

**MGRC ecoVillage**

Maasai Girls Rescue Center

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## A LEADER'S PERSPECTIVE

As the founder and leader of Maasai Girls Rescue Center, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for our sponsors, donors, volunteers, Tanzanian staff, and the girls. Despite unanticipated challenges and disappointments, the girls are thriving, government officials are partnering with us, and community leaders are taking notice. **Our progress is amazing.**

In the next few pages of this year's annual report, you will read about some of our accomplishments and achievements of 2022. You will also have a chance to learn more about several of our girls, their individual journeys, and their hopes for the future.



When I founded MGRC in 2000, I had a vision...

I knew what I wanted to achieve, but I had NO idea how get there. Now, with the help of many generous souls and countless hours of work, the vision of a full functioning and self-supporting organization is taking shape.

However, we have a long way to go, and **our biggest challenge** is still ahead of us: ensuring the future of MGRC by making the ecoLodge a reality.

There is no denying that the investment needed for this final phase of MGRC is substantial. But the result will be a sustainable future for MGRC. Once complete and operating, the Ecolodge will

- produce revenue to cover the operational costs for MGRC
- provide westerners with an unparalleled eco tourist experience
- ensure career opportunities in all aspects of hospitality for the girls and locals in the community.

Thank you again for generosity and heartfelt support.

We continue to rely on you for your financial support and to help us spread the word so others will join the effort. ***The lives of the girls depend upon it.***

**RICK MORRO**

Maasai Girls Rescue Center, Founder

## ABOUT US

### OUR MISSION

Rescue and transform the lives of at-risk Maasai girls by providing food and clothing, shelter, medical attention, counseling, education and training in a loving, familial, and safe environment. We purposely and intentionally prepare the girls for a future of financial independence and self-sufficiency.



### OUR VISION

Change the mindset of how Maasai girls are valued and thus break the cycle of poverty and oppression in the Maasai Community by raising strong, financially independent and self-reliant women. MGRC women will possess the acumen, education, management skills, vocational training and life skills needed to be successful business owners, educators, professionals, community leaders and good parents. Our success utilizes a unique entrepreneurial model.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

- Took in nine new residents; five permanent, four temporary.
- Saved the life of a newborn baby.
- Built the ecoVillage security wall, gate, and guard house.
- Completed the multi-purpose four building complex.



- Finished the majority of construction on three of the girls' houses, and secured financing for a fourth.
- Received a donation and started drilling a bore hole to provide clean water.
- ecoFarm produced 100% of the vegetables and protein for the girls and staff – at a lower cost and better quality than what we can purchase.

- Kept operating expenses below the set budget for 2022.
- Added 10 new staff members, for a total of 20.
- Created a sponsor portal on the website to foster relationships between the girls and their sponsors, while protecting the girls' privacy.
- Honored our promise that 100% of donations go toward the direct care of our girls or construction projects.



# ECOVILLAGE

## A DREAM BECOMING A REALITY



< 2021: we purchased land to build ecoVillage.

Today >



### In 2022 the ecoVillage went from a dream to becoming a reality.

We built a security wall around the property and the necessary infrastructure for electric, water and sewer. We completed the multi-purpose complex which include the kitchen, dining hall, preschool, Career Center and administrative offices. Three of the girls' houses were built and funding was secured for another house.

**The ecoFarm produced all the protein and vegetable needs for the girls and staff of over 80 people!** The ecoFarm provides a learning platform for teaching the girls critical life skills related to agriculture, farming and animal husbandry. We drilled a borehole for a water well to provide clean water for the ecoVillage.

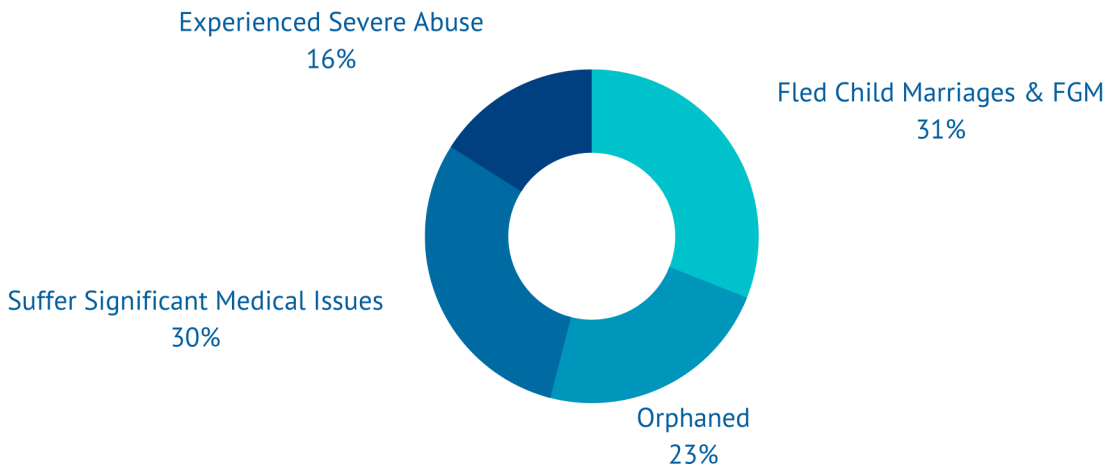
There are more exciting things to come...

