



*The mission of the Maragoli Community Development Foundation is to assist the Maragoli people of Western Kenya in improving their quality of life through the funding of sustainable development projects that community members themselves conceive and implement.*

# Maragoli

**Community Development  
Foundation, Inc.**

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### *Message from the President*



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support in 2016! This past year, the twelfth anniversary of MACODEF, was marked by a concerted focus on consolidating the resource center as a hub of community services. It was also a time to reflect on how far we've come and to discuss challenges for the future.

Your generous gifts and the projects they support have created a stabilizing force in the community: educational scholarships and school supplies, access to clean water, solar lighting and cooking, small loans for entrepreneurs, better health care, and a safety net for the most vulnerable members of the community.

Our collective focus has now turned to sustaining these achievements for the long term. We are setting up a system that will allow for complete coordination of all aspects of MACODEF by our local board of governors in Kenya. We plan to implement the transition in steps over the next few years while staying true to our core mission of helping the less fortunate in a transparent and tangible way.

A first step will be moving to an electronic newsletter, beginning with our fall 2017 update. We'd like to ask you to share your current email address with us when you send in your gift this year. We will only use this for important communications, no more than a few times a year. We've also hired Francis Ludire, a local board member, to help administer the logistics of the transition.

The transition period presents many opportunities for MACODEF, and we need your support more than ever to make it successful. Thank you for staying with us through this exciting time of change for MACODEF.

Jan Kees den Bakker  
President

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## Summary of Program Activities

With the upcoming Kenyan presidential election slated for August, campaign rhetoric is heating up and tensions are once again on the rise across the nation. In contrast, in our corner of Maragoli, the MACODEF board of governors and stakeholder groups have been quietly doubling down on their commitment to build lasting ties across gradients of race, income, religion, gender, and other axes of difference. The hub for that effort is our community resource center, which now houses the MACODEF office and allows us to coordinate our projects from one central location. As described below, the resource center has become a central gathering place in the community.

### Community Resource Center

In its first full year of operation, the resource center became a **hub of community activity**, with dozens of visitors coming each day for a variety of reasons. In a recent weekly email update Joyce Adisa described a typical day at the resource center as follows:

“Today we had five students who came for the library. The head teacher of Vigetse Primary School also came to read some of the books to see if they could be helpful to his school. The pastor of Salvation Army came to learn something about the computer, and five people came for photocopying. Two people came to buy vegetables, and some students came for ice. Eight young people came to watch politics on TV. One person came to buy napier grass, while another rented the big tent and 50 chairs for today and tomorrow. On Saturday, we might have many people in the resource center, for a neighbour died, and the family asked if the dining tent can be set up at the Macodef resource center. We also have groups like Macodef choir who come on a weekly basis, and some women who come to sew.”

Because the resource center has been in demand as a place for visitors to stay overnight, we installed a new rainwater harvest system and a toilet/shower, improved the electrical wiring, and bought a refrigerator and television. We also asked a local carpenter to install built-in bookshelves for the **community library**, and we purchased a small quantity of children’s books. The much-anticipated opening of the library has attracted many students whose families can’t afford to purchase reading material on their own.

### Education Projects

In 2016, approximately forty orphans and vulnerable students received **school fees and uniforms** through the Joshua and Salome Bunyoli scholarship fund. The cumulative effects of our multi-year efforts are showing up in attendance and performance rates. Three scholarship recipients—Mildred Minage, Damarus Sagina, and Erick Anori—attained the grades necessary to gain entrance to universities this past year. Mildred’s marks were the highest marks in the sub-county.

We continued our collaboration with the non-profit, Days For Girls, to supply **washable sanitary pads** to girl students at the local primary and secondary schools. Local tailors set up their sewing machines at the resource center in November and December of 2015 and had new kits sewn and distributed by the start of the school year. We also maintained support for a **youth polytechnic institute** for vocational training that opened at Vigetse Primary School, providing used electronics and other ICT (Information Communication Technology) equipment. Graduates find that their employment prospects are much improved.

## Entrepreneurship

In keeping with the new emphasis on sustainability in Kenya's public benefit organizations act, MACODEF ramped up its **income-generating activities** in 2016 with an eye towards balancing its reliance on outside funding with a local and sustainable revenue streams. Among the many projects that have generated a steady, if modest, income are poultry-raising, selling of vegetables, maize, and napier grass, and tent and chair rentals. Because the resource center has a nice-sized garden plot, board members are experimenting with new types of produce and thinking about whether new markets can be developed.

