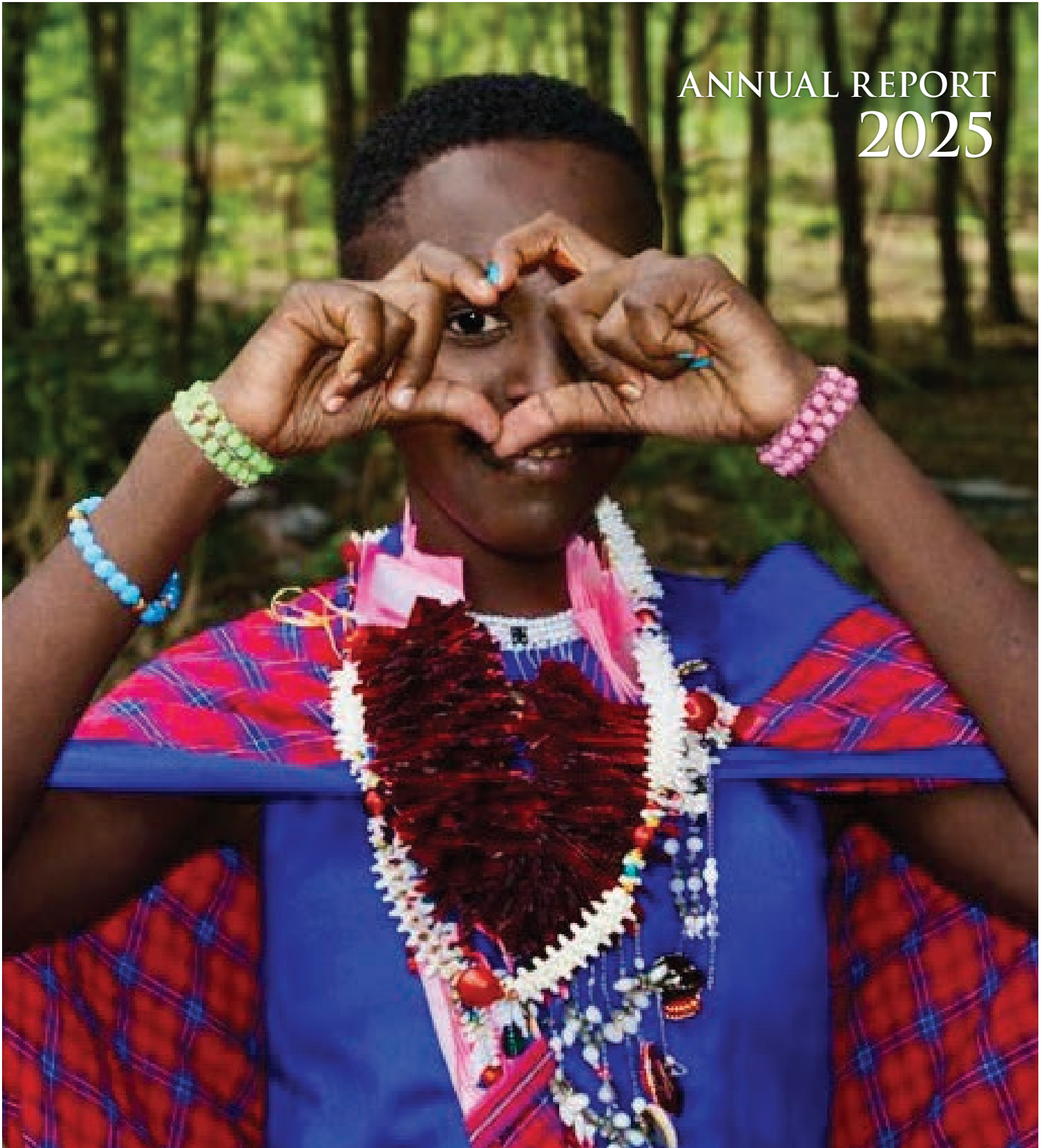


ANNUAL REPORT
2025



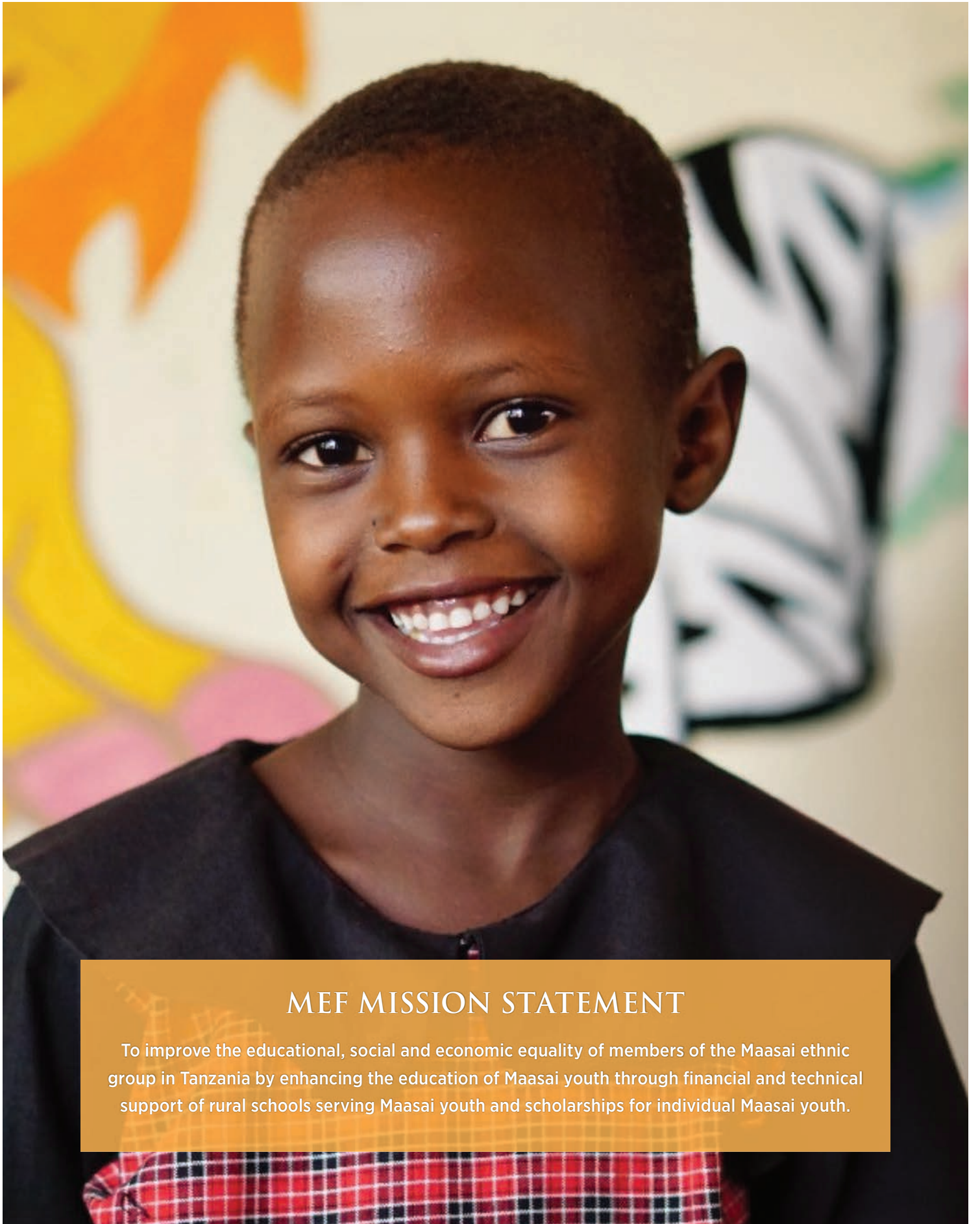
“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL
WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE WORLD”

