

MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION, INC

**Empowering the Underprivileged
for a Brighter Tomorrow**

DECEMBER 2023

Dear Friends of Mary Lou Kalla Foundation:

We thank you for your generosity and blessings to continue our work through Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) this year. It is with great pleasure that we take this opportunity to reflect upon the milestones we have achieved in our mission to provide education and better economic opportunities to the underprivileged in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malawi in Africa.

MLKF, as a non-profit organization, has long been committed to acting as a catalyst in the battle against illiteracy and other socioeconomic concerns. We work tirelessly to make education accessible, regardless of their socioeconomic background. We firmly believe that education is the key to unlocking a brighter future for these children and, by extension, their communities.

We are thrilled to announce that four significant projects have been successfully completed within the communities in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Malawi (Africa) this year. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that 99% of the revenues MLKF collects were directly allocated to the projects program, ensuring that they had a tangible impact on the lives of those we serve. Our operating expense including office expenses, newsletter printing and postage amounts to only about 1% of the total revenues. This way, your donations to MLKF have had tangible impact on the lives of those we serve.

It is our pleasure to share that over 500 community members and over 200 school children have been the direct beneficiaries of our projects. The impact of our collective efforts extends far beyond numbers; it reaches the hearts and minds of those whose lives have been touched by the opportunities MLKF has provided.

We would like to extend our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all our donors and partners who have steadfastly supported us on this journey. Your kindness and generosity have been instrumental in making these achievements possible. Together, we are making a difference and transforming the lives of countless individuals who are now equipped to pursue their dreams.

We are also grateful to Dr. William Prokash Gomes for volunteering his time and talent in designing and composing our newsletter this year.

On behalf of the Mary Lou Kalla Foundation, we express our deepest appreciation to each one of you for your unwavering support. We look forward to another year of working together to be beacon of hope and create brighter tomorrow for the underprivileged in the different parts of the world that we serve.

BOARD MEMBERS OF MARY LOU KALLA FOUNDATION

WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A PEACEFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.



- Please donate generously.
- MLKF is a 501(c)3 non profit tax exempt organization.
- Tax ID # of 26-3925304.
- Your donations qualify for tax deductible.

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Please visit www.maryloukallafoundation.org for more information.

EMPOWERING TRIBAL GIRLS THROUGH TRANSFORMATION: A GRANT TO RADHANAGAR GIRL'S HOSTEL, DINAJPUR, BANGLADESH

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) has once again taken a significant step in our mission to uplift the lives of those in need. This year, MLKF awarded a grant of \$10,000.00 to the Radhanagar Girl's Hostel, located in Dinajpur, Bangladesh, to bring about a profound transformation in the lives of 58 young tribal girls hailing from the Santal and Urao tribes.

With this generous grant, MLKF has contributed not only to the improvement of infrastructure but also to the very essence of these girls' futures. The funds will be utilized to provide new furniture, including bunk beds, linens, pillows, mosquito nets, tables, chairs, and benches, ensuring the comfort and well-being of the young residents. These new furniture items are not just a one-time investment; it's a gift that will keep giving for years to come.

The beneficiaries of this transformation are young girls between the ages 7 to 14, who, along with their families, reside in the remote and hilly regions of Dinajpur, Bangladesh. In these marginalized communities, access to education is a distant dream. Instead, young children often find themselves assisting their parents in the forests and fields, as well as taking on various household responsibilities. Their families, primarily consisting of tribal members, rely on small farming lands, day labor work in the fields, struggling to make ends meet with limited income.



The Radhanagar Girl's Hostel stands as a beacon of hope for these young girls. It provides a safe and nurturing environment where they can live and pursue their education during the school year. In the summer vacation, the girls return to their villages to be with their families, who, in most cases, face severe financial constraints and cannot afford the cost of education.

Beyond academics, the hostel offers the girls a sanctuary for personal and moral development. It shapes their lives and instills in them values that will resonate throughout their journey. MLKF is honored to play a part in creating a secure space where these tribal girls can receive an education and be molded into empowered individuals who can make a positive impact on their ancestral communities.



**Please Make Your
Charitable Contribution**

**Tax Exempt: 501 (c) 3
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**Your donation qualifies for a
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www.maryloukallafoundation.org**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION: A LIFELINE TO ST. ANDRE SCHOOL, SHERPUR, BANGLADESH



Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is proud to continue its support for the transformation of lives, this time by partially funding the salaries of teachers at St. Andre School, nestled in the remote corners of Diglakona, Sherpur, Bangladesh with a \$2000.00 grant.

