

Ripple Effect Project



2023 Annual Report



Ripple Effect Project is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Founded in 2006 in response to the challenges endured by Kenyan children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, Ripple Effect Project has partnered with the Korando Education Center in Kisumu, Kenya to support educational, agricultural and infrastructure projects, with an eye towards self-sustainability.

With the financial and strategic support of Ripple Effect Project (REP) and its partners, the Korando Education Center has provided thousands of students with education, food security, and hope.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ripple Effect Project

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the previous year, I am amazed by the continued generosity of the Ripple Effect Project community. Since 2006 REP has been able to support the ongoing needs of the Korando Education Center; this includes the daily needs of the children with education, food, and housing in addition to making necessary infrastructure improvements to the center.

There are many expenses that we can predict and budget for, but there are also the unexpected needs that arise. In 2023 the Ministry of Health informed Korando that they would be required to construct a stone fence surrounding the school building and grounds in their entirety coming to the total \$20,000 USD. Our REP community stepped up in a big way and we were able to provide for this great need. In addition, we continued Phase 2 of the School Building Project with renovations to the building on the adjacent property. Nearing its completion, this building will provide the needed space for the remaining three classrooms.

At times the goals are lofty and the needs seem insurmountable, but time after time the REP community delivers. Our friends at KEC are forever grateful. That said, *our work is not done and the needs continue to be many.*

Join us this year as we continue our ongoing work with and support of Korando Education Center.

Together, we make a difference.

With Gratitude,

Joshua Sammon

President, Ripple Effect Project



THE KORANDO STORY

The Korando Education Center, now a haven of safety and support for the vulnerable, was forged by the grief of “Mama” Dolfine Gumba Dawa Oliech. In the mid 1990’s, both her sons died within a very short period of time: one from AIDS, and the other from post-surgical complications. While mourning the loss of their children, Dolfine witnessed the desperation and hardship of children in her local community. Many of the students’ families were broken due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic; they were trapped in severe poverty without an education and at risk of joblessness, childhood marriage, and even prostitution. Drawing on their experience, Dolfine as a teacher and Patrick as Head Master, Dolfine and Patrick officially founded the Korando Faith Women’s and Orphans Group (KFWOG) in 1997 in order to help those families in need. They opened their family home to a handful of orphans, and helped local widows find sources of income.

In 2003, Dolfine and Patrick opened the Madoma Korando Primary School next to the orphanage, and the Korando Education Center (KEC) was born. The Madoma School provided a safe place to learn for the poorest children: those unable to afford uniforms, shoes, books, and a book bag. The cost of these items prevents most orphans from receiving even a primary education, but Madoma has no such requirement. Founded as a non-traditional school, it was meant to reach the children in the gaps of existing programs, spanning Early Childhood Development (ECD) through grade 8. Some students were orphans, while other students had one surviving parent. The neediest children lived on site, while others commuted.

At the beginning, the funding for the orphanage and school came solely from Dolfine’s entrepreneurial enterprises, her tenacious pursuit of financial supporters, and her own financial generosity. For many years when food was scarce, Dolfine’s devotion was so complete that she would eat only after all the children had. She traversed her community by foot, identifying needs and finding resources. Her care, love and ambition for the children of Kisumu led to her recognition locally, and eventually an invitation to travel to the US in 2006.



Mama Dolfine sitting under the mango tree.



Hello Dear Ones,

I hope this message finds you well. I wish to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in supporting Korando through every challenge and obstacle that came our way. The burdens we face can often feel overwhelming, demanding, and costly, yet you have remained steadfast by our side through it all.

Reflecting on the year 2023 at Korando fills my heart with immense pride and joy. We have witnessed significant achievements, including a notable increase in enrollment, outstanding academic performance by our Form Four candidates resulting in a higher number of students joining university, and eighth graders securing placements in reputable secondary schools. Additionally, the successful conversation and acquisition of the church and its compound for Korando, followed by the ongoing construction nearing completion, mark significant milestones for our community.

