

THAAKAT FOUNDATION 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Thaakat Foundation



PICTURED:
SPENDILOVE DORSAH
GRADE 1, KONADU BASIC SCHOOL

**#Women
Empowerment**

EMPOWER GIRLS & CHANGE THE WORLD



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Thaakat Foundation

Why do we wait for the New Year to make a resolution? If we want to change something, the time to do it is now. That's the way our team works at Thaakat Foundation. Yes, we've got a budget and goals for the year, but I can tell you we challenge ourselves to go above and beyond that vision every year.

We at Thaakat believe that you don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference. This is why we chose to adopt and work in three very unique areas of the world that needed help; we wanted to show that the small contribution of many can have huge impact on small struggling communities.

In the last 4 years, we've seen a transformation in the villages we've supported. Thaakat was able to introduce electricity, clean water, literacy, agricultural development, and disease prevention. In this short time, it is evident that effective interventions CAN solve poverty.

In Pakistan, we work in the country's largest landfill. In the city of Karachi—shopping malls, bustling roads and mega million dollar developments provide opportunity. But in this unincorporated village of Jam Chakro, people are living in garbage. Burning, polluted and disease infested waste surrounds each home built with cloth and cardboard from the landfill. People told us we couldn't change things here, but today, we have 570 students enrolled in our DREAMS school with Idara Al Khair. We've adopted another 250 students at a nearby campus and have secured land for a third campus. Our students are teaching their parents how to read. One father shares that no one in his family has been educated for generations, but he is so proud that his son is moving mountains through his learnings.

In Sierra Leone, the remote village of Blama Perri is four hours from the nearest city. The infrastructure is so underdeveloped that it is difficult to get a car into this area. Electricity and water were life changing for this community. Not only is our Fatmata maternity center

saving the lives of newborns and new mothers but our staff and presence is helping to put primitive practices to rest. Malaria was causing such a high rate of illness that 30-40% of the population would be infected at any given time. Mosquito laden breeding grounds filled each home and treatment consisted of strings and spirits to ward off the evil. Today, our education and treatment programs are changing attitudes and reducing infections.

In Ghana, we learned that our Konadu School founder needed help. He had built an amazing organization but he was carrying the burden of the school on his shoulders. This year, we brought in additional staff and management to help fight off contamination on the mushroom farm and help with administrative work. With more assistance, Clement was able to concentrate his time on obtaining funding for the community. Thanks to these efforts, electricity, water and furniture are new features at the Konadu school in 2016.

A continuing issue amongst developing countries is that women hurt the most as a result of poverty. When women are poor, their rights are not protected. They have limited options to work, they often don't have access to education and healthcare, they are vulnerable in situations of war and they are stuck in a struggle to survive. While we aim to help transform and progress these communities, the plight of women is always at the forefront of our mission. As we look back on 2016, Thaakat would like to acknowledge the women that helped to advance [#WomenEmpowerment](#).

As we continue into 2017, we are reminded how blessed we are to have your support. In 2016, we fell into a budget deficit mid-way into the year but with your help we were not only able to make up the deficit, we surpassed our goals by more than \$40,000.

On behalf of all of us at Thaakat Foundation,

Thank you so much.

letter from the board

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LET'S EMPOWER WOMEN

The feminization of poverty – or the growing number of women in poverty – has been ongoing for the past four decades. It means that the proportion of women in the world who suffer from poverty keeps growing and that it is becoming a problem that affects more women than men.

It makes sense when you consider social and cultural biases against women. The biases happen in both rich and poor countries, but women in poorer nations often don't have resources to escape. Women often aren't allowed to own land or a business. Many are denied education as girls, since a majority of parents in poorer regions prefer investing in their boys.

We believe the best way to help end gender based violence and cultural bias against women is to provide education early on and to engage as allies in women's economic and social empowerment. When we launched the Thaakat Foundation, we made it our goal to stand women's empowerment up as a major pillar of ours. Today, your donations support women empowerment initiatives at each of our global project

sites in Ghana, Sierra Leone and in Pakistan. We believe opportunity will provide for progress.

How Are You Helping?

Over 2/3 of our working staff at our project sites are women and breadwinners for their families.

Over 40% of our students are female at our school sites in Pakistan and Ghana.

Our maternity center in Sierra Leone helps women to focus on family planning and their own health.

We have launched economic growth opportunities in each area that focus on teaching women vocational and training skills they need to succeed.

Throughout our report, we will share stories of those very special women who are changing attitudes and helping their communities succeed.

#Women
Empowerment

women empowerment

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2016 - 2017 Board of Director

Abdulai Swaray
Community Manager
Sierra Leone

Hina Khan
Global Public
Health Lead

Amani Memon
Funding/
Development Outreach

Nudrat Zoha
Chief of Operations

Ashley Makela
Healthcare &
Development

Umer Nasim
Strategy &
Development

Awais Tariq
Content
Marketing

Ruhail Moffat
Local Operations /
Logistics Lead

Ayesha Lodhia
Treasurer

Saad Bawany
Program Lead/
Annual Events

Aysha Qamar
Campus Chapters
Liasion

Sufyan Barkat
Funding/
Development Director

Azka Asif
Director of Marketing

Uzma Bawany
Executive Director

University Presidents (2016)

Sarah Cordell
Bradley University

Aparna Raju
New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)

