



# 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”

-African Proverb

# GRATITUDE

To all donors, supporters and sponsors, make no mistake: You are changing lives! If you ever had doubts about your own self-worth, stop right now. Think about your impact on the lives of hundreds. Malawi may be a country far away, but close to our hearts. In a strange twist of psychology, by contributing to others' happiness, you are also contributing to your own happiness. The more you connect with EKARI via our social media updates, email newsletters, and student letters, the more you, in turn, benefit.

The needs continue as the students and families in Phalombe grow in hope, day by day. More and more people are significantly impacted. As needs grow, we add programs with care and consideration. Your contribution is carefully put to the greatest use.

We have more to do – much more. Some day we will be able to say that we are done. Our goal is to put ourselves out of work and that communities will become self-sufficient. We are making progress, sometimes quick and sometimes slow. But make no mistake: You and EKARI are changing lives. Thank you!

*-Francois Burianek,  
U.S. Board President*



This year my daughter was born. In my daily work with EKARI I am constantly reminded of how lucky she is simply because of where she was born. She will never have to question whether or not she will receive an education. She will never have to miss school in order to work or to care for a family member dying of AIDS. She will never have to stay home from school during her menstrual cycle because her school does not have a toilet. She will never have to worry about being raped on her miles long journey to school each day.

Because of your generous investment in EKARI's work, the youth we support no longer have to face these struggles either. But - and there is always a 'but' - there are many youth in need who continue to struggle to receive an education and struggle to find hope every day. And for that reason, we need your continued support.

My husband and I named our daughter after Grace Makina, who died three years ago. She was my dear friend and our In-Country Director's late wife. Grace was representative of all of the students who EKARI supports in that she was constantly trying to better herself through education and hard work. She was a role model for many, including our students. EKARI strives everyday to provide our students with access to an education so that they can become role models and agents of change in their communities. I was humbled to name my daughter after this great woman; I am humbled by our students' incredible efforts to break the cycle of poverty in their lives; and I am continually humbled by the support we continue to receive from you, our donors. I cannot thank you enough.

*-Michelle Bradley,  
Executive Director*



I am always tongue-tied to express my gratitude on the tremendous growth of EKARI. This shows how dedicated you - our sponsors and donors - are to our work. We are now able to see the brighter future of our students. Many rural communities have now come to realize the importance of education through the role models from EKARI. Our Adult Literacy Program has opened the eyes of the poor and illiterate persons toward development. We are also proud to celebrate the existence of our Community Building. Thank you for making this project a success!

*-Elias Makina, Co-Founder and Malawi In-Country Director*



On behalf of the Malawi Board of Directors, I am proud of you donors and sponsors for your tireless efforts of uplifting the lives of needy Malawians through education. Most importantly this year we are happy to have our community building, which has brought light to the entire Phalombe community. Many people have benefited from construction of our building through employment and selling of local materials. We are very grateful for that and may you please continue supporting our community members because life for them is changing for the better.

*-White Yohane, Malawi Board President*



On behalf of all students, I would like to send my appreciation to EKARI Foundation donors for what you have been providing for us. Without your support most of us would not have the chance to receive an education. Thank you for the full package of support that you provide for us. We maintain to be hardworking and dedicated to our studies so that we get employed and become role models for our communities. We therefore ask for your continued support and may the almighty God continue blessing you.

*-Samson Makawa, EKARI Student beneficiary*



On behalf of the parents and guardians of EKARI beneficiaries, I would like to say thank you to all donors who are supporting our children and families. We had no hope that our children would continue with their education and now some are getting employed. EKARI means lucky in our language. Indeed EKARI children are lucky. As you support their education, we as parents are taking a role to encourage them to utilize this opportunity to achieve their goal so that our families and communities can develop. May the blessing hand of God be on you at all times. Thank you!

*-Mrs Musaiwa, mother of EKARI beneficiary*



## our vision

Empowered communities leading self-sustaining lives filled with dignity and self-worth.

## our mission

We believe in empowering the future generations of Malawi to emerge from poverty through their own efforts by providing access to quality and relevant education, coupled with the necessary educational resources and training to assist communities in establishing and celebrating sustainable livelihoods.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## sponsor a student program

Funding for this program continues to increase allowing EKARI to support students at high quality private high schools and higher education institutions. This year we celebrated when Charles, Flora Manyungwa, and Aonenji were accepted to university. We are very proud of Happiness, Tereza, Alice, and Flora Mphepo who completed high school and will continue their studies at a trade school or college. We continue to support 50% female/50% male students.



