



"TEACH HER SHE CAN RUN
THE WORLD"
KOMERA GLOBAL RUN 2014

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THE WORLD"
KOMERA GLOBAL RUN

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 **KOMERA**
Self Confidence, One Girl at a Time.
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Our Spotlight Scholar
Dianne Uwamaharo



Sister Laetitia
Musanabaganwa,
FAWE Girls' School
Headmistress



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Lake Kivu on the western
border of Rwanda



One of Komera's
entrepreneurship programs



Our 2014 Global Run





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What an incredible year! We have spent the past couple of years building programs that focus on the community we support in Rwanda. We want to ensure that these programs achieve the outcomes that will best serve our scholars and their families. Our community-based programs are vibrant and successful. It's exciting to watch them thrive!

This past June, I was fortunate to bring a wonderful group of supporters with me to Rwanda. **Several of the travelers noted the “trickle-down effect” of our programs.** While we work closely with our scholars, the work that they accomplish in the community is truly special. The scholars recognize the value of their knowledge and, in turn, educate small community groups on what they have been learning.

I would like to share with you a story about Komera Scholar Piorine. When we first met Piorine four years ago, she didn't speak any English and was a bit nervous about how she would succeed with Komera. Growing up, she lived with several different relatives because her mother

was critically ill and her father had remarried and started a new family. She ended up living with her aging grandmother who sadly passed away. Piorine felt that she had no one in life and relied heavily on the support of the Komera social worker team. Despite all her personal struggles, Piorine committed herself to school with Komera. **With hard work and a great deal of determination, Piorine graduated first in her class in December. This past month we learned that she received a full scholarship to the National University of Rwanda.** I have no doubt she will go on to do great things for Rwanda.

The work we did with Piorine exemplifies what we truly believe is the pathway to success. In order to really support a young woman, we must help her address multiple areas of her life. We have to help with her social-emotional development and ensure that she has all the materials she needs to successfully achieve high school graduation. We meet with her family and school teachers, and we provide her with mentors and the services of a social worker; we walk with her in solidarity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for walking with us in solidarity. This journey is a long one and we are committed to supporting these young women and their communities in Rwanda. Thank you for your belief, your support and your love.

MARGARET BUTLER



MISSION

In Rwanda, “Komera” means “be strong, have courage.” Komera builds self-confident young women through education, community and sport.

1. EDUCATION

Komera sponsors scholars with full tuition, including room and board, at a public boarding school in Rwanda. Komera also provides intensive leadership and social entrepreneurship training during school holidays.

2. COMMUNITY

Komera builds a local community of support for the scholars. At school, a scholar meets with her Komera mentor and fellow scholars once a week. At home, her parents work with the Komera Parent Co-Operative.

3. SPORT

Komera is unique because of its emphasis on empowerment and positive body image through sport. We host the annual Komera Global Run in June.



At Komera, we believe in a holistic approach to development composed of three pillars. Komera partner schools are located in and around Rwinkwavu, Rwanda.

WOMEN'S EDUCATION FACTS

COMPLICATIONS FROM PREGNANCY AND CHILDBIRTH ARE THE LEADING GLOBAL CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG TEEN GIRLS.