– NELSON MANDELA



MAASAI EDUCATION
FOUNDATION





MEF MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the educational, social and economic equality of members of the Maasai ethnic group in Tanzania by enhancing the education of Maasai youth through financial and technical support of rural schools serving Maasai youth and scholarships for individual Maasai youth.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings. It is my pleasure to share the 2025 [Maasai Education Foundation](#) (MEF) Annual Report. It was another incredible year for MEF and our Tanzanian partner, the [Engaruka Community Initiative Organization](#) (ENCO), which operates the Engaruka English Medium Primary School (EEMPS) and the ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS). In 2025, MEF made grants to ENCO for EEMPS student sponsorships, school operations, the completion of the boys' dorm, and the purchase of six guest tents. The guest tents will expand ENCO's fundraising opportunities by allowing potential donors to visit campus as part of a Tanzanian safari trip.

While MEF's primary focus is on EEMPS, MEF has agreed to accept donations that are earmarked to support ENCOSS construction and student sponsorships. In 2025, MEF facilitated grants to support the construction of the ENCOSS biology and chemistry laboratories and a dozen ENCOSS student sponsorships. Much has been accomplished since MEF was established in 2016, however, our work is not done. Additional student sponsors are always needed. Other needs include continuing to improve the school's water supply infrastructure and establishing required, on-campus faculty/staff housing. As always, I would like to thank ALL of MEF's generous supporters. So much has been accomplished in such a short time. Just imagine what else we can do together!



Brian Benham
MEF Chair



Martha Mereso Sengeruan
EEMPS Manager and
ENCO Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2025 marked a period of steady progress and meaningful growth at Engaruka English Medium Primary School, made possible through the continued partnership of the Maasai Education Foundation and our valued supporters.

Throughout the year, the school recorded important advancements in both infrastructure and learning outcomes. Notable progress was achieved in the construction of the secondary school, the fourth wing of the boys' dormitory, and the extension of the outdoor kitchen to accommodate a growing student population. These developments are essential in supporting the registration of ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS) and expanding access to quality secondary education for children from pastoralist communities.

Academically, our students demonstrated strong commitment and resilience, achieving commendable results in both district-level mock examinations and national examinations. This performance reflects the dedication of our teachers, the support of parents, and the motivation of our learners. All Grade Seven students successfully completed their studies and progressed to secondary education.

On behalf of the entire school community, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Maasai Education Foundation for its continued trust and support. Your partnership plays a critical role in strengthening education and creating lasting opportunities for our students. Together, we are building not only classrooms, but a strong foundation for the next generation.





Azari Karaine in class

A DECADE OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The focus of the Maasai Education Foundation (MEF) has been the establishment, expansion, and continued support of the Engaruka English Medium Primary School. In November of 2016, a group of friends in Blacksburg, Virginia, formed MEF which is supporting the activities of the Engaruka Community Initiative Organization (ENCO) in improving educational opportunities for Maasai children in rural Tanzania. Maasai students need a good foundation in English to be able to pass the national secondary school entrance exams and further their education.

Construction of the Engaruka English Medium Primary School (EEMPS) began in May of 2017. In 2018 ENCO opened EEMPS with its first preschool class of 48 students in a new two-classroom building. Since then, every year as students move up to the next grade level, a new group of students starts preschool. The end of 2024 brought one of the school's major milestones, the first-ever grade seven graduation, the highest level in Tanzanian primary schools.

Today EEMPS is a rural boarding school with over three hundred students in pre-school through grade seven. As enrollment increased every year, the facilities also expanded. The campus now includes a dining hall, 10 classrooms, offices, an improved water supply system, a playground, gardens, orchards, maize and bean fields, livestock facilities, washrooms, and dormitories. This year a new secondary school (ENCROSS) was established on site to provide further educational opportunities for EEMPS graduates.

While ENCO operates EEMPS, MEF is the main financial backer, providing half of the school's operating funds and most of its construction funding. Almost 70% of EEMPS students come from low-income families with many students sponsored by MEF or other donors. These students continue to rank high on mandatory standardized national exams.