The local board of governors also upgraded their system for managing revolving funds, or microloans, to individuals and small groups who submit a viable business plan. Goat raising was an especially popular project this past year. International volunteers from Scotland also conducted training sessions on entrepreneurial skills for more than 120 community members and for youth attending the Vigetse Polytechnic Institute. Dutch volunteer Jeanne Geraads returned to Vigetse and Vagina for over a month as a volunteer in the community, sharing skills such as yogurt making, knitting, gardening, and healthy cooking.

## Emergency Fund

In 2016, the local board of governors again **provided a social safety net** for a number of individuals who needed emergency grants for health care or housing. For example, Isaac and Saul Imboho received money for treatment for jiggers, a type of sand flea that burrows into the feet and lays its eggs. Both of these individuals had painful ulcers all over their feet, making it difficult to walk. Elisabeth Ondaro and Absalom Votega received small grants to construct new houses after their mud and thatch dwellings collapsed and now have small but clean, one-room houses with aluminum sheets for roofing. As in the U.S., income disparities within Kenya are among the highest in the world, and efforts to empower the poorest members of the community remain central to our guiding philosophy.

## Rohove Bridge Project

Our biggest project this past year involved **building a bridge** across a dangerous stream in a remote village. According to Joyce Adisa, "Rohove village has a small river that joins two springs, which floods during rainy season. The village is isolated, and on one side there is a steep, rocky hill, making it difficult to climb up. On the other side is a river fed by several springs, which floods after a heavy rain. A child drowned while coming from school, and another woman was rescued at the point of death while coming home from shopping." The sub-chief and ward administrators approached MACODEF to assist with the bridge construction.

The construction of the bridge, which measured six meters by ten meters, was completed over a four-week period in the summer of 2016 by a team of volunteers from Scotland and Kenya. Engineering expertise was provided by the local government, while the Rohove community itself chipped in with in-kind donations and assistance with manual labor, especially carrying supplies to the remote location. Local reporters covered the construction of the bridge, which had been attempted several times in the past but without success. Residents of Rohove Village are now able to get to and from schools, markets, and clinics without risk of drowning.

## Management and Administration

In 2016, the composition of the board of trustees remained stable, while our **new team of local board members** completed their first full year of work together. As in the past, they coordinated all of our projects within Kenya, providing voluntary service for the betterment of their community. The local board met a half dozen times for full board meetings to prioritize projects and make recommendations for funding, and several committees oversaw various aspects of MACODEF's work.

The local board experienced several **personnel changes** this past year. Jane Uside Agama assumed the position of Treasurer, and Sheila Kadwayi became office assistant. In addition, long-time board member Francis Ludire recently assumed a new part-time position as Assistant Administrator. We appreciate the excellent work of Jairus Maloba and Everlyne Minage and wish them well in their new pursuits. Joyce Adisa Bunyoli continued in the role of Project Coordinator, a post she has held since MACODEF's inception.

The local board continued to meet with **stakeholder groups** on a regular basis to get feedback from the community and chart the way forward together. At one of the recent stakeholders meetings, for instance, more than 75 attendees provided comments and suggestions regarding use of the community resource center.

## Financial Report

As in past years, our donor community was very generous in providing funding for MACODEF projects. In 2016, we received gifts totaling \$17,396, and, as before, over 98% of donor funds went directly into the local economy in Maragoli. We remain deeply grateful to our loyal donors for their sacrifices.

Several foundations and non-profit organizations supported our work, including the Francis and Lemoine Peart Family Foundation and First Presbyterian Church in Wooster, Ohio, while a number of individuals made gifts in memory of Dorothy Buerke. Patricia and John Moll again supported sanitary napkins for girls at all three village schools and provided materials for the library, while Bob and Kathy Gorman, Lemoine Peart, and Marilyn McConnell and Jody Gates earmarked generous gifts for the education of girls.

A number of individuals gave of their time and resources to support MACODEF's activities. Their in-kind donations are noted at the end of the 2016 Donor List. A government-certified auditor approved the 2016 books kept by our local board of governors. The finances were found to be in order and copies of the report were sent to Kenya's NGO Coordinating Board.

### Breakdown of Income and Expenses

BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2015		\$20,597
TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUE:		\$17,396
	Individual Contributions	\$16,246
	Foundation/Non-Profit Gifts	\$1,150
	Corporate Donations	\$0
EXPENSES		
	Program Services	\$21,395
	Administration and General	\$10,592
	Fundraising	\$390
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$32,377
BALANCE ON DECEMBER 31, 2016		\$5,616