Amal Amir & Haris Farooqi
Rutgers University/New Brunswick

Kiran Patel
The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)

Zohah Noor Beg
University of Illinois/ Urbana Champaign

Saman Haque
University of Illinois/Chicago

Amina Raazi
The Ohio State University

Kundan M
UC Davis



SPECIAL THANKS

Board Assistants

Mohammed Ali
Aqsa Bawany
Anoosha Memon
Faraz Hamedani
Faiz Hussaini
Sarah Khan
Samia Malik
Omar Salim
Wardah Zoha

Lead Volunteers

Zaeem Haroon
Hamza Masood
Mustafa Masood
Saad Moffat
Adam Rangoonwala
Ayub Rangoonwala
Abdul Rangoonwala
Parveen Patel

meet the team

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We raised a total of **\$190,180.79**
100% of our direct public support (donations) went
directly to our projects!

Direct Public Support (These are funds you helped us raise!)

General Donations _____	\$115,551.99
Corporate Contributions _____	\$26,819.04
Chapter Fundraisers _____	\$13,752.97

Total Direct Public Support **\$156,124.00**

Projects Expenses (These are donations put towards our projects)

DREAMS for Kachra Kundi- School in PK _____	\$116,437.00
Konadu Basic School Ghana _____	\$23,463.81
Local Volunteering _____	\$368.73
Fatmata Maternity Center _____	\$19,422.74
Global Projects Misc. _____	\$1,000.00

Total Projects Expenses **\$160,692.28**

2016 financials

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Thaakat Foundation Profit & Loss - January through December 2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Direct Public Support	
General Donations	115,551.99
Corporate Contributions	26,819.04
Chapter Fundraisers	13,752.97

Total Direct Public Support156,124.00

Corporate and Business Grants

Sponsorships	10,240.79
Corporate and Business Grants - Other.....	23,816.00

Total Corporate and Business Grants.....34,056.79

Total Income.....190,180.79

Expense

Projects Expenses

Kachra Kundi- School, PK.....	116,437.00
Konadu School, Ghana.....	23,463.81
Fatmata Maternity Center, SL.....	19,422.74
Global Projects Misc.....	1,000.00
Local Volunteer.....	368.73

Total Projects Expenses160,692.28

Fundraiser Expense

Event Expenses.....	8,832.82
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Total Fundraiser Expense8,832.82

Overhead

Bank/Wire Transfer Fees.....	143.95
Social/Web Expenses.....	208.11
Mailing, Administrative Fees.....	78.82

Total Overhead.....430.88

Contract Services

Accounting Fees.....	1,479.00
Legal Fees.....	39.00

Total Contract Services.....1,518.00

Total Expense171,473.98

Net Ordinary Income18,706.81

Net Income.....18,706.81

In 2016, Thaakat Foundation earned a Total Income of **\$190,180**

This is a **40%** increase in income from 2015.

2016 financials

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Events are important to us. They allow us face to face time with our donors and encourage the coming together of people to have a good time while giving back to a cause in need. Our events are currently limited to the Chicago and New Jersey area.

FEED THE NEED CHARITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Every year, more than 200 participants come together for a friendly weekend of competition on the basketball courts. This annual event helps us to carry our global work through the end of the year. Since our first event in 2010, these tournaments have helped us raise a total of over \$50,000.

CHAPTER EVENTS

Our university chapters help our mission reach across the country. Day in and day out they work as a team to volunteer for their communities, fund raise for our adopted global sites and encourage good will, leadership and social change.



Thaakat Foundation has allowed me to use my resources here in NJ to enact change 8,000 miles away from home. We may never meet the people we aim to help but it's funny because I feel an obligation to them. To be honest I sometimes take for granted the opportunity to do simple things like attend school; to make up for that Thaakat Foundation has allowed me to offer that opportunity to someone else. Opportunity is half of the battle, from which strength is born.

Zamin Kazmi
Rutgers Thaakat President
2016-2017

local projects





7TH ANNUAL FEED THE NEED CHARITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Location: Oakbrook, Illinois

This past Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 26th & 27th), we held our 7th Annual Charity Basketball Tournament in Chicago at the Oak Brook Park

District! We had 18 teams competing for the championship over two grueling days. Thanks to the support of all our sponsors, players, volunteers, spectators, and everyone else involved, we raised a record \$32,000! 100% of this will be going towards our local and global projects.

Thanks to AVCS Chicago, our exclusive AV provider, we had live scorekeeping and they covered all our technology needs including electronic signage, presentations, and much more.

Both men and women competed in a record breaking Free Throw Contest. For the first time, we had a total of 85+ participants. The winner on the women's side won an Ulta gift basket and the winner on the men's side received 100 level Chicago Bulls tickets courtesy of Al Bawadi Grill!

Team PYP walked away as our 2016 Feed the Need Champions. This was their 2nd Thaakat Championship and it was attained by their unmatched chemistry and teamwork. Our Champions and Runner-ups went home with trophies provided by our sponsors at Wing Zone (Glendale Heights), while our MVP was awarded gift cards courtesy of The Tailored Foundation.

In addition, this year's winning team – PYP went home with Wing Zone (Glendale Heights) and I Dream of Falafel gift cards, Mastermind Escape Room tickets, and a \$250 team dinner at Tandoor Char House. Our second place team, the Rucker Park Legends also took home Wing Zone (Glendale Heights) gift cards along with tickets to Laugh Factory.