## tutoring program

This year, based on student requests, we continued to focus on English, mathematics, biology, and physical science during our tutoring sessions that occur during school breaks three times a year. We expanded the program by hiring private tutors for those students in need of support throughout the entire school year.

## 3 meals a day program

This year we expanded the program to include funding to purchase food to supplement our students' poor diet while at school. We also increased funding to provide three nutritious meals a day to students staying at our In-Country Director's home during all school breaks and holidays, not only during our tutoring sessions. We continue to follow Malawi's Six Food Groups.



## library program

In keeping with our policy of supporting the local Malawi economy rather than sending supplies from the U.S., we purchased over 100 new textbooks and study guides from the local textbook publisher! Based on our students' request, EKARI supplied several exam study guides to assist our students with their end-of-year exams. Our Malawi Student Board advises our students on how to properly care for the textbooks.



## health education & HIV/AIDS awareness program

A local Seattle nurse with a background in public health volunteered in Malawi for three months to conduct research to expand this program. Based on her research she created a curriculum for our health education sessions that includes 12 important health related topics. We successfully implemented the curriculum during our August session. We will also partner with local youth clubs to spread HIV/AIDS awareness to primary school students and to adult learners who participate in our Adult Literacy Program.

## higher education prep program

Previously we referred to this program as the University Coaching Program. We have changed the name to more adequately reflect the services that we offer through this program. EKARI not only provides access to coaching sessions to prepare students for the Malawi University entrance exam, but we now also support our students during their higher education application process including providing funds for exam and application fees, accommodation, meals, and transport for interviews.



## educational field trip program

This year our students visited Malawi's Ilovo Sugar Company. During their tour of the company's factory, our students learned about the stages of sugar production from pure sugar cane – which is sold at nearly every market in Malawi – to refined sugar that is used for consumption. This trip complemented our students' classroom studies with a real life experience and allowed our students to take a break from their daily lives and have fun!



## computer program

Based on our assessments of this program with the 10 students who participated in 2013, we have decided that our Computer Program will become one of our long-term Complementary Student Programs! This is based on the fact that students are required to use a computer in college, but do not receive computer training in high school. This year we expanded funding for the program to provide tablets for our college students.



## apprenticeship program\*

Youth in Malawi have a hard time finding a job upon graduation from trade school or college due to limited job opportunities, resources, and experience. Through this program, EKARI connects our graduates with apprenticeship positions at Malawi organizations and provides funds for our students' accommodation, meals, and transport during their time as a volunteer. Laston, Gift, and Phillimon are enjoying their apprenticeship opportunities and hope to gain permanent employment.



## adult literacy program\*

We launched this program in partnership with the local Phalombe district government this past spring. EKARI provided access to literacy training to over 200 illiterate adult learners. Our adult learners report that they can now read, write, and complete basic math. Even more important they report that they have learned how to better care for their families with regard to education, hygiene, and improved farming practices.

## medical fund\*

This reserve fund is available to all students who require care at a hospital that charges fees. One of our students, Gift was bitten by a rabid dog. Medication for rabies' cases for humans is scarce in Malawi, but medication was found at a rural hospital nearby his school. Without support from EKARI, he would have died. In addition, we provide each student with a mosquito bed net.