58% OF WOMEN WITH NO EDUCATION HAVE GIVEN BIRTH COMPARED TO **ONLY 17%** WITH SECONDARY EDUCATION

50% GREATER CHANCE THAT A CHILD WILL SURVIVE PAST THE AGE OF 5 IF THE MOTHER IS LITERATE

2X AN EDUCATED WOMAN IS TWICE AS LIKELY TO SEND HER KIDS TO SCHOOL

23% OF WOMEN CONTINUE TO HIGH SCHOOL

800,000 WOMEN AGE 15-24 ARE NOT IN SCHOOL

KOMERA AT-A-GLANCE

PRICE OF EDUCATION PER YEAR: \$500 USD



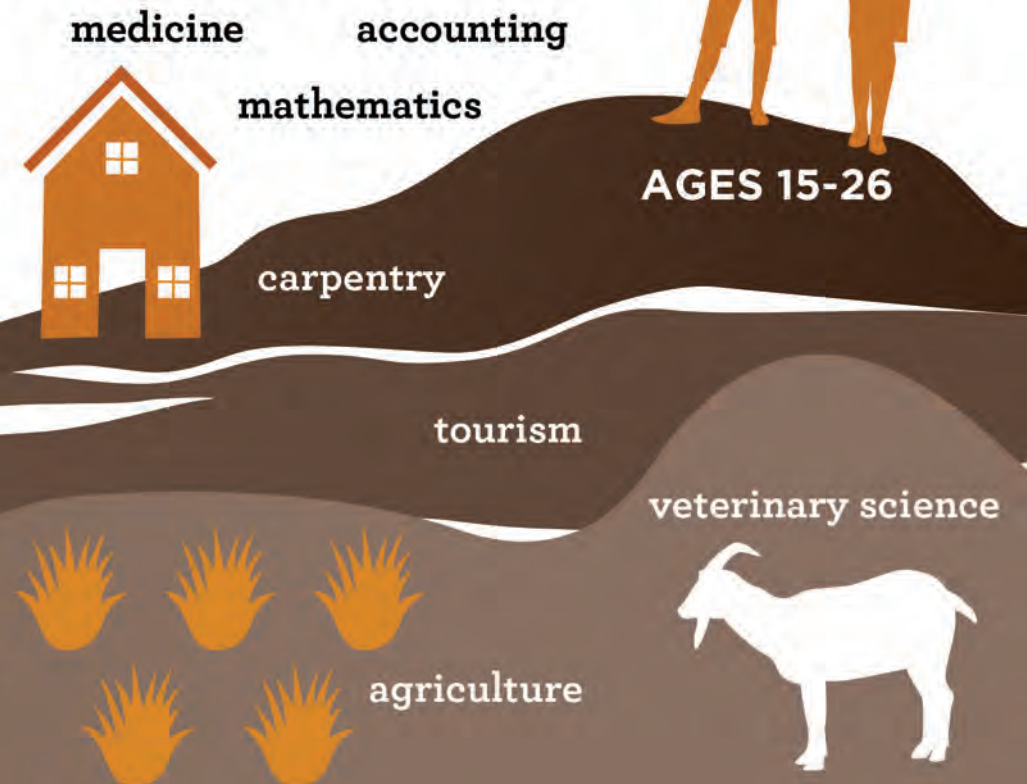
AVERAGE INCOME: PER YEAR: \$600 USD

70 SCHOLARS IN TOTAL

3 SOCIAL WORKERS

14 BOARDING SCHOOLS

MAJORS OF SCHOLARS





EDUCATION: SPOTLIGHT SCHOLAR

Dianne Uwamaharo shares her triumphant story.

Komera's spotlight scholar for 2014 is Dianne Uwamaharo. Before Komera, her parents were too poor to support her education. Her leadership and problem-solving skills were unrealized and her life was challenging.

Dianne states: "My difficulties started when I was in primary school. I couldn't pay for my school fees, my parents had to beg our neighbors for money, and our house was run down. I passed the national examination to enter senior three, but I was unable to attend due to the increase in fees. I petitioned

the school administration, and they provided me with a scholarship for senior three but not senior four. Undeterred, I contacted Komera for help. Komera paid for my school fees and other scholastic materials. Komera changed my life completely and gave me hope for the future."

Our holistic program engages all areas of Dianne's life to ensure she is supported to succeed. Dianne continues, "Without Komera, I couldn't make it. I would have dropped out of school like any other girl who doesn't have access to education due to poverty." The Komera

leadership academies have taught her how to give back to her community. Additionally, Dianne is partnered with a mentor to help her overcome whatever challenges she may face. Mentors teach scholars how to excel in school and provide reproductive-health education.

"Komera changed my life completely and gave me hope for the future."

Komera involves the parents of scholars in the program by bringing them together to discuss difficulties and guide them through entrepreneurship opportunities, such as the mushroom co-op (see page 14).

Through Komera, Dianne has acquired a goat that she breeds for a modest income and to pay for health insurance. She participates in the annual Komera Global Run and enjoys playing in sports. "I feel very supported by my family and the Komera community," exclaims Dianne, smiling from ear to ear.



PHOTOS: Opposite page, Dianne and her goat that was bought with help from Komera. Top, Dianne and her friends at boarding school; bottom right, Dianne and another Komera scholar; bottom left, Dianne and her mom in front of their home.



A group of students in uniform at the FAWE school.



The FAWE Girls' School opened on February 11, 2010 with 162 students.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL PARTNER

FAWE Girls' School in Gahini is one of our prized partnerships.