18
Registered
Teams

27
Sponsors

200+
Attendees

\$32k
Raised

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

ELITE SPONSORS:

A to Z Preschool
AVCS Chicago
Halal Broast
I Dream of Falafel
Rosati's Pizza
WingZone

ADDITIONAL 2016 TOURNAMENT SPONSORS:

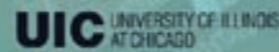
Airlift International
Allergy, Asthma & Sinus Centers
Al Bawadi Grill
Atiya Khan Jewelry
BeyondChai
Central Clinical Labs
Chicago Bears
City Express Travel
Cup of Tea Photography
Enayah's
KINGS Bowling
Lettuce Entertain You
No Escape
Oak Brook Park District
Simply Beautiful Spa
Spider Electronics
Subeena Z
Sky High Real Estate
Tandoor Chat House
The Tailored Foundation
NJS Logistics
Valdes Supply LLC
Vault Escape
Zanies Comedy Club
ZStar Network

feed the need

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Our university chapters host local fundraising and networking events throughout the year. Please follow your local university chapter on Facebook to stay up to date or inquire about volunteer opportunities.

- Bradley University
- New York Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University New Brunswick
- The Ohio State University
- The College of New Jersey
- University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of California, Davis



4
New
Chapters

6
Fundraising
Events

6
Networking
Events

\$15k
Raised



"Working with Thaakat has been such an amazing experience. Seeing the changes we've achieved through our global projects has been absolutely amazing to witness and I know that our entire chapter is so grateful for discovering Thaakat and being a part of the journey. I feel like being a part of Thaakat has made me a stronger and more confident person for which I am forever thankful for!"

Aparna Raju
NYIT Thaakat President
2016-2017



chapter events

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global projects

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konadu basic school

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KONADU BASIC SCHOOL- Techmian Ghana
150 Students, 13 Teaching Staff,
3 Service Staff, 6 Farm Staff

As we close out this year we are thankful for your support of Konadu. Our Founder, Clement has been hard at work all year to bring electricity to the school. This opens up so many possibilities for our students. We are now one huge step closer to a computer lab!

Today, students are learning technical skill and keyboarding from one computer. Soon, they will have the ability for personalized learning.

Construction, fresh water, transportation, electricity, more students, new staff---all truly thanks to donors like you.

At Konadu, we've already increased staff, brought in new management for our farm and this is surely paying dividends. Clement has more time to apply for grants and improve the standing of the school. This is why electricity is available today, it's thanks to his hard work in showing the district what Konadu contributes to the villages.



On our Women's Empowerment mushroom farm, out of 1000 compost bags workers would make by hand, we would end up harvesting with 700 that were contaminated. It was a huge loss and heartbreak for all of our workers. Today, with new management and new housing for the crops, we are already improving positive ratios by 20%. Our brick flooring is keeping wetness out which keeps out bugs and mold. Clement and his farm manager are working hard to cement sales from the international markets. They know their quality mushrooms far surpass what is available in the open market today. Wish us luck!