These accomplishments have brought a sense of excitement and hope to the entire Korando family. It is our fervent prayer that God continues to bless you with abundant life and strength, enabling you to continue guiding and nurturing these beautiful children towards a brighter future.

With heartfelt love and appreciation,

Mama Dolfine

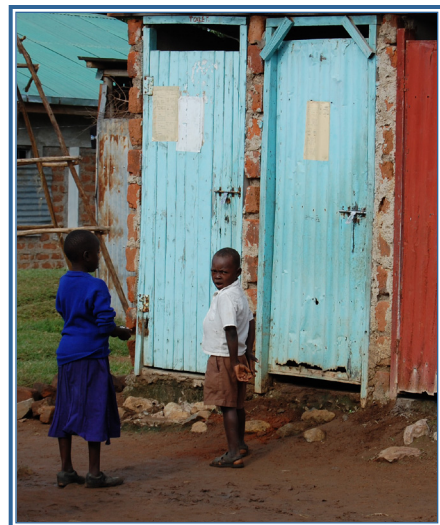
2006 Mama Dolfine speaks at Colby College, REP Established

In 2006, Dolfine spoke at Colby College as part of the Mid-Maine Global Forum. Moved by Dolfine's story and the plight of the HIV/AIDS orphans, a small group of concerned people formed Ripple Effect Project with the goal of providing material and financial support to assist Korando in becoming a self-sustainable enterprise. The result has been a series of changes to the infrastructure of the Center, its programs, and even the land.



Early Days at the Korando Center 2007

At the time of Ripple Effect Project's inception, the Korando Center existed as a humble orphanage and school built from mud, sticks, and corrugated tin. There were 27 students attending classes outdoors or in dark classrooms with mud floors and walls. The girls lived in "Mama" Dolfine's house, while the boys slept in a classroom. Accommodations at the Center were basic, lacking electricity or plumbing. Students used pit latrines and manually drew water from a bore hole dependent on rainwater. When this failed, the students collected water from the river.



Infrastructure improved; cafeteria, bathrooms built

2016

From 2016 and 2019, a new school bathroom facility was constructed with toilets and septic to accommodate all children and staff. A cafeteria was completed with sinks and tables. REP continued to make smaller improvements to the grounds, such as the addition of a drinking water filter, gutters, a locking computer room, and shelving for the growing collection of supplies and materials. By 2019, roughly 250 students attended the school in ECD through grade 8, with 75 students supported at the high school level. Over 50 students were living fully at the Center. During this time, Kenya's regulations for health, safety and education were changing. REP began planning and fundraising for a permanent school building to be completed in two phases.



2012 REP Installs Basic Infrastructure: Electricity, Running Water

By 2012, REP was able to contribute to significant projects: electricity was installed in the house and a few classrooms, a water tower was built, guaranteeing water on demand, and plumbing was installed in Mama Dolfine's house, allowing for a toilet and shower. At this time, roughly 150 students were attending school each day and 58 children were living in the orphanage. Following a large storm which damaged the school building, a new foundation and tin structure was rebuilt in its place.



2017 Porridge, Child Sponsorship programs established

A visit to KEC by REP representatives in 2017 revealed the large number of non-boarding students coming to class hungry every morning. REP immediately established the Porridge Program, providing a nourishing, daily breakfast to every KEC student, many of whom would otherwise eat just one meal a day.



Also in 2017, REP established its Child Sponsorship Program (CSP), allowing donors to get a first-hand account of how their contributions make a difference in the lives of individual students. Critically, this program also provides a reliable and predictable stream of income to REP, permitting more robust budgeting and medium- and longer-term financial planning.

School Building: Phase 1

2020

In the beginning of 2020, Phase 1 of the School Building Project was completed. A brand-new two-story, concrete building provided 6 large classrooms outfitted with proper lighting, windows, flooring, and furnishings such as desks, locking cabinets and chalkboards. Without this building, the Korando Center would have been forced to close for failing to meet the new school standards.



