and networks to achieve their goals and contribute to their communities

"Being a part of the Youth Leadership Retreat family has given me a global network that I can rely on for resources, opportunities, support, and guidance. I am grateful to be a member of the MCW YLR family and hope I can always give back as much as everyone has given me."

Mallory Rothstein, MCW YLR Alumni

37 Youth Leadership Retreat Participants
17 Countries and Territories Represented

Social Issues Addressed by Youth Leadership Retreat participants

Entrepreneurship
Ethnic Conflict
Environment
Gender
Health
Exchange
Empowerment
Dialogue
Leadership Development
Communication
MCW held the **17th Annual Youth Leadership Retreat (YLR)** at Champlain College in Burlington, VT and New York University. The thirty-seven participants represented seventeen different countries and territories, including Armenia, Austria, Botswana, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Norway, the Palestinian Territories, Russia, South Africa, Tanzania, United States of America, and Zimbabwe, fostering a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and dialogue. At the conclusion of the retreat, each participant prepared a vision plan for a social change they would like to address in their local communities. The retreat included inspiring speakers and presentations by representatives from the UN Women He for She Campaign, Food4Farmers, The Dream Program, The Big Questions Project, SoundBoard Consulting, Connecting Character to Conduct, and Corporate Social Responsibility branches of Coca Cola, Seventh Generation, Keurig Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, and Ben & Jerry’s.
MCW Alumni Network

With over 700 youth graduates from MCW’s 17 Youth Leadership Retreats, our alumni span the globe making big changes in their communities. From Utah to Kosovo to Zimbabwe, our alumni have a support network available to them in all corners of the world.
Alumni Ventures Fund (AVF) grants of $4,000 were awarded to Abdu Mohamed of Tanzania and Dylan Howard of New Hampshire to implement their vision plans for change developed during the MCW Youth Leadership Retreat. In addition to seed funding, both recipients will receive a year of mentorship to guide them in their early stages of social entrepreneurship.

Abdu founded The Way Forward Foundation to educate communities in Tanzania by empowering youth through life skills training and education to support the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Dylan launched the Caterpillar Hill Initiative (CHI), an environmental preservation organization which engages and encourages people of all ages to deepen their connection to the natural world through outdoor education and community building.
Community Development Initiative

Developing and supporting community centers as spaces for skills development, entrepreneurship, and social services

“I believe development is about the people. MCW’s activities are targeted to improve the lives of people. If people’s lives are improved, I know that they can do whatever they need to do.”

Yvonne Chilufya Pande, MC-Zambia Board Member

724

Students Taking Courses at MCW

285

Students Enrolled in Vocational Programs

May 2014 - May 2015

450

Arusha, Tanzania

73

Songea, Tanzania

164

Arusha, Tanzania

65

Songea, Tanzania

32

Rwanda

169

Zambia

32

Rwanda

24

Zambia
Ages of students in all programs

May 2014 - May 2015

163 students involved in social programming

Percentage of female students

Arusha, Tanzania

Songea, Tanzania

Rwanda

Zambia
Sierra Leone

This past year was challenging for the MC-Sierra Leone center staff and program participants due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In response to the Ebola crisis, MC-Sierra Leone team members reopened the “Kono Soap Shed” to provide 1,445 bars of disinfectant soap to community members and NGOs to fight the spread of Ebola.

Zambia

The MC-Zambia Center launched a literacy program and a computer remediation program, which has attracted a number of participants from the community, providing affordable access to education in the community. MC-Zambia received a certificate of accreditation by the Technical Education, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Authority (TEVETA) for tailoring and computer courses at the Chanyanya Center.

Rwanda

The MC-Rwanda team received official approval from the Workforce Development Authority (WDA) to provide Computer Technician and Tailoring courses at the MC-Rwanda Center in Kayenzi, Bugesera. MC-Rwanda also hired a new Youth Coordinator who has organized over 80 children and youth in the community into various dance troops, mixing traditional and modern dance. Additionally, there have been various trainings for income generating activities such as basket weaving, jewelry making, embroidery, and knitting.
Arusha, Tanzania

The MCT-Arusha team renovated the center as it was the first MCW community center built nearly fifteen years ago. They repaired damages from rain, re-painted the walls, and upgraded the computer lab with twenty new desktop computers and desks for the classroom.

Songea, Tanzania

The MCT-Songea team received accreditation by the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) to offer IT/computer courses at the Songea Center. The Songea team also launched a social group with local youth in the community to educate peers in life skills, health, and entrepreneurship. MCT-S also formed a soccer team that competes with other local teams in the community.

George Sideris Memorial Scholarship Fund

This year was an exciting year for MCW George Sideris Memorial Scholarship Fund recipients. MC-Tanzania Country Director Abdu Mohamed, the first scholarship recipient, graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Arusha.

Innocent Nizeyimana received his Master’s Degree in Environmental Science at the Open University of Tanzania. Innocent serves on MC-Rwanda’s Board of Directors and first joined MCW in 2008 for the planning and construction of the MC-Rwanda Community Center in Kayenzi as head engineer.