Site Partner:
Clement Boamah
Konadu Foundation

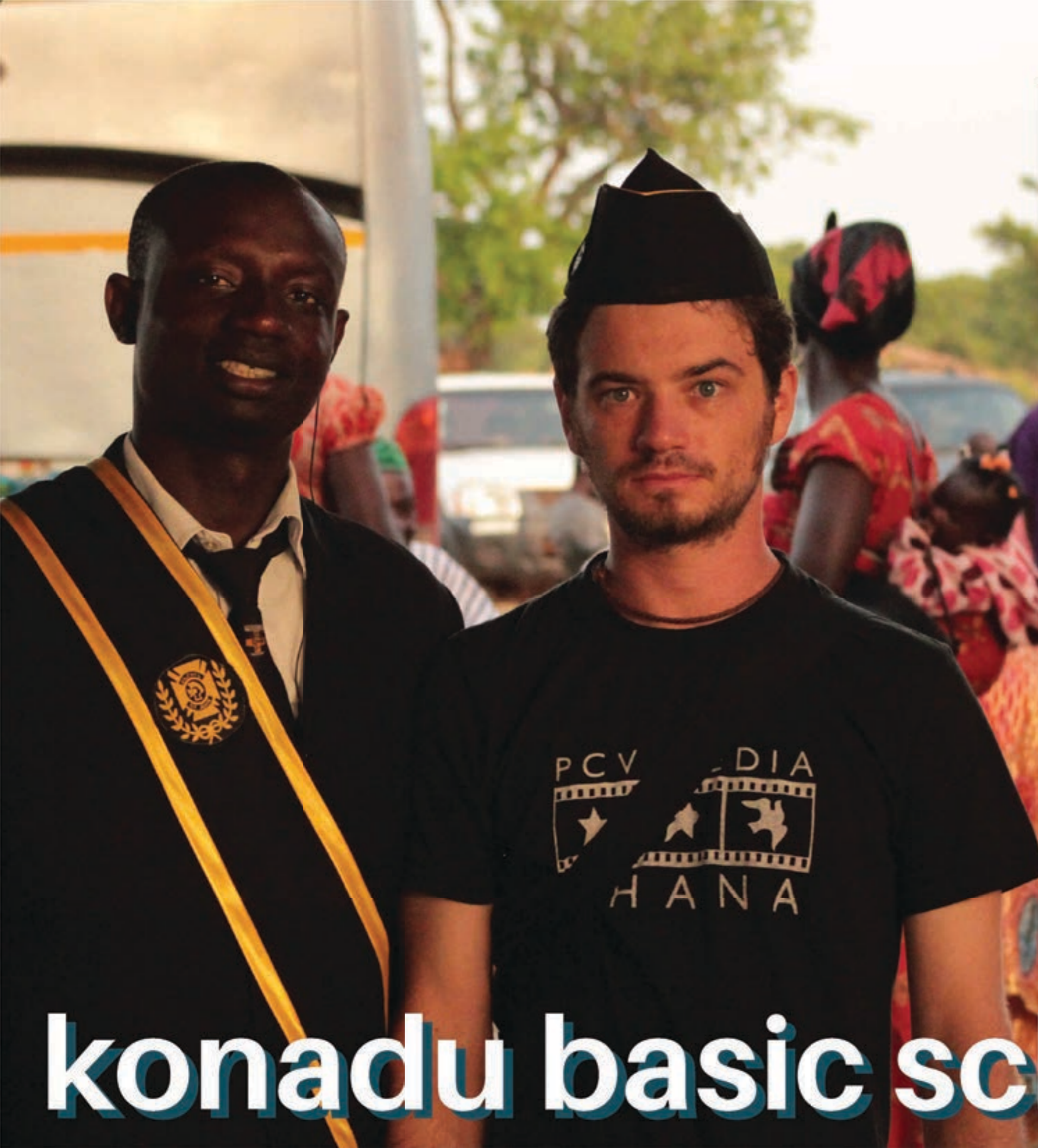


Single mother Isatu Kanu gardens and sells pots. With her loan of \$100 from Thakata's #StandUp program aimed at women empowerment in Sierra Leone, she has been able to

purchase some nice pots and sell them quickly for profit.

Five other women have been granted funds to launch their own business ventures. Stay tuned for their stories.





“

When I first met Clement in 2011, the school was just one teacher and a handful of students. Our collaboration with the Peace Corps gave us some modest growth in the form of beekeeping, pig rearing and a small initial classroom built from waste tires. That was two years of on-the-ground work with Clement. But once Clement connected with Thaakat, the school skyrocketed to success. A huge growth in students. More teachers and now they can be paid. More and bigger facilities with amenities. And their dreams and goals are continuing to grow with an outlook to getting electricity, and a computer learning program within the next year.

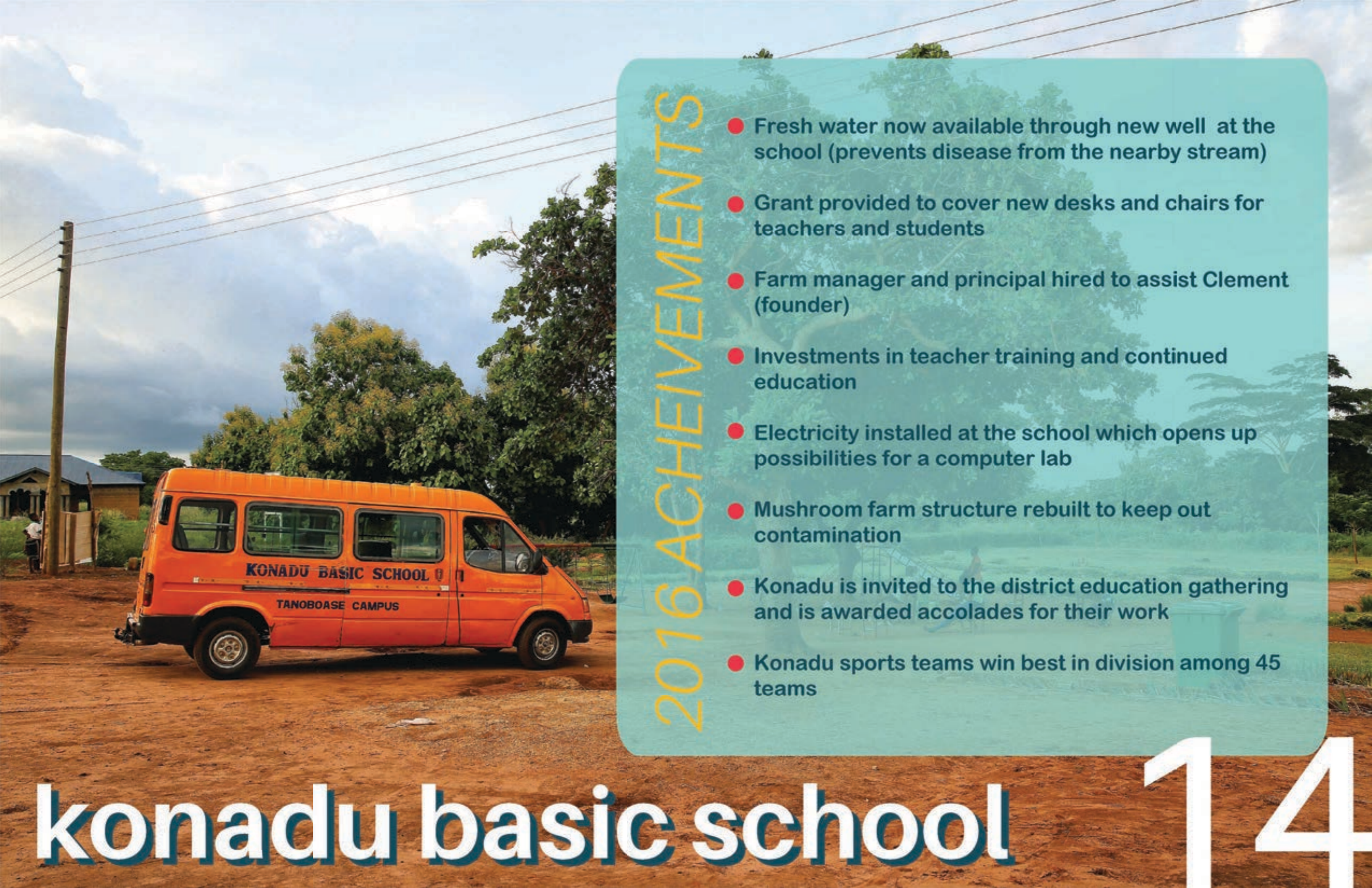
Without Thaakat's moral, promotional and financial support the big dreams that Clement and I had five years ago would have never been realized. Trust me, we were working every day for two years in that little village of Tanoboase! It is hard to get things done without the kind of rare support Thaakat provided.