2021 COVID Relief, Dormitories Improved

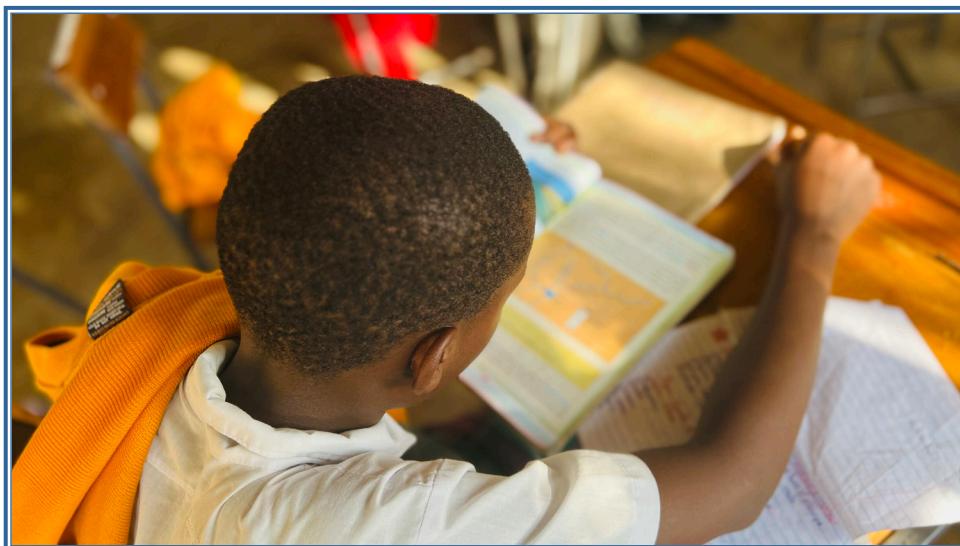
During the school closures of the COVID pandemic, REP helped supply the students and their families with emergency food aid. When the school reopened, improvements were made to comply with safety protocols, including the construction of new dormitories to allow students their own beds.



2022 School Building: Phase 2

Phase 2 of the School Building Project began in late 2022 with the purchase of a neighboring church building, which is being converted into permanent classrooms. Existing dormitories were also significantly expanded and updated.

At year end, 236 students attend school in ECD through grade 8, and 138 students at the high school level. A number of graduates were also supported at various colleges and universities. All students received breakfast, with the 86 residential students receiving an additional 2 meals a day.





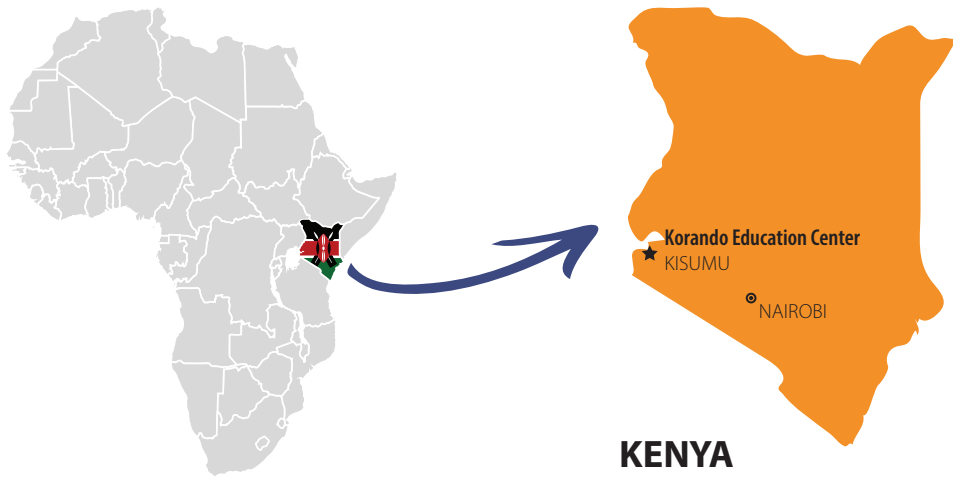
2023 Infrastructure upgrades at Korando

Phase 2 of our School Building Project continued in 2023 with the completion of the purchase of the church building. After many months of waiting for the paperwork to be approved and the church congregation to find a new home, we have begun renovations. This building will provide the space needed to create three more classrooms in order to accommodate all grades in accordance with Ministry of Education codes and regulations.