To best help the Komera scholars and communities, Komera partners with existing schools within the area. FAWE stands for Forum for African Women Educationalists and is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that brings together African women, ministers of education, officials and other decision makers. Created in 1992, it has chapters in over 32 African countries.

The construction of FAWE Girls' School Gahini started December 2008 in partnership with Ministry of Education and the World Bank. Students study several combinations of subjects such as MEG (Mathematics, Economics and Geography), MPC (Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry), MCB (Mathematics, Chemistry and Biology).

The school features 12 classes, 3 science labs (for Chemistry, Biology and Physics), a library, a computer lab, 3 dorms, staff quarters, and a dining hall. Students can participate in Debate Club, Environment Club, Writers Club, Entrepreneurship Club, and Anti-Aids Club. Sports are also a big part of FAWE Gahini. The school offers a volleyball team, a basketball team, and a soccer team. Komera currently sends thirteen scholars to the FAWE Girls' School.



PHOTO: Sister Laetitia Musanabaganwa, FAWE Gahini Headmistress.

KINYARWANDA PHRASES

- Mwaramutse** - Good morning
- Mwirirwe** - Good afternoon
- Muramuke** - Good night
- Amakuru yawe**- How are you?
- Ni Meza** - Fine
- Murakoze** - Thank you
- Cyane** - Very much
- Yego** - Yes
- Oya** - No



EDUCATION: MICRO-NGOs

**Komera empowers
scholars to start
their own organizations.**

After frequently hearing Komera scholars ask for business and non-profit skills training, Komera partnered with Global Grassroots, a non-profit that supports vulnerable girls and women in developing their own micro-NGOs that address pressing social issues. Together, Komera and Global Grassroots launched The Girls' Academy for Conscious Change to give Komera scholars the chance to improve their knowledge and economic standing.

One organization created by Komera scholars is called Brave Children. They have provided fifteen street children with school materials, shoes and encouragement to return to school. Another NGO, called Invincible, has provided four families with pigs. All of the organizations create opportunities for the scholars to give back and learn valuable leadership skills in their communities.



PHOTOS: top, two boys supported by Brave Children; bottom right, the basket weaving co-op in action; bottom left, one of four pigs provided by Invincible.





COMMUNITY: PARENT CO-OP

Parents are growing mushrooms to support their daughters' education.

We are proud to introduce our Rwandan Parent Mushroom Co-Operative! The Komera parents wanted to contribute to the education of their daughters so we hired a business coach to help them implement their ideas.

The mushroom co-op has been very successful. The parents earned enough money from selling the mushrooms to buy five pens for each student—**that's over 350 pens!** Additionally, the co-op's impact on the parents has been huge. They feel empowered to contribute to their daughters' education and feel like they are an important part of the Komera community.

As of June 2014, the parent co-operative started raising goats in addition to growing mushrooms! This is an exciting expansion, and we believe it will lead to even greater success.



COMMUNITY: MENTORSHIP

Komera supports girls in all areas of their lives.

Many Komera scholars come from single-parent or disadvantaged households and lack the support systems necessary to stay in school. **We provide mentorship to offer extra support in helping the scholars lead happy and productive lives.** At every boarding school there is one mentor who meets with each girl weekly. Our mentors are adult women that serve as role models for the scholars. The mentors live on the campus and are available to discuss everything from social issues to sexual and reproductive health to struggles in school. The mentorship program supports the success of the scholars' education while providing invaluable life skills, such as financial responsibility, goal setting, and self-confidence.

In addition to mentorship, Komera believes in connecting with young women in the East African community. Between April 11th and April 15th of 2014, in partnership with Akili Dada and the Howe Fund, **we brought 25 young women together for a leadership conference in Nairobi, Kenya.** The summit was created to build an East African community of young African female leaders. The scholars shared their stories and spent the final day visiting female-led organizations.



PHOTOS: Opposite page, top, a social worker meets with parents; middle, the mushroom hut; bottom left, the Komera parents; bottom right, mushrooms.
This page, top, scholars at a leadership conference; middle, Frolance Nyiransengiyumva is one of Komera's mentors; bottom, the scholars get ready to board their plane to Kenya, the first flight for many.





SPORT: WHY WE RUN

Executive director Margaret Butler’s journey from professional runner to philanthropist.