-Austin Pruett I
Partner & Friend

”

konadu basic school

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2016 ACHEIVEMENTS

- Fresh water now available through new well at the school (prevents disease from the nearby stream)
- Grant provided to cover new desks and chairs for teachers and students
- Farm manager and principal hired to assist Clement (founder)
- Investments in teacher training and continued education
- Electricity installed at the school which opens up possibilities for a computer lab
- Mushroom farm structure rebuilt to keep out contamination
- Konadu is invited to the district education gathering and is awarded accolades for their work
- Konadu sports teams win best in division among 45 teams

konadu basic school

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While women play an important role in food production worldwide, they have limited access to the resources necessary to effectively operate their farming operations. More than 80% students at Konadu come from single mother families. These women struggle to support their children and home. In 2015, we launched the Mushroom Grow'Op. Five women manage mushroom production on site from composting all the way through harvest and sale. Once they have the skills they need they can cultivate opportunities in their own homes. The profits of the farm not only pay them and teach them but they help us to pay for several facilities at our school.

Benefits from the Grow'Op project not only put us on the map in the agriculture sector but help us provide below:

- Salaries to our 5 women in the training program
- Salaries to our compost workers
- Salary for our bus driver
- Maintenance on our water well



Congratulations to Madam Comfort, the first grade teacher at the Konadu Basic School in Ghana for winning the most creative teacher of the month award for September!

Every month, the principle will be recognizing a teacher at the school for their creative teaching efforts and winners will receive a bonus.

#Women
Empowerment

empowering Women in Ghana 15

KONADU DEMOGRAPHICS:

Total number of students 150

Girls : 65

Boys : 85

Age : 18 months to 2 years : 22

3 years to 5 years: 43

6 years to 9 years : 31

10 years to 12 years : 24

13 years to 15 years : 30

Level of Poverty

About **62%** of the people can pay for only two meals in a day.

20% eat only once a day.

18% of the people in the community can pay for food three times in a day. Most are lucky if they have one balanced meal a day. This is why we provide all students with a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

98% of the people in the community



are farmers. They harvest their crops once a year. This is a challenge because they do not know how to sustain the funds throughout the year. We are working to help them.

85% of the community members are illiterate too so when it is harvesting time they want to use the kids to support them in the farm instead of sending them to school. This is a huge challenge for us but we are working hard to change attitudes.



Patience started at Konadu at the age of 9 and was the first girl in her class. Patience is now 12 years of age, in Grade 4 and has the highest marks in terms of grades at the school. She loves being in school

because it allows her to chase her dream of becoming a nurse.

Millions of girls around the world are still being denied an education. Educating girls has a huge impact on all of society. Providing girls with an education helps break the cycle of poverty. Educated women are less likely to marry early and against their will, and less likely to die in childbirth. They are more likely to have healthy babies and more likely to send their children to school.

When all children have access to a quality education, it creates a ripple effect of opportunity that impacts generations to come.

**#Women
Empowerment**

konadu demographics 16



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“ Idara Al-khair's assiduous journey for a better future is almost 30 years old and we've had our fair share of support but sometimes, a Thank you just doesn't quite cover it. Our gratitude for the support that the Thaakat Foundation has given us during the past 5 years, cannot be put into words. The gratitude of the additional 600 students that are now a part of our family because of the Thaakat Foundation, cannot be put into words.

For all the support in the past and hopefully the continued support in the future, we would like to thank the Thaakat Foundation from the bottom of our hearts. May we keep working together with the same zeal and rigor.

-Mazahir Sheikh
Founder | Al Khair Welfare Society



Site Partner:
Idara Al Khair
Welfare Society



Shaheen Esa Khan graduated in 2016 and was soon married. However, she has also achieved her dream and started teaching at a school in her community.

This was a quote from Shaheen from a few years ago:

“Everyone has dreams. I too want to have a dream. These dreams are only possible through an education. When I receive that education and I start to reach my goals, I know that I will be inspired to continue to receive more learning. I will want to set new goals. In the future I want to be able to teach other girls. I want to help those girls whose families are also stopping them from receiving an education.”