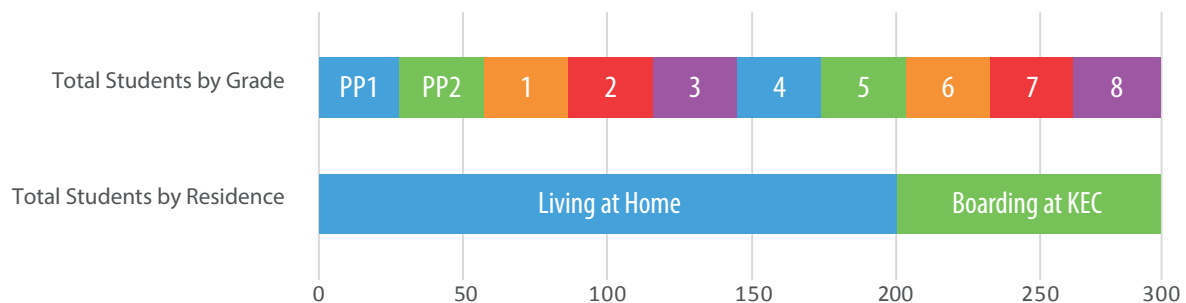
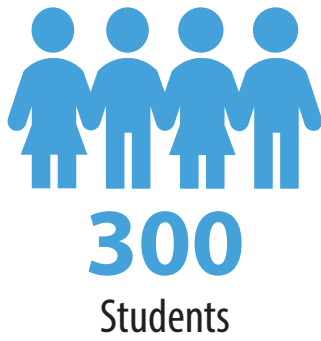


In the fall of 2023, the Kenyan Ministry of Health issued an unexpected demand that the Korando Education Center construct a permanent stone fence surrounding the school buildings and grounds. If KEC did not comply, the Ministry would revoke the license for the Center to operate. With short notice, REP raised \$20,000 for the building of this permanent fence. The Center is now surrounded by a fence made of stone and mortar.





Map illustration contains elements by Wikimedia users Pumba80, Hew2126 and Freepik user alicia_umb. All elements licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial status.





2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We are committed to stretching every donor-dollar as far as possible to maximize the impact on the lives of the students of the Korando Education Center. For every dollar you give, 95¢ directly supports programs at the Center. By minimizing overhead, we ensure that your contributions are going where they are needed most: food, education, and basic needs of the children of Korando.

Operational Expenses

To maximize our impact at the Korando Education Center, we work hard to minimize the overhead expenses inherent in operating our organization. Accordingly, just 5% of the Ripple Effect Project budget is allocated to operational expenses. These include expenses related to printing, postage, accounting services and expenses for Ripple Effect Project to continue to operate and maintain 501(c)3 status. This category also includes expenses directly related to fundraising events and website hosting.



Capital Expenditures

In 2023, the final payment was made in the purchase of the neighboring church building, accounting for just 3% of the overall Ripple Effect Project budget. After completing necessary renovations, this building will provide additional classroom space, completing Phase 2 of the School Building Project.

Program Expenses

The remaining 92% of the Ripple Effect Project budget was dedicated to funding our regular and emergency commitments to the Korando Education Center, detailed below.



Education

The largest segment of our 2023 program expenses, 65%, was spent to support educational programs. This figure chiefly comprises the salaries of the 14 teachers at the Korando Education Center. Expenses also include the purchase of textbooks, workbooks and other education materials. Further, government-mandated proficiency tests for each student are administered at the expense of the student. The Center is assuming the cost of these exams, but absorbing this expense has consequently increased educational expenditures.