Growing up in Canada, Margaret Butler discovered that she loved running and was good at it—quite good in fact. When she ran, she felt bold, even powerful. **She began competing in high school and received an athletic scholarship to continue competing in college.**

With new confidence in herself and her body, Margaret started setting new goals, both large and small, in her academic and personal life. When she failed, she worked to overcome feelings of disappointment and defeat, learn from her mistakes, and get back in the race.

Decades of research on sport,

gender, and development prove that **participating in sports, like running, benefit women and girls by enhancing physical health, fostering self-esteem and empowerment, challenging gender norms, and providing opportunities for leadership and achievement.**

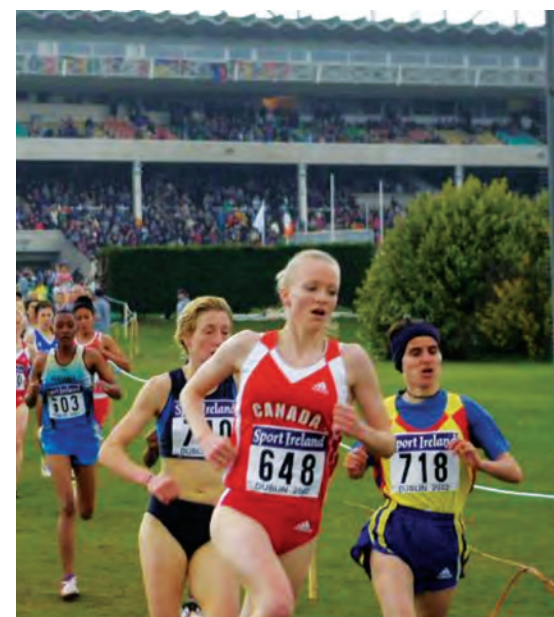
When Margaret moved to Rwanda in 2007 to work with the Clinton Foundation, she noticed immediately that women and girls didn’t join in at sporting events. On her morning runs through the countryside, cheerful packs of boys always joined her, but rarely girls. To Margaret, this seemed like a missed oppor-

tunity for girls to learn about teamwork, goal setting and personal development outside of an academic environment

In response, Margaret coordinated a girls-only “Fun Run,” inviting girls from each of the area’s primary schools to run in a one-mile race through the village. Hundreds of excited girls arrived to participate, joined by curious family members and friends. **As the runners broke from the starting line, spectators from the sidelines cheered them on, shouting “Komera!”**

Their chant was the beginning of an idea, an organization, and a movement. “For many of the girls”, says Margaret, “this was the first time that girls had been cheered on by adults and boys in their community. To be viewed as important and special was an incredibly unique and empowering moment for them.”

As Komera grew into a full fledged scholarship program for girls, the annual run has become a powerful tool to teach girls about community building, goal-setting, and accomplishment.



MARGARET’S RUNNING CAREER

- Canadian Ekiden National Team 1994 Seoul
- University of Washington Track and Cross Country Scholarship 1996-2000
- World Junior Pan American Games 1996
- Canadian Junior Record Holder 5km 1997
- World XC 2002 Ireland
- Canadian Record Holder Steeple Chase 2002
- World XC 2003 Switzerland
- Canadian Ekiden National Team China/Japan 2003

PHOTOS: Opposite page, scholars dance before the 2014 run.

This page, top, scholars receive sports bras for their yearly gift; left, Margaret at the World XC Championships; right, girls running in the 2013 Komera Global Run.



KOMERA GLOBAL RUN 2014



RWANDA



CHINA



NEW YORK



BOSTON

OTHER LOCATIONS:

Seattle / Pittsburgh / India
France / Guatemala /
Indonesia / Canada

PARTICIPANTS: 555
MONEY RAISED: \$130K

OUR SPONSORS:

HEALTH  WARRIOR®

CITY SPORTS

ZICO
PURE PREMIUM COCONUT WATER

Sports Basement
www.sportsbasement.com

lyft

suki
know your beauty

super jock 'n jill

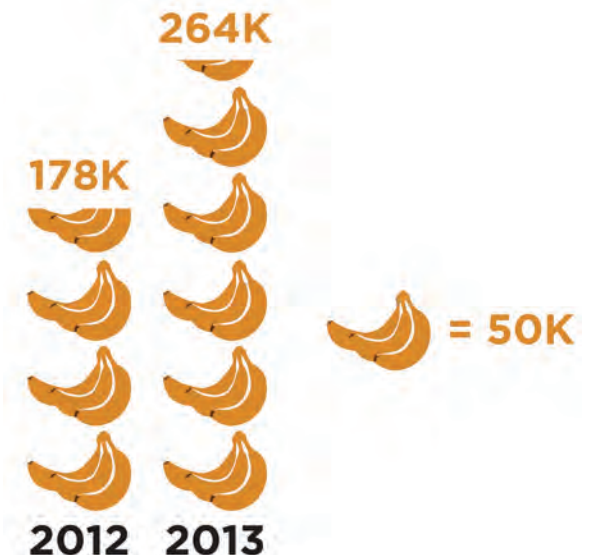


SAN FRANCISCO

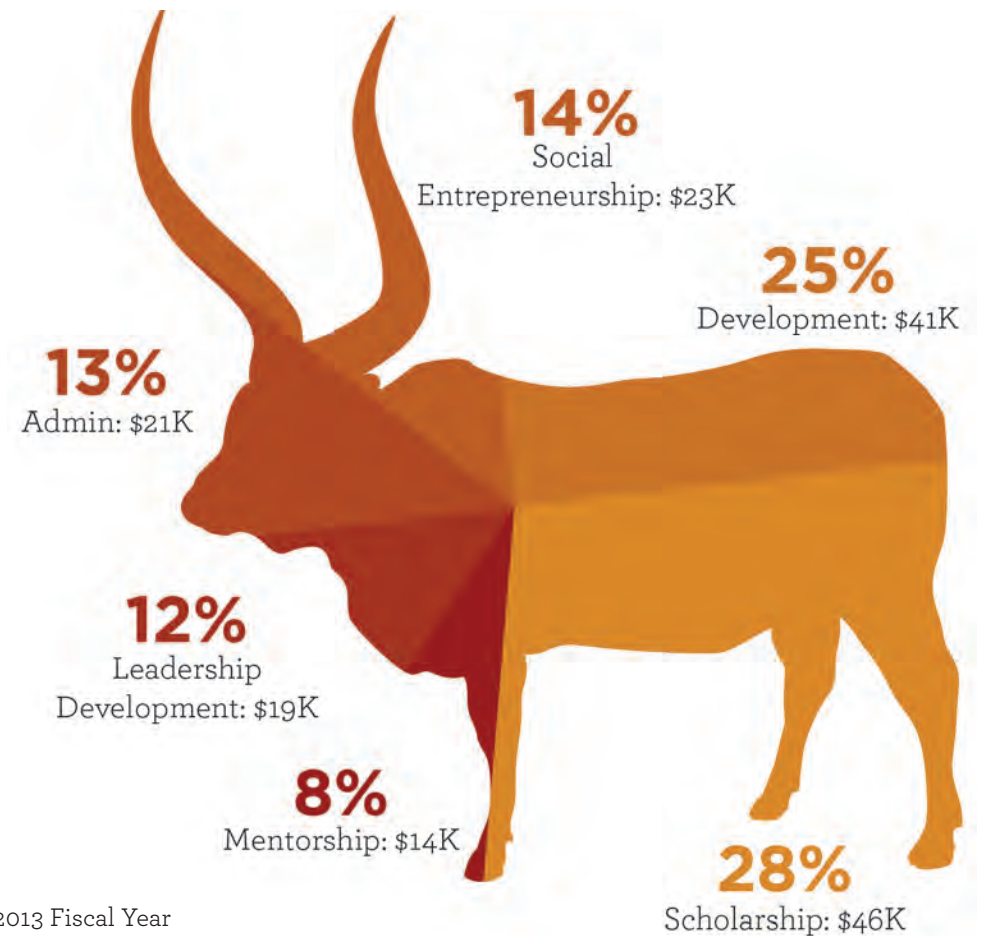


Tracking mountain gorillas is the main tourist attraction in Rwanda. Dian Fossey's research on the animals inspired the film, Gorillas in the Mist.

REVENUE GROWTH*



EXPENSE BY PROGRAM*



* 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

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Executive Assistant, Qatar Airways

Alice Nyirimana

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THANK YOU!



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT OUR
 GENEROUS DONORS, PARTNERS,
 VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS,
 & KGR RUNNERS!

PHOTO CREDITS

Drew Weatherstone Cover, p. 3 (bottom), 18 (top)

Danielle Redman p. 3 (top), 5, 10, 11, 16, 23

Paul Brillinger p. 13, 20

Margaret Butler all others

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