#Women
Empowerment

dreams for kachhra kundi 18



DREAMS Schools
Location: Karachi, Pakistan
Partner: Idara Al Khair

Campus II: 250 students, 13 staff
Campus III: 570 students, 23 staff
Campus VI : 80 students

By March 2016, we were over \$14,000 in deficit. Our boundary wall was in the works and we couldn't stop construction mid way. We had promised our students a playground and our classrooms were bursting at the seams. New teachers, new classrooms--we needed it all and couldn't afford it.

I cannot explain to you the value of what you have done for our cause. Not only were we able to cover all site deficits for 570 students at our DREAMS campus III in Jam Chakro village in Karachi, we were able to triple over our efforts with your support and have adopted a second campus and started building a third. Here is what one student's father shared about the impact our partnership with Al Khair has had for him.

THANK YOU ONE UMMAH!

In 2016, we were able to complete a major milestone for Campus 3 thanks to our partners at One Ummah Foundation. A perimeter boundary wall was stood up to protect the campus. At a cost of \$22,000 the project has taken over 2 years to complete and has been funded by our friends at the One Ummah Foundation.



Meet Gull Bano, a fifth grader attending school at our DREAMS campus. She lives with her family of twelve in the slums of Kachra Kundi outside of Karachi, Pakistan. Her father passed away two years ago and her one brother supports the entire family. They are struggling to make ends meet.

Even while facing crippling setbacks Gull Bano manages to be a shining star. She makes sure to never miss class and plans on continuing on to higher education and dreams of becoming a teacher herself one day.

**#Women
Empowerment**

growth in pakistan

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ADOPTING CAMPUS 2

Built over 12 years ago, more than 250 students and 13 staff members fill the two buildings of Campus II. These buildings represent the first time education was brought to this landfill. However, severe lack of resources have made it impossible to maintain this campus. Once the DREAMS III campus was built, the focus had been to drive students to attend the new facility as it housed primary-metric level classes and was in a cleaner area of the village but many of the younger children were not willing to make the trek.

To get a better understanding of how these villagers are living one must drive down the gravel road towards Campus II. Homes are built with keepsakes, clothing, wood and cardboard from the garbage. 15-25 people pack each tiny home. These villagers live amongst the garbage. As one climbs the hills of waste, you will find children peeking from behind the makeshift doors of their homes.

Campus II is surrounded by people of all backgrounds. It is an area where minorities have built their own little villages. Almost 40% of

students are from a minority background. This school gives them the opportunity to thrive and grow without having to leave the area where they have built a support system.

The teachers at this facility have for years come to one of the most difficult places to teach on very low salaries. We have already raised teacher wages and made the promise to fund the full operations of this school. Thank you donors.

BUILDING CAMPUS 6

When we received notice that 80 students in the slum village of Yaroo Goth, Karachi were being forced off the land, we asked what we could do to help. We needed immediate funding to purchase new land and launch construction. This came at a cost of over \$30,000. We knew at this point, we could keep our current funding to secure the next few months of DREAMS campus II & III or we could help these students who really needed us. We made the decision in late 2016 to proceed and launch construction for Campus 6 with Al Khair.

growth in pakistan

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2016 ACHEIVEMENTS

- Water well (providing to the community) and electricity instated in 2015-2016
- Enrollment at Campus III reaches 570 students
- 10 ft boundary wall costing \$22,000 completed with funding from One Ummah Foundation
- Playground for students completed
- Food rations provided to over 500 families
- Coats, blankets, sleeping beds and rations provided in winter 2016
- Built 4 more classrooms and hired additional staff
- In December 2016, we adopted additional Campus II (250 students) and purchased land to build out campus VI
- Increase in teacher salary slated for 2017

dreams for kachra kundi

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fatmata maternity center 22

FATMATA MATERNITY CENTER- Sierra Leone
20,000 impacted

Now open for 2 years, the government has noticed our work. To help serve as many people as we are they provided us with another full time nurse at the center. Mariama Lahai and Mariama Bah are our two wonderful nurses. This makes for a total of 7 employees, all supporting their families while improving the community, thanks to your funding.

Thanks to a grant from the Friends of Sierra Leone foundation we were able to complete the 2nd phase of our Stop the Bug Malaria Prevention Program. The program goes door to door in six communities to help educate, prevent and stop malaria in it's tracks. In some communities the rate of random testing found more than 50% of people infected with the disease. Our site manager Philip Momoh has done a fantastic job of leading this program.

Lastly, we are excited to share that we have completed our 2nd quarters the center. In the past, women who had given birth would have to rest in the labor room. This was uncomfortable for all parties. The new unit has three post partum rooms where mothers and babies can rest in comfort. We also have a quarter for a medicine store where we will provide general medications on a cost recovery basis.

We've also reached a milestone **200 HEALTHY BIRTHS** at our center.



Site Partner:
Philip Momoh



Pictured is our head nurse, Mariama Lahai educating new mothers on infant nutrition and encouraging patient visits to the center.