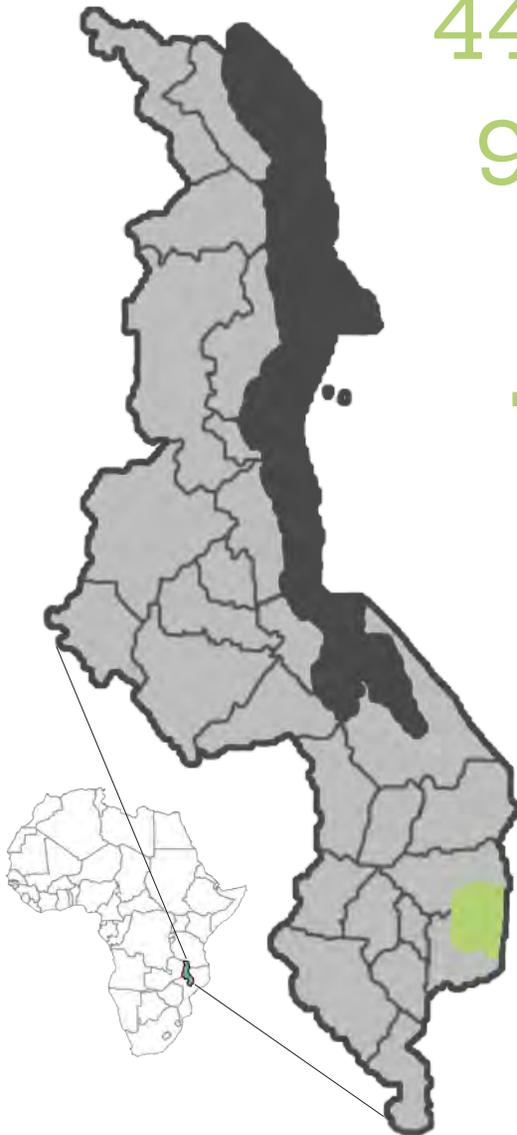
## building program

We are excited to announce that we met our fundraising goal in early 2014! Construction on our community building started in July 2014 and will finish in early 2015. Our Malawi team will host a grand opening in mid 2015 in order for the community to become familiar with our building and the programs EKARI offers.

## student loan program\*

Many college graduates who become government employees, such as public school teachers, do not receive a paycheck for up to six months after the start of employment. It is difficult for these youth to obtain a loan from the bank; if so, they are forced to pay high interest rates. This program provides students supported by EKARI Foundation who have graduated from college with a small loan - at a low interest rate - in order to survive until they receive their first paycheck.

# MALAWI



**44.7** Percentage of Malawi's 16 million people under the age of 14

**9** Malawi has the 9th highest prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in the world

**80** Percentage of population living in rural areas dependent upon agriculture/subsistence farming

**74.8** Malawi's literacy rate compared to 99% for the US

**9** Number of years of schooling a Malawian child can expect to receive compared to 16 years in the US

**18** Percentage of youth in Malawi who start a high school education

**1** Percentage of youth accepted to Malawi Universities

Phalombe, Malawi,  
Africa



# IMPACT

2013-2014 school year

**84%** STUDENT  
PROGRESSION  
RATE

**95%** STUDENT  
RETENTION  
RATE

## EFFECTIVENESS RATING

(calculated based on student progression  
and retention rates)

**92%** 2013-14

**92%** 2012-13

## STUDENT COMPLETION RATE

(\*see Looking Ahead section for our plan  
to address this percentage)

**100%** (3 of 3 students obtained jobs  
or apprenticeship positions)

**40%\*** (2 of 5 high school seniors  
graduated, but all 5 will  
continue their education)

# 63

## STUDENTS IMPACTED

2 Apprenticeships

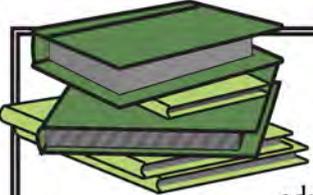
15 Higher Education

21 Awaiting Acceptance  
to Higher Education

24 High School

1 Primary School

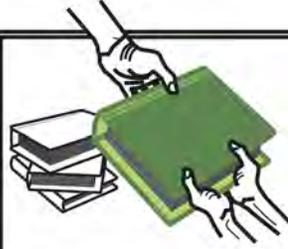




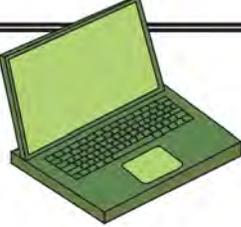
**236**  
adults learned how  
to read and write



Over **4500**  
meals served  
during school  
holidays



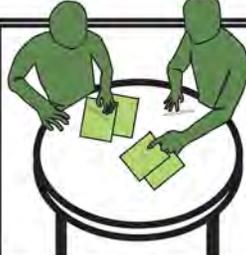
Over **100**  
textbooks  
loaned



**5** students  
learned to use  
a computer



**42** students  
went on a  
field trip



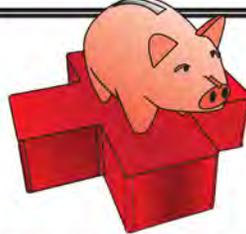
**3** students  
obtained  
apprenticeships



**100%**  
of high school  
students tutored  
and educated about  
HIV/AIDS



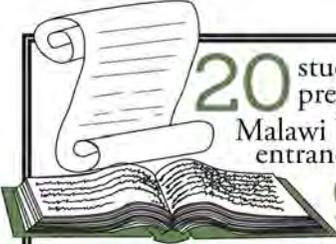
**25%**  
reduction of  
malaria cases



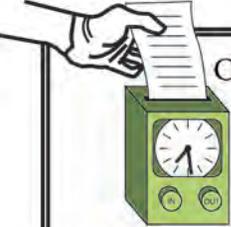
**6** students  
supported by  
medical fund