Food Assistance

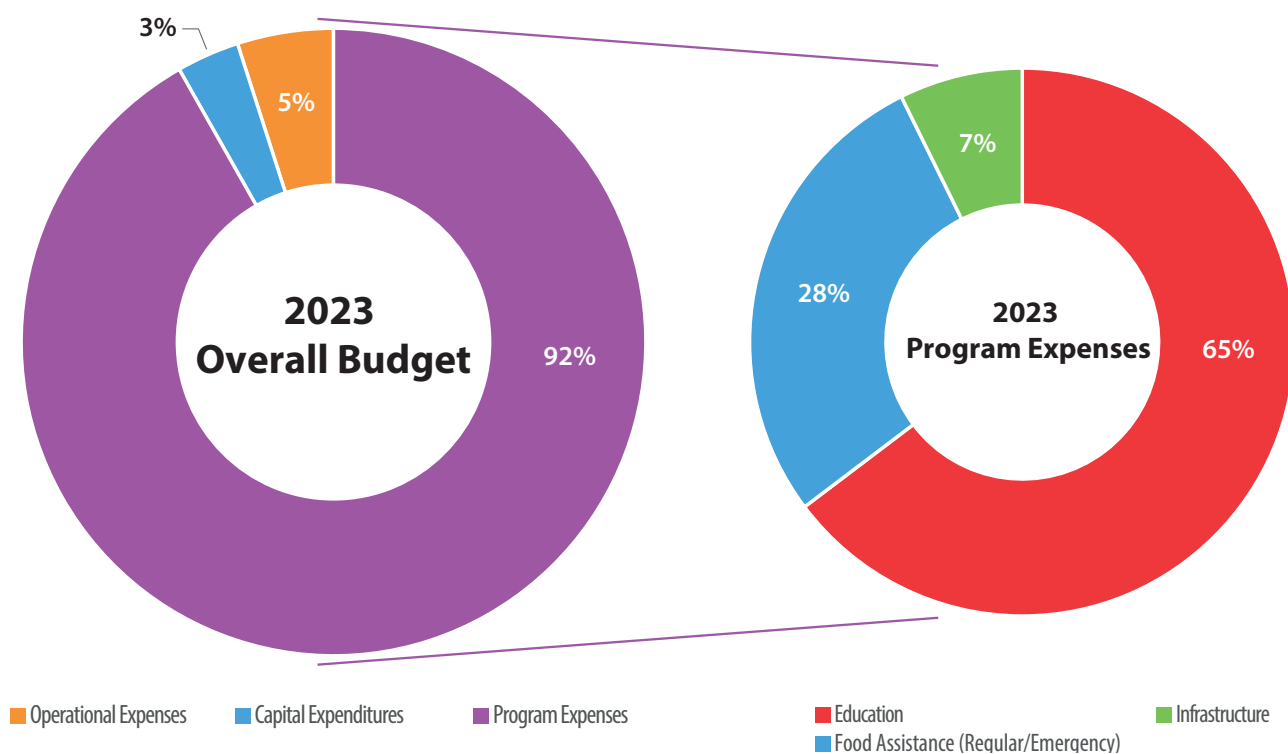
Approximately 28% of the 2023 program expense was spent on food assistance for the Korando Education Center community. This included both planned/regular food subsidies and emergency requests as they arose. While every effort is made to predict nutritional needs in advance, climatic and geopolitical conditions are volatile and introduce uncertainty into the food supply chain.

Changing weather conditions over the past several years have led to volatility in the growing season and an unpredictable food supply. Dolfine and the staff of KEC have smoothed interruptions in the food supply by purchasing foodstuffs from neighboring Uganda. As in previous years, emergency food assistance provided to KEC allowed Dolfine to make bulk purchases when supplies were available.

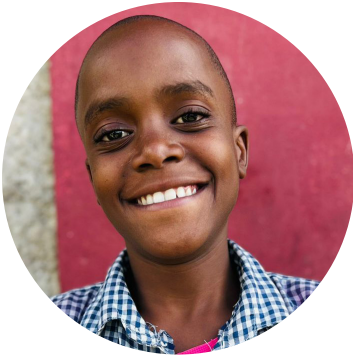


Infrastructure

As noted on page 10, several major infrastructure upgrades were undertaken at KEC in 2023. These projects, including the new fence surrounding the complex and upgrades to the recently purchased church building, accounted for 7% of program expenses. This figure also includes funding regular facility maintenance, electricity and utility costs.