The recent Ebola outbreak in 2014 created for a rise in teenage pregnancies in rural Sierra Leone. These women, referred to as 'pikin born pikin' (child giving birth to a child) often do not visit healthcare centers out of fear for being judged and also have challenges in delivering babies because their bodies are not always fully developed. When they do deliver, they are neglected by their own parents, schools, and other public institutions. This leaves them with many challenges prior to and post pregnancy where not only their health but the health of the baby suffers.

To help new mothers in their journey we launched the Little Promises program. Sierra Leone's maternal mortality rates are the highest in the world and a third of all infants do not live to see the age of five. Our goal is to increase child and maternal survival rates by providing free and quality access to healthcare.



fatmata maternity center 23

FATMATA SUMMARY

In a country with one of the highest children under five and maternal mortality rates, Thaakat Foundation took initiative to change the conditions causing such high rates of death. In April of 2014, we officially opened doors to Fatmata Maternity Center in the rural region of Blama Perri, Sierra Leone. This facility made access to healthcare a reality for a population of over 20,000 villagers who previously lacked proximity to any such place (nearest hospital was over 15 miles away). By the end of 2016, the Maternity Center had seen and treated a total of 9,665 disease cases (ranging from Malaria, Pneumonia, Typhoid Fever, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Malnutrition) and safely delivered 224 babies. A qualified team of 22 staff members (Site Manager, Philip Momoh; Head Nurse, Mariama Lahai; along with additional nurses, 12 traditional birth attendants, sanitation workers, security, records management, and Women's Empowerment Lead) has made it possible to provide the community members with timely, effective care and treatment.

FIGHTING MALNUTRITION

In order to fight malnutrition in the children under five years of age population, Thaakat provides Sierra Mix (nutritious supplement) to all newborns delivered at the Maternity Center. To further support the fight against malnutrition, Head Nurse Mariama began a Breastfeeding Education Program, which educates mothers on the importance of exclusively breastfeeding their newborns until the age of one years old. The goal of this program is to make exclusive breastfeeding a common practice among the mothers in the community and to emphasize the long-term, positive impact on the child's immune system and overall health.

Unfortunately in rural Sierra Leone, many families do not have the money to provide adequate food and nutrition for their children. This leads to malnutrition, illness and a high child mortality rate. The country rates among the top five in under 5 mortality in the world.



Pictured here is Kema with her mother. Kema is part of our Acute Malnutrition Program at the center. When she started the program, she weighed 5.3, and today she is at 6.5! Each child on the program receives Sierra Mix, a nutritional supplement and is put on on a special feeding program.

#Women
Empowerment

fatmata maternity center

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Stop the Bug

Malaria Education & Prevention Program
FATMATA MATERNITY CENTER



Thaakat Foundation has adopted three global project sites focused in education, sustainable development and health care. Our health care facility, Fatmata Maternity Center, was launched in Sierra Leone in Pujehun district. This facility was opened almost two years ago (April, 2014) in a rural village in Sierra Leone. The struggle to get this facility up and running has been a battle worth fighting entirely. More than 6,000 patients have been treated to date and 150 healthy babies have been delivered.

The center is thriving however there's a severe lack of resources. Malaria, STD infections and typhoid are affecting thousands of people in the community (especially expecting mothers and children who are the most vulnerable) but resources aren't available to continue large scale prevention and treatment programs.

PROBLEM

As we review monthly statistics and challenges at our center, we continue to see spiking malaria rates. In our analysis of our 2015 full year at the center, Malaria had the clear cut highest disease incidence among the adult, adolescent and children under five populations. Not only was it the highest incidence, but we were having trouble curbing the problem. In further study, we found that the environment, living conditions and health and hygiene practice of villagers was contributing to the problem. There are more than two million suspected cases in Sierra Leone currently; with fewer than six million inhabitants, this suggests around a third of the population are potentially living with the disease.

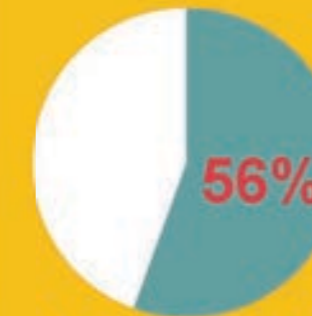
MALARIA EDUCATION



Including:

- The basic concept of Malaria, including its signs and symptoms
- Different stages of Malaria in the human system
- Recommended drug and treatments available at Fatmata
- Warning signs of the disease
- Tools and advice for prevention in and around the home and workplace

MALARIA TESTING



56% tested positive for Malaria in 2016

A total of 206 people were pulled for random testing of the disease during this Phase 1 of the program. The random testing showed us 115 people (56%) tested positive for Malaria

The total number of affected people within the last six months in all six communities was 317 people.

MALARIA PREVENTION



A total of 37 breeding points were identified and covered with oil to prevent further Malaria outbreak.

putting a stop to malaria 25

UPDATE

PHASE I: The statistics reveal that out of 206 pulled for random sampling, 115 tested positive.

PHASE II: The statistics reveal that out of 410 random sampling tests offered in all the six communities, only 91 cases were positive.

*Drastic drop in cases is due to education, eradication and also due to seasonality of disease. We will be moving phase 1 and 2 of the program to the wet season in 2017.

BREEDING GROUNDS

We have reduced mosquito breeding grounds from 37(July) to 28 (November). He said, despite the community being very primitive and traditional in their understanding of disease, people have taken the 'once a month clean day' very seriously. The community chief has required each volunteer sanitation lead to provide reports on who is not obliging to the rules. Our campaigns have greatly impacted these six communities.