Asanteni Sana

Asante sana, the Swahili phrase for “Thank you very much,” expresses the gratitude everyone at the school and all those associated with MEF have for the kindness and generosity of all our donors who have helped to make EEMPS so successful in 2025.

During the 2025 school year, 311 children were enrolled at the Engaruka English Medium Primary School, 153 girls and 158 boys. All but 17 were boarding students. Fifty-eight students were directly sponsored by individual MEF donors at \$700 per student per year, 121 students were sponsored by their parents, and 32 were sponsored by ENCO. Fourteen students were sponsored by the Maasai Education Society in Canada (MES), a sister organization to MEF. The remaining non-sponsored students were funded primarily through EEMPS operational funds provided by MEF.

In 2025 EEMPS faculty included fourteen full-time teachers and five part-time teachers. Seventeen non-teaching staff, including the school director, a girls’ matron, a boys’ patron, cooks, cleaners, guards, livestock keepers, an accountant, and a public relations person also help the school operate.

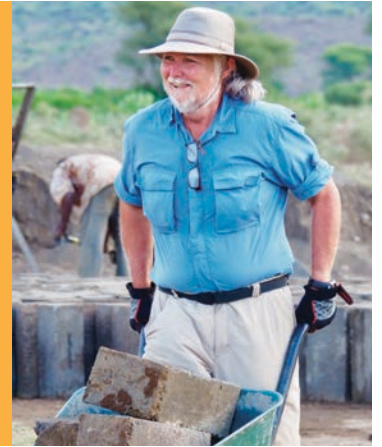
This year a new secondary school, the ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS), opened on campus with its first class of thirty-three students, 22 girls and 11 boys. The construction of the first ENCOSS classroom building was supported with funds raised in Tanzania by ENCO. While MEF’s focus is on supporting EEMPS, MEF is helping in with the establishment of the secondary school by accepting donations earmarked specifically for ENCOSS. The school provides many EEMPS graduates with the opportunity to further their education. In 2025, ENCOSS staff included four teachers, one intern, and one guard.

2025 UPDATES



This year, founding Board Chairperson Theo Dillaha stepped down from that role to concentrate on fundraising while original MEF founding member and treasurer Brian Benham stepped up to become the new MEF Chairperson.

Thank you to Theo for all his exceptional work over the past decade.



BRING *Education*
AND EQUALITY TO
MAASAI CHILDREN



The premiere Roanoke, VA, advertising firm, AccessU, felt so strongly about the good work done by MEF that they gave the MEF website a major upgrade as a donation. We are so grateful for their generosity. This beautifully revitalized website was launched in July and tells the entire story of the school while providing an easy way to sponsor a student or make a donation. The new website can be accessed at maasaieducationfoundation.org.

Also during 2025, EEMPS continued an important ongoing mission of the school. Konnie Lemakofia, a young Maasai girl, was rescued before being forced into early marriage. Konnie was to be married off when a field officer from a partner NGO discovered her during a community visit. The NGO immediately reported the case to Martha and a rescue was arranged without delay. Konnie was safely brought to EEMPS where she is now enrolled in Grade 1.



Lemuta Lukas inside the new boys' dormitory

DONOR IMPACT

During this past year, the Maasai Education Foundation accomplished a great deal due to the generous support of MEF donors and partners. In 2025, MEF donors contributed a total of \$213,963. Of that total, MEF sent ENCO \$60,000 for EEMPS operating costs and sponsorships, \$53,050 for construction of the fourth and final wing of the boys' dormitory, \$10,800 specifically for twelve ENCOSS sponsorships, and \$30,602 towards the new guest tents.