**2** student loans  
distributed



**20** students  
prepared for  
Malawi University  
entrance exam  
**9** accepted  
to  
University



Over **50** community  
members  
employed during  
construction of  
community building



## HAPPINESS

Happiness's parents died when she was young. She is the youngest of four siblings who rely on their elderly grandparents for support. Happiness and her grandmother sought assistance from the local social welfare office, but to no avail. With support from EKARI Foundation, Happiness recently graduated from high school and looks forward to furthering her education at a teacher training college in Malawi.



## PROMISE

Promise is an orphan who relies on his older brother for support. In 2013 Promise was accepted to and started his freshman year at one of the best private high schools in southern Malawi, but was forced to leave because his brother could not pay the tuition. They then turned to EKARI Foundation for support. In 2014, with assistance from EKARI Foundation, Promise started his freshman year at the same private high school.



## RAPHAEL

In order to send her five children to school, Raphael's mother obtained several loans that she was not able to repay due to her lack of sustained employment. She could not support Raphael beyond his junior year of high school. Raphael and his mother then turned to EKARI Foundation for support. With assistance from EKARI Foundation, Raphael graduated from high school, teacher training college, and is now a primary school teacher in Malawi.



## INESS

Iness qualified for acceptance to one of the best private high schools in southern Malawi. However, with six siblings, her father deceased, and her mother not able to obtain employment, Iness could not find support for her education. Iness's primary school teacher recognized Iness's hard work ethic and sought assistance for Iness at a local parish with the hope that Iness could attend a less expensive/lower quality public high school. The parish referred her to EKARI. With EKARI Foundation's support Iness now attends the high quality private high school.

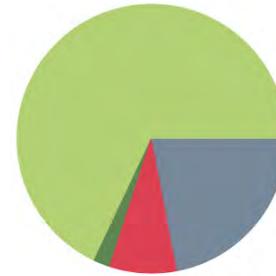
# FINANCIALS\*

## PROGRAM/FUND INVESTMENTS\*\*

	2012-13	2013-14
Sponsor a Student Program	\$24,070	\$30,470
Library Program	\$1,325	\$900
Tutoring Program	\$2,725	\$1,850
3 Meals a Day Program	\$1,325	\$2,475
Health & HIV/AIDS Program	\$200	\$200
Higher Education Prep Program	\$1,500	\$3,750
Computer Program	\$3,403	\$3,509.75
Educational Field Trip Program	\$717	\$530
Scholarship Program	\$0	\$3,870
Medical Fund	\$0	\$100
Building Program	\$1,500***	\$59,901****
Adult Literacy Program	\$0	\$1,665
Malawi Field Office Fund	\$1,065	\$6,133
Monitoring & Evaluation Fund	\$2,892	\$2,624.89

\*Reported by fiscal year ending June 30 \*\*Funds spent in Malawi - funds invested in education  
 \*\*\*Land purchase \*\*\*\*Construction of EKARI Community Building