Villagers attention to the issue has helped us to ensure that people keep all weeds, swampy areas and any other problem areas as clear as possible.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Thanks to your funding and the willingness of villagers to participate in the program we have been able to:

- Secure enough funding to begin the construction for public toilet facilities in each of the six villages. This effort will be a huge marker for progress in the area of disease prevention. Currently villagers are using all and any public space for waste which makes clean up and disease prevention very difficult.
- We can distribute mosquito nets to any homes where they are absent or worn out.
- We can seek out whether there is a more effective day/time to visit the farming community.



Foday Keifala Jaward
Malaria Prevention Lead
Sierra Leone

putting a stop to malaria 26



Mariama Bah is pictured here on the left with head nurse Mariama Lahai.

SANITATION:

Thaakat Foundation is going to continue taking preventative measures in 2017 by improving sanitation within the village where the Center is located. Proper bathrooms (the first of its kind in the village) will be built, providing the villagers a clean and proper space to relieve themselves. The goal of building the bathrooms is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases that can be contracted from urine and fecal matter.

FIGHTING SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs):

STIs have been among the top three treated diseases in the adult population at the Center since 2014. The STIs rates have raised by nearly 39 percent from 2014 (see Table 4). The goal for 2017 is to successfully implement an intervention to reduce rates of STIs in the adult population through the use of educational seminars and promoting contraceptive use.

Table 4: Total STIs Cases Treated in Adults (2014-2016)

Gender	2014	2015	2016	Total:
Male	43	61	47	151
Female	58	72	93	223
Total:	101	133	140	374



Pictured are six of our twelve Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) along with our nurse, Mariama Bah. These volunteer health attendants work with Mariama to improve the overall health conditions of women residing in the villages surrounding our maternity center.

Traditional Birth Attendants advise mothers with sick or malnourished children and also advise on family planning resources. They encourage women to visit the center and aid them with lactation training and STD prevention and awareness conversations. Because villagers have for decades relied on these traditional nurses, their participation with us has been so important. Thanks to donor support we were able to provide them with a helpful stipends for their wonderful work.



2016 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 200 births and almost 7,000 patients treated at the center to date
- New unit built which houses 3 post maternity rooms and a medicine store
- Additional nurse hired
- Malaria prevention programs launched twice this year with support from community chiefs, results in decrease of prevalence of the disease
- Further developments being made in community infrastructure and roads system
- Continued investments in STD prevention programs and acute malnutrition programs save lives

growth in sierra leone

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RECORD 200 BIRTHS SIERRA LEONE

We achieve a record 200 healthy births at our center and over 6,500 patients treated. The year kicks off with a brand new health unit which houses 3 postpartum rooms and a medicine store.



PWB VISIT

PAKISTAN AND GHANA

Photographers Without Borders partner with Thaakat to send Kelly Wenzel and Lisa Weatherbee to our project sites. Their photography & coverage of our work gives our donors a personal perspective.



MALARIA PREVENTION SIERRA LEONE

Our STOP THE BUG Malaria Prevention programs make headway. Primitive practices are put to rest and six communities surrounding our center see a decrease in disease. Fines are implemented for non compliance to proper sanitation practice.



CAMPUS 2 & CAMPUS 6 PAKISTAN

Thanks to a successful year we adopt Campus II with Al Khair adding 250 more students and purchase land to build Campus VI.



FACILITIES AT KONADU GHANA

Konadu starts to get attention from the district. Founder, Clement, wins grants for furniture and electricity and this opens up so many possibilities for our school.



NEW STAFF PAKISTAN, GHANA, SIERRA LEONE

A total of 20 new staff members and almost 400 new students help us kick off 2017.



2016 developments

2017

You were able to help us achieve double digit growth in 2016. When we ended the year we knew that we could either keep our funds as safety going into the new year or we could put it to work.

And when we go to work, we go all in! We may not have the funds to complete these development projects right away but we sure got them started. Stay tuned for updates into 2017.

PAKISTAN

- Continued growth at initial DREAMS Campus III
- Campus III sun and heat protection filters
- Adoption of Campus II and 250 more students, 13 staff
- Building of Campus VI
- Clean water well in rural Dadu village
- Funding for Al Khair College

SIERRA LEONE

- Building of public bathroom units across six rural villages surrounding our Fatmata center
- Continuation of our malaria prevention programs
- Hired a malaria prevention lead
- Focused education and prevention tools for STDS
- Training and implementation of HIV testing program

GHANA

- Building of a new school quarters which will allow Konadu to apply for accreditation to host secondary learning classes
- The quarters will also include a computer lab
- Improvements and expansion of our mushroom farm
- Hiring of additional staff



Lisa Weatherbee spent two weeks with the Konadu Basic School in Tanoboase, Ghana as a part of an outreach project with Photographers Without Borders. Leaving her life behind in New York City, she helped to capture the stories and love behind what keeps our partner school Konadu Foundation Ghana going. Visit lisaweatherbee.com to view her gallery and story.

"On my last day in Tanoboase, Clement organized my African naming ceremony and christened me Adwoa Adjewaa Boame. and with that, he became not only my friend, but my brother."

-Lisa Weatherbee

#Women
Empowerment

looking ahead

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