St. Andre School, located in the hilly region bordering India in the northern part of Bangladesh, serves as a beacon of hope for the indigenous Garo people inhabiting this area. Unfortunately, the tranquil beauty of the surroundings is disrupted each year when wild elephants from across the border forest, wreaking havoc by consuming and destroying crops. The Garo people, living in poverty, find it incredibly challenging to finance the education of their children, and this is where St. Andre School plays a pivotal role.

With approximately 90 students enrolled at the school, along with a dedicated team of 4 regular teachers and 5 substitute teachers, St. Andre School offers classes from Grade 1 through 5. The majority of the students come from these impoverished families residing in the tribal villages nearby. The circumstances are such that some of the teachers have to multitask, instructing students in two classrooms simultaneously, illustrating their unwavering commitment to providing education.

Parents of these children typically make ends meet by working as day laborers in the fields, earning daily wages that often fall short of providing enough food to sustain their families. In such an environment, access to education is a luxury they cannot afford.

The school's lifeline is the financial support it receives from generous donors, including the Mary Lou Kalla Foundation. This support plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the salaries of dedicated teachers are met. With these dedicated teachers in place, the students have the opportunity to benefit from learning, a gift that has the potential to break the cycle of poverty and provide them with the tools to transform their lives. The impact extends far beyond the classroom; the entire community stands to benefit from the education these children receive. By empowering them with a basic education, the foundation is laid for a brighter future, and the ripple effect positively influences health and social issues within the community.

Kachebere Farm in Malawi, Africa: Growing Sustainable Futures

Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is honored to collaborate with the St. Anthony Farm project in the village of Kachebere, Malawi, Africa, making a substantial impact through a \$2,000.00 grant. This concise report highlights the journey of the Farm from 2023:

Cultivating Prosperity: The farm's dedication is evident in the expansion from 61.28 to 82.03 acres, featuring a diverse crop portfolio. New innovations such as restructuring and drip irrigation not only boost vegetable production but also ensure water efficiency, generating income. The water retention ponds are the lifeline of irrigation for the local farmers.

Empowering the Workforce: Twelve dedicated workers, committed to the farm's mission, are at the core of this transformation. The farm's commitment to education is reflected in its engagement with Intern students from Mwimba and Bunda Colleges of Agriculture, fostering growth alongside the experienced workforce.

A Thriving Ecosystem: The animal population, including cattle, goats, and various poultry, speaks of the farm's commitment to holistic sustainability. This not only contributes to the local protein market but also supports the farm's financial sustainability.

A Vision for the Future: St. Anthony's Farm aspires to be the best in Malawi by 2030, aligning seamlessly with its commitment to supporting the financial sustainability of the farm and fostering community upliftment and progress.



Using 3D Technology to Change Lives by Producing Prosthetic Limbs in Sri Lanka.



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Mary Lou Kalla Foundation (MLKF) is once again delighted to join hands with The Motion Project, Colombo Friends in Need Society (CFINS), and the Rotary Club of Calgary, Canada, in a remarkable endeavor that is changing lives in Sri Lanka with an initial grant of \$4000.00 from MLKF. Together, we have embarked on a groundbreaking mission to manufacture prosthetic limbs utilizing cutting-edge 3D technology.



For several years, MLKF has shared an enduring partnership with Colombo Friends in Need Society (CFINS) in Sri Lanka, focusing on providing young children with prosthetic limbs. These prosthetic limbs, traditionally crafted from plaster, were meticulously fitted to each recipient's unique needs. However, in a monumental leap forward, the Rotary Club in Calgary, alongside various other Rotary Clubs in Canada, rallied to secure funding for a groundbreaking program in Sri Lanka in collaboration with CFINS. This program, brought to life this summer through the pioneering efforts of Nia Technologies, has introduced the use of 3D technology in the creation of prosthetic limbs for the very first time.



This year, MLKF, in association with its committed partners, will provide a ray of hope and transformation to children in Sri Lanka. These young souls will receive state-of-the-art prosthetic limbs crafted with precision and care, thanks to the marvels of 3D technology. This significant leap represents not only a milestone in technological advancement but, more importantly, a monumental shift in the lives of these children.

With these well-fitted prosthetic limbs, the children will regain the gift of mobility, enabling them to move with greater ease and minimal inconvenience. Beyond the physical aspect, this transformative initiative grants them a renewed sense of normalcy in their daily lives. They will have the opportunity to attend school without the hurdles they once faced, thereby expanding their horizons and securing a brighter future.