The 2025 Mid-Year Fundraiser was a huge success, doubling the \$30,000 goal. A total of \$60,337 was raised to support the construction of the final wing of the boys' dormitory, student sponsorships, and general operating funds for EEMPS. Five thousand dollars were matching funds provided by MEF Board members. The MEF End-of-Year Matching Fundraiser was MEF's most successful fundraiser ever, again doubling its goal. With a goal of \$50,000 to support the operation of EEMPS in 2026, \$40,000 for sponsorship and operating funds, and \$10,000 towards the construction of teacher/staff housing, over \$100,000 was raised. 2025 was the first year of using the new boys' dormitory. Students moved into the first three wings in January, and, thanks to the latest MEF fundraising efforts, the fourth and final wing was completed by the end of 2025. The dormitory and its associated toilets and shower facilities can now house all the male boarding students. In total, MEF donors contributed \$241,303 towards this construction. With financial support from Tom and Dani Neils, Larry and Kathy Lunsford, and ENCO, a school kitchen extension was also nearing completion.





ACADEMICS

The Engaruka English Medium Primary School's commitment to empowering girls, providing a safe learning environment, and maintaining high academic standards has encouraged more families to enroll their children and pay tuition fees to help support the school. Its reputation in the region continues to grow. Both the 4th and 7th grade students received an overall grade of A in English on the national exams, which are administered in English.



*ENCO Secondary School
student Minis Lesnet*

On the 2025 Primary School Leaving Exam (PSLE), the national exam for 7th graders, EEMPS ranked in the upper 22% of the 83 schools taking the exam in the Monduli District where Engaruka is located, receiving an overall score of B. The PSLE, which is administered in English, was taken by all graduating students, and identifies learners with the capacity to continue with secondary education or join training institutions. All Grade Seven students successfully completed their studies and progressed to secondary education.





Gracious Furahini in the computer lab

On the 2025 Standard Four National Assessment (SFNA) exam, EEMPS ranked in the upper 7% of the 93 schools taking the exam in the Monduli District, also receiving an overall score of B. The Standard Four National Assessment (SFNA) is a formative evaluation that intends to monitor pupils' learning to provide feedback that teachers, students and other educational stakeholders can use to improve teaching and learning.



Loserian Mwana

SPONSORSHIPS

For 2025, sponsoring an EEMPS student for an academic year remained at \$700. These funds help provide food, bedding, school supplies and other essentials, as well as staff salaries. Sponsoring an ENCOSS student costs \$900. Information can be found on MEF's website.

[MAASIAEDUCATIONFOUNDATION.ORG](https://www.maasiaeducationfoundation.org)

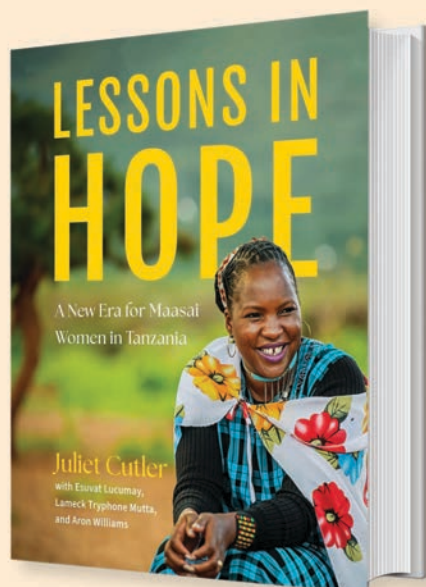


SECOND GRADUATION CEREMONY

Primary schools in Tanzania go up through seventh grade, and December brought the second EEMPS graduation ceremony, with eighteen girls and five boys graduating. This marked an important milestone in the school's growth and academic journey. Parents, teachers, and community members attended the ceremony celebrating the hard work, discipline, and achievements of the graduating students, reinforcing the community's trust and commitment to the school's mission. Eighteen of these graduates have now enrolled in ENCO Secondary School to continue their education next year here on the campus within the same learning system. Five students transitioned to other secondary schools based on family decisions and placement options.



Pictured (l to r): Maria Kalaya and mother; Graduating seventh grade girls; Tumbaa Lanyor with father and uncle.



STAFF ACCOLADES

School Manager Martha Mereso Sengeruan was featured in *Lessons in Hope*, a new book by Juliet Cutler, that tells the story of several successful Maasai women leaders who are creating profound positive changes in their communities. Martha was a student of Juliet's at the Maasai Girls Secondary School in northern Tanzania.