## INCOME

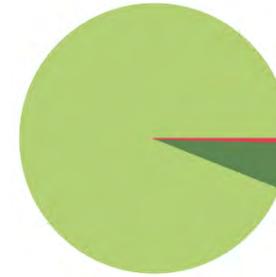


### Contributions by Type

- Individual - 68%
- Corporate - 2%
- Corporate Match - 8%
- Grant - 22%

2013-14 Income - \$146,585.29  
 2012-13 Income - \$47,549.35

## EXPENSE

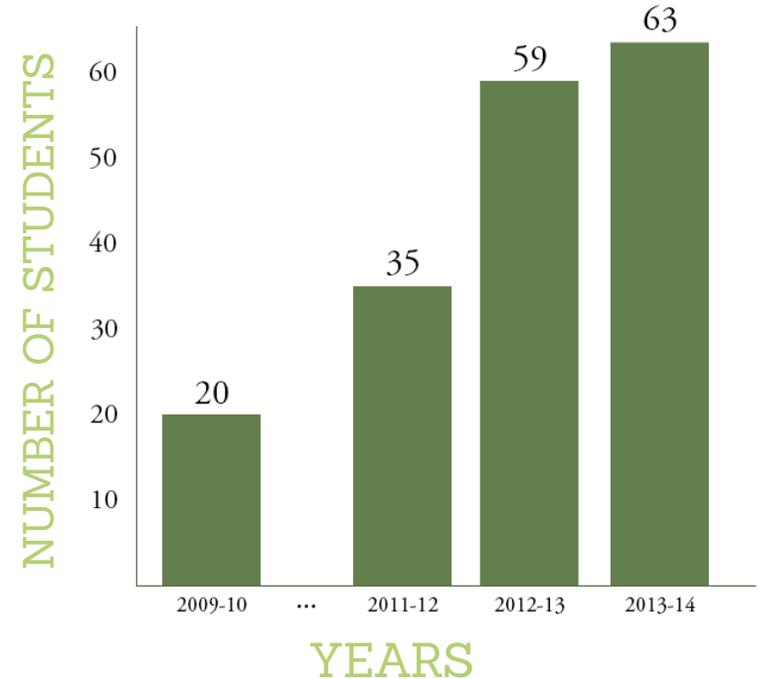


### Expenses/Investments

- Programs - 94%
- Overhead - 5.6%
- Fundraising - 0.4%

2013-14  
 Expense/Investment - \$125,643.43  
 2012-13  
 Expense/Investment - \$46,855.11

## STUDENTS IMPACTED



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

## communicate

Sponsors and non-sponsors alike are free to correspond with our students throughout the year. Simply fill out the communication form on our website.

## be aware

Become more aware of how your actions locally can directly affect communities around the world, including EKARI beneficiaries, by signing up for our monthly e-mail updates. Read our Donor Awareness section that includes information about Malawi and ways you can easily be involved in global initiatives. Stay engaged on our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram pages.

## volunteer

We have exciting volunteer opportunities in the U.S. and Malawi! Visit our website for more information.

## support our cause

Host a party at your home to raise funds for and spread awareness about EKARI. Join our monthly giving program, the Empowering Grace Giving Circle. Purchase from our local small business partner, Safi Naturals - 10% of proceeds benefit EKARI. Visit our website for more ways to support our cause.

Website - [www.ekarifoundation.org](http://www.ekarifoundation.org)  
Facebook - [facebook.com/ekarifoundation](https://facebook.com/ekarifoundation)  
Twitter - [twitter.com/ekarifoundation](https://twitter.com/ekarifoundation)  
YouTube - [youtube.com/user/ekarifoundation](https://youtube.com/user/ekarifoundation)  
Instagram - [instagram.com/ekarifoundation](https://instagram.com/ekarifoundation)  
or @ekarifoundation (use with app)



# LOOKING AHEAD

In 2014, we reevaluated our Sponsor a Student Program with regard to how we select and retain students. We developed an extensive application process. Each applicant must complete an application, write an essay regarding how he/she values education, participate in an interview, complete a written test, and provide teacher and community references. Our Malawi In-Country Director completes a home visit to verify that the applicant is truly in need of support. We require all students to sign our new student contract. In 2015, we will assess this selection process with the goal being to retain 100% of the students we selected in 2014.

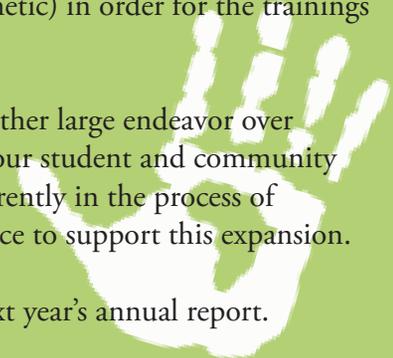
We continue to work to increase the low high school completion rate and are still confident that we will be able to do so by supporting our students through our Tutoring and Library Programs. We will continue to support the students who do not pass their high school exam this year with a higher education in areas such as tailoring or electrical installation at Malawi trade schools.

2015 will be a year of continued expansion for EKARI Foundation into the Phalombe community. We launched our Sustainable Livelihoods Program in partnership with the local Phalombe district government in late 2014. During our pilot year, we will work with two of our students' communities (20 families in total) by providing access to financial literacy training, training in improved farming methods and technologies, and vocational skills training.

We will continue our Adult Literacy Program, but now in conjunction with our Sustainable Livelihoods Program. Our goal is to first provide a foundation of literacy (reading, writing, arithmetic) in order for the trainings mentioned above to be effective.

With the completion of our new building, another large endeavor over the next several years will be to offer access to our student and community programs to the entire community. We are currently in the process of increasing our capacity in our Malawi field office to support this expansion.

We look forward to sharing our progress in next year's annual report.





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