MC-Rwanda Country Director Solange Uwimbabazi is completing her Master’s in Business Administration and Mary Nsunga, MC-Zambia Assistant Center Coordinator, is pursuing a double degree in National Public Administration and Human Resources.
Oral Health Care

Achieving lasting oral health improvement in Tanzania through infrastructure upgrades, capacity building, and dental outreaches

“MCW has recognized an opportunity to address neglected oral health needs in Tanzania through the NYU College of Nursing’s Global Scholars Program. In this unique and important partnership between MCW, NYUCN, MUHAS, and the Government of Tanzania through its Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Global Scholars Program will work to build oral health capacity among nurses in Tanzania.”

Dr. Ann Kurth, Executive Director, NYU College of Nursing and Global Associate Dean for Research, NYU Global Institute of Public Health

2,500 were screened or treated during dental outreaches in Songea and Mbeya, Tanzania

100+ students and staff trained on new oral health care management software at Tanzania’s MUHAS

$11,506 of dental supplies to support oral health care programs in Tanzania

6 dental therapy students trained in primary school preventive dental outreach programs

May 2014 - May 2015
In 2014, MCW completed an infrastructure upgrade to enable the MUHAS School of Dentistry to digitize all record keeping, facilitate patient workflow, and monitor procedures and revenue management. During the ten-day training and installation program, team members from Henry Schein, Inc., the primary donor of the computers, practice management software, Dentrix® Enterprise, and the digital X-ray equipment, trained over 100 oral health care professionals and clerical support staff to customize, utilize, and maintain the software, the first of its kind in Africa.

MCW's 10th Dental Outreach took place in Songea, Tanzania. During the two-week outreach, a team of American and Tanzanian dental professionals provided patients with free emergency care at the Liana Cohen Dental Clinic. Three local primary schools were visited and 1,127 students received oral health education, free screening, and were referred to the clinic for free treatment as needed. In addition to providing much-needed care to the Songea community, six students from the Dental Therapy Training School in Mbeya joined the dynamic team to receive supplemental oral health training and hands-on experience.

Under the leadership of Dr. Marion Bergman, MCW facilitated a historic partnership to provide interdisciplinary healthcare training in Tanzania. The partnership between the Government of Tanzania through its Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), New York University (NYU) College of Nursing and, MCW aims to provide an innovative solution to address the inadequate access to oral health care in Tanzania through NYU’s Global Nurse Scholars Program. In the program, a curriculum will be created to train nurses in the field in basic oral health care.
Partner Initiatives

Pediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa (PATA)

With the PATA Partner Initiative, MCW sponsors the participation of pediatric specialists from Songea, Tanzania to attend the annual Pediatric Treatment for AIDS for Africa (PATA) Forum in Africa, where participants discuss challenges in delivering HIV treatment in rural regions and possible solutions. The PATA 2014 Continental Summit was held in Johannesburg, South Africa and received funding support from MCW.
In February 2015, MCW began a 5-month strategic planning process with Wellspring Consulting to establish plans for the future of the organization. In March, MCW convened an organizational-wide meeting in Kigali, Rwanda as part of the strategic planning process. The MCW International Board of Directors, MCW Country Board Members, and Africa and U.S.-based staff participated in the strategic planning process facilitated by Wellspring Consulting. During the meeting, MCW team members visited the MC-Rwanda Center in Bugesera where they had the opportunity to see cultural performances by the center dance troupe, take a tour of the center, and have discussions with the center staff and program participants. MCW was honored to welcome Ambassador Erica J. Barks-Ruggles, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, to the center.
In April 2014, MCW celebrated its 15th year of impact at its 10th annual gala at New York University’s Kimmel Center for University Life. The organization honored prominent individuals and organizations that share its mission and help sustain its programs through their personal leadership and philanthropic support. The event raised more than $950,000, which directly supports MCW’s global youth development, community development, and oral health care efforts in the United States and across Africa.
MCW Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2014
(Prepared for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions:
- Restricted $27,708
- Unrestricted $960,755
Total operating revenue $988,463

Non-operating revenue
- Investment income $2,266
Total non-operating revenue $2,266
Total revenue $988,463

EXPENSES

Program services:
- Community Development Programs $390,043
- Youth Leadership Training $160,319
- Partner Initiatives $19,482
- Health care outreach $103,058

Support services:
- Management and general $37,439
- Fund-raising $90,780

Total expenses $801,120

Notes
1. Cash and Cash Equivalents: MCW considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.
2. MCW receives in-kind support from various sources in support of its projects. In-kind contributions are reported as contributions and expenses in the accompanying statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund net assets at their estimated fair value at date of donation. In-kind contributions for the year ended December 31, 2014 recorded in the financial statements were $12,306. Included in this amount are: $800 for Youth Leadership Programs; and $11,506 for Oral Health Care Programs. In-kind contributions of volunteer time or technical assistance are not included in these numbers.
3. The Statement of Financial Position was prepared by an independent auditor, Peter J. Bertuglia (Certified Public Accountant, P.C.). Copies are available on file at MCW’s office in New York City.
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Vinay Vaswani, Design and Concept
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MCW (Miracle Corners of the World, Inc.) is a U.S.-registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions to MCW are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.