Also this year, EEMPS' public relations person Olarivan P. Mollel received the Best Youth Proposal Award for East Africa which will support twenty out-of-school girls to return to school, strengthening the mission of expanding access to education.



ENCROSS: A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

The first academic year of the new ENCO Secondary School (ENCROSS) proved very successful. Its establishment on campus provided the opportunity for 2024's first EEMPS graduates to continue their education. The mission of the school is to expand access to quality secondary education for children from pastoralist communities. The first class consisted of 33 students. *Pictured above (l to r): Encoss Form One student Elia Amani; ENCROSS teachers.*

Through domestic fundraising efforts, School Manager Martha Mereso Sengeruan secured local support for the first ENCROSS two-classroom building, which was used for the first class in January, 2025. The foundation for the second ENCROSS classroom building is in place, and Martha is again working in Tanzania to raise funds to complete that classroom building.



Pictured (l to r): ENCROSS Classroom, new laboratory building, and Interior of Lab Building

In addition to regular classrooms, there is a government requirement for secondary schools to have science laboratories. Through a generous grant made to ENCO through MEF in 2024 by the Crane Family of Columbus, Ohio, construction of a biology and chemistry laboratory with associated washroom facilities began. At the end of 2025, the labs were nearly completed, as were the necessary washroom facilities. Donations to cover the cost of chemicals and equipment are still needed.

Most MEF donors that had been supporting graduating EEMPS 7th graders have elected to continue sponsorships as their child moves onto ENCROSS, and many of those have also elected to begin sponsoring a new, younger EEMPS student as well.

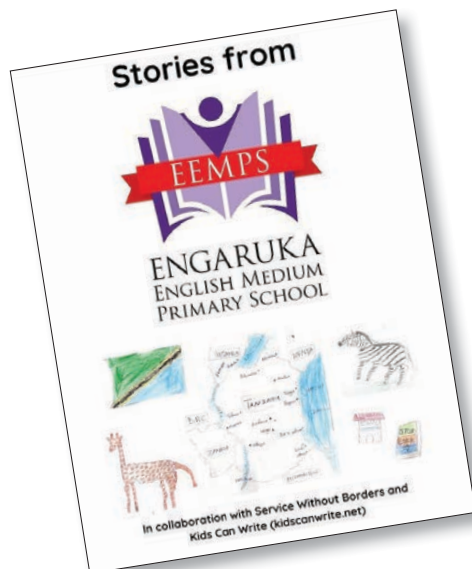


VT SERVICE WITHOUT BORDERS



Virginia Tech's Service Without Borders (SWB) student group was unable to travel to Tanzania this year, but continued its fundraising efforts for the school, raising \$4,325 to support ENCO and its operation of EEMPS and ENCOSS. Of that total, \$900 was used to sponsor ENCOSS 8th-grade student Namayani Julias Loborsek (left). SWB began sponsoring Namayani in 2019 when she was an EEMPS student. The balance of SWB's 2025 fundraising efforts will be used to support the purchase of glassware and chemicals to outfit the ENCOSS chemistry lab once completed.

In 2024, SWB students worked with small groups of EEMPS 5th, 6th, and 7th graders after school hours mentoring them as they wrote individual short stories with accompanying drawings based on their lives and imaginations. In May, 2025, SWB published *Stories From Engaruka English Medium Primary School* in collaboration with the [Kids Can Write](#) nonprofit. This entertaining fundraising book is available via Amazon. A portion of the sale of every book goes to EEMPS.



[CLICK TO PURCHASE THE BOOK](#)



ENCOSS student Naini Ngayeni holds **Stories from EEMPS**

HOLISTIC LEARNING



The school continues to prioritize holistic learning. The school farm remained a vital space for experiential education, contributing to student nutrition while equipping learners with practical agricultural skills, teamwork, and a sense of environmental responsibility. Students and staff were actively engaged in tree planting and most trees in the compound have been labeled with their scientific and common names for educational use.