For more information, please contact Roland Garbe, Treasurer: Roland.Garbe@rippleeffectproject.org.



"Ripple Effect Project has helped by providing free basic education and meals for us, which is a basic thing in life, helping to keep me active during my lessons in the class." *—David, Grade 5*



"I like Korando because it's a big school and looks beautiful. Teachers are also loving and caring, and know how to teach. Korando also has a big field where we can play a lot of games." *—Joyce, Grade 2*



"Ripple Effect Project has helped us by building for us comfortable class rooms with good desks too. It has always sent donations for us for basic things like food, clothings and education without payments. It has allowed me the freedom to achieve my goals." *—Ednah, Grade 7*



"Korando is a clean place and looks beautiful with the flowers along the path." *—Latisha, Grade 2*



"Ripple Effect Project has helped us by donating books which has made learning easy. It has helped me by understanding importance of helping others." *—Barbrah, Grade 7*

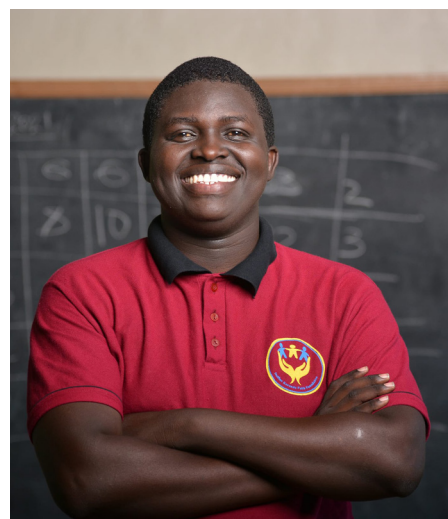


Dear Ripple Effect Project Family,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share some updates from Korando with you, as your support and generosity mean the world to us.

Korando has always been dedicated to providing a safe home and education to orphans and vulnerable children. However, we have faced challenges with the Government, especially due to the ever-changing legal frameworks and regulations. Recently, our Kenyan partners and Government representatives recommended the establishment of a task force or team to keep up with these changes and promptly implement and update the Government parties as frequently as possible.

In response, the Dolfine Korando Faith Foundation (DKFF) Safeguarding Committee was appointed by the DKFF Board. This committee is responsible for implementing procedures to prevent and respond to risks, ensuring a safe environment, training staff, establishing reporting mechanisms, and adhering to legal and ethical guidelines. It comprises members from the Board, Management, School, and Social Work department, and is guided by a safeguarding lead nominated at the Board level. The committee's focus includes policy development, training, risk assessment and management, reporting and response, monitoring and evaluation, advisory role, advocacy and support, and fostering a culture of safeguarding within the organization. These measures will ensure that Korando operates within legal frameworks and protects individuals involved from any form of harm, abuse, or exploitation as per the new policy recommendations. This committee will be vital in supporting Mama Dolfine's work and her administrative efforts to keep up with the ever-changing legal frameworks and regulations.



Benson Abila

Ben, Mama's grandson, will be chairing this committee, bringing his passion and experience, joined by the headteacher John, administration, and other team members from the social work department. Patroned by Pastor John, a board member as well, the committee will report and advise Mama every time to ensure compliance and enhance safeguarding.

We invite the entire Ripple Family to support and strengthen the recommendations from the committees as we strive towards a sustainable and compliant Korando, acting in the best interest of the children and beneficiaries as they safeguard its family and the organization.

Thank you for being a part of our journey and for your unwavering support.