Last year, EEMPS students planted drought tolerant grasses on an 8-acre plot of land that now helps to feed the school's cows and goats. This year this effort was expanded as part of the school's practical learning program that teaches students to clear land, plant grass, and water and maintain the land as the grass grows. In addition to expanding the experiential opportunities for students, this program also provides an additional path towards the school's goal of self-sustainability.



I never thought planting grass would make me feel this proud. We worked together, and now we see the animals eating what we grew. It shows that even students can make a big difference!

- Minis Lesnet, ENCOSS Form One

In just two years, the previously barren land is ripe with avocado, watermelon, cassava, papaya, and banana plants, enhanced by a drip irrigation system. Prolonged drought slowed progress in pasture development, and the dry conditions also forced wild animals to move closer to the school in search of food. Late in the year, zebras and impalas entered the school compound and damaged a good portion of crops and young trees, causing losses to the school farming and environmental activities

OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOL VISITS



An example of what new campus visitor tents would be like

Experience has shown that people who visit campus are more likely to become long-term financial supporters of the school. This support typically comes in the form of sponsoring EEMPS students. To expose more people to the school and generate income for the school, ENCO is in the process of acquiring and installing six permanent guest tents with bathrooms and electricity adjacent to campus. The tents will provide an opportunity for safari companies to bring clients by the school for a brief two-night visit on their way to or from a safari.

In September, MEF provided a \$30,602 grant to support the purchase and installation of the tents. Board member Jen Spurl along with a board subcommittee is working with ENCO to develop a guest visitation program with associated marketing materials. The goal is to have the tents ready for occupancy in May 2026, reducing accommodation challenges for EEMPS guests and helping the school become more self-sustaining.



2025 MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 Finances

Balance on Hand 1/1/2025	\$157,202
Income (Donations)	\$213,963
Expenses (ENCO Grants)	\$270,009
Expenses (Overhead)	\$440
Total 2023 Expenses	\$270,449
Balance on Hand 12/31/2025	\$100,580

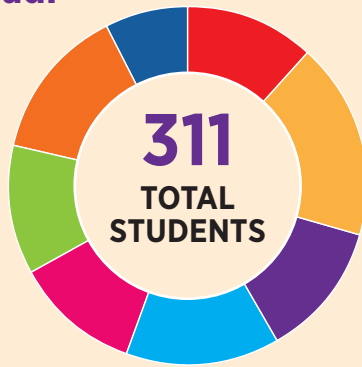
2025 MEF Expenses

EEMPS Construction	\$83,652
EEMPS Operating & Sponsorships	\$60,000
ENCOSS Sponsorships	\$10,800
ENCOSS Construction	\$103,000
Maria Paapi Kingi Sponsorship	\$8,246
Overhead	\$440

STUDENTS AT EEMPS AND ENCOSS 2025

IN 2025 EEMPS had:

- Preschoolers: 37
- 1st Graders: 55
- 2nd Graders: 38
- 3rd Graders: 43
- 4th Graders: 36
- 5th Graders: 36
- 6th Graders: 43
- 7th Graders: 23



153 FEMALES / 158 MALES



IN 2025 ENCOSS HAD:
33 TOTAL STUDENTS
22 FEMALES / 11 MALES



2025 MEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Dr. Brian Benham (2016–present)CHAIR
 Steve Conner (2016–present) TREASURER
 Randy Stith (2018–present)..... SECRETARY
 Dr. Audrey Spielmann (2018–present)..... CANADIAN MES REPRESENTATIVE

Rebecca Caldwell (2016–present)
 Jarek Campbell (2025–present)
 Dr. Theo Dillaha (2016–present)
 Dr. Margie Lee (2020–present)

Isabella Munson (2025–present)
 Karen Scalf-Benham (2016–present)
 Jen Spori (2025–present)
 Nina Tarr (2021–present)

TANZANIA LIAISON AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

Martha Mereso Sengeruan
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENCO, EEMPS MANAGER



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MAASAI EDUCATION
 FOUNDATION