Best Regards,

Benson Abila

Mama's Grandson

Board Member, Dolfine Korando Faith Foundations

Chair, Safeguarding Committee



MEET KORANDO STAFF MEMBERS



Sulita Adipo

Matron

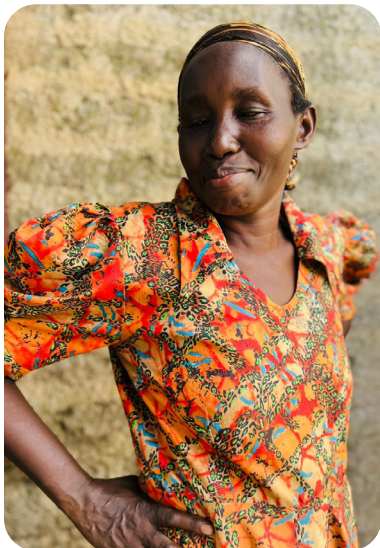
Working at Korando for 7 years



Edward Odhiambo

Social Worker

Working at Korando for 2 years



Margaret Atieno

Kitchen Staff

Working at Korando for 10 years



Dan Oliech

Driver/Electrician

Working at Korando for 6 years



Pamela Abila

Administrator

Working at Korando for 8 years



Caroline Oliech

Kitchen Staff

Working at Korando for 7 years

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ripple Effect Project is an entirely volunteer-operated enterprise. We have no paid staff, relying instead on the generosity of our volunteers.

We are grateful for the continued support of our dedicated Board of Directors, and for the countless hours volunteered by our community members.



Joshua Sammon
President



Levana Olsen
Secretary



Vin Costello



Alice Sammon



Roland Garbe
Treasurer

ACKNOWLEDGING BOB VANDEVENTER

Over the years, Ripple Effect Project has had the great fortune to work with many talented, dedicated and hard-working board members. Bob VanDeventer joined the REP Board of Directors in 2017. Bob brought an understanding, respect and deep regard for Dolfine. He also saw and heard the cries of the children of Korando and their ongoing needs. In response, Bob created the REP Child Sponsorship Program which he ran until this year. For personal reasons, Bob felt he could no longer keep up with the work he was doing and that it was time to step aside and take care of himself. It was with great sadness and gratitude that we accepted Bob's resignation from the REP Board. We are thankful for the vision Bob brought and his dedication to Dolfine and the children of Korando. His steady hand and guidance will be missed.



—*The Ripple Effect Project Board*

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In order to continue meeting the ever-growing responsibilities to the Korando Education Center, Ripple Effect Project is in need of volunteers to fill the roles at right.

Please consider donating your skills to support the children of Korando. If interested, please contact Abigail Lopez at 207/400-0684 or Abigail.Lopez@rippleeffectproject.org. Thank you.

Social Media Coordinator

Website Editor

Grant Writer

Child Sponsorship
Assistant



Join Us



Thank you.

The vital support that Ripple Effect Project has been able to provide over the years would not have been possible without the generous contributions of **donors like you**. On behalf of the children and staff of the Korando Education Center, **thank you**.

**Make a gift today
by mail or online!**

Ripple Effect Project
PO Box 1956
Waterville, ME 04903-1956

www.rippleeffectproject.org

**Or become a Child Sponsor
with a monthly sustaining gift.**

For more information, visit
rippleeffectproject.org/csp
or see the application at right!



Child Sponsorship Application

For just \$35 a month, you can provide a student at the Korando Education Center with education, food security, healthcare, and hope.

By sponsoring a child, you are giving that child a chance—to live their dream, to become a doctor, a teacher, to start a business. All for around a dollar a day.

To become a sponsor, please complete the application at right, or apply online. Sponsorship money will be requested upon receipt of your application. Please email csp@rippleeffectproject.org with any questions or concerns.

Please return this completed application to:

Ripple Effect Project
PO Box 1956
Waterville, ME 04903

Sponsor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Sponsorship Preference:

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ No Preference

Age: _____

For more information, or to apply online, visit
rippleeffectproject.org/csp

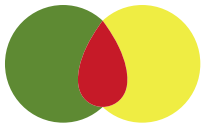


EDUCATION.

FOOD SECURITY.

HOPE.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE
ORPHANS OF KORANDO



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HERE

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**Give by mail or online at the address
above!** All donations are tax-deductible.

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