In 2023, we will be building the fourth girls' house, a playground and recreation field so the girls have a **safe space to run and play**, and the ecoLodge which will ensure a **sustainable future**. We will continue to **develop our Career Center** where some of the girls have already started learning skills such as sewing, hairstyling, computer literacy, milk pasteurization for making butter, ice cream, and yogurt.

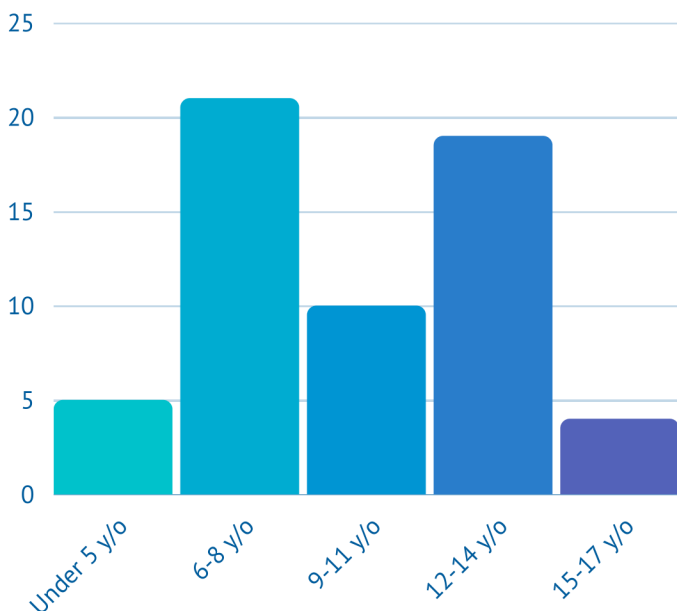
# THRIVING IN A LOVING ENVIRONMENT

In 2022, we received nine children from Social Welfare. Four of the children were abandoned siblings who were temporarily housed until a permanent home was found. The other five girls came to us from a variety of challenging circumstances, having never attended school and speaking only Maa (tribal language). Upon arrival to MGRC, the girls receive a medical assessment including any immediate medical care. The girls are enrolled in primary school or in our nursery school. During their first few months, past experiences of poverty and abuse begin to heal as they thrive in a loving family environment at MGRC.

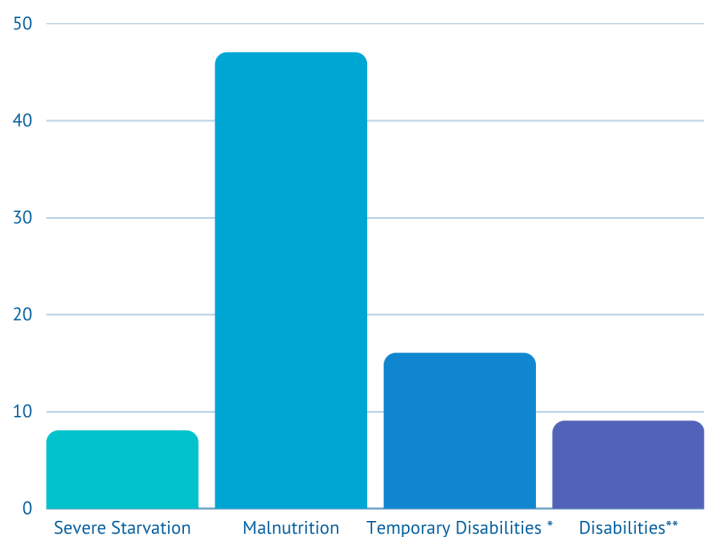
## Background of the Girls



## Age & Number of Girls



## Girls with Health Concerns Upon Arrival



\* Eczema, parasites.

\*\* Trachoma, childhood tuberculosis, skeletal fluorosis (bent legs), club feet, severe vision problems.

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIRLS

## AMAZING PROGRESS

There are currently **62 permanent residents** at MGRC.

All of the girls who arrive at MGRC have experienced extreme poverty and malnutrition. Many of them have **escaped severe abuse**, forced child-marriage, and female genital mutilation.

**Overcoming the language barrier.** The official languages of Tanzania are Swahili and English. Many of the girls who arrive at MGRC have never attended school and could only speak Maa, their tribal language.

Our girls are enrolled in primary school where they learn Swahili, and at the secondary level the teaching language switches from Swahili to English. The younger girls begin their education journey in our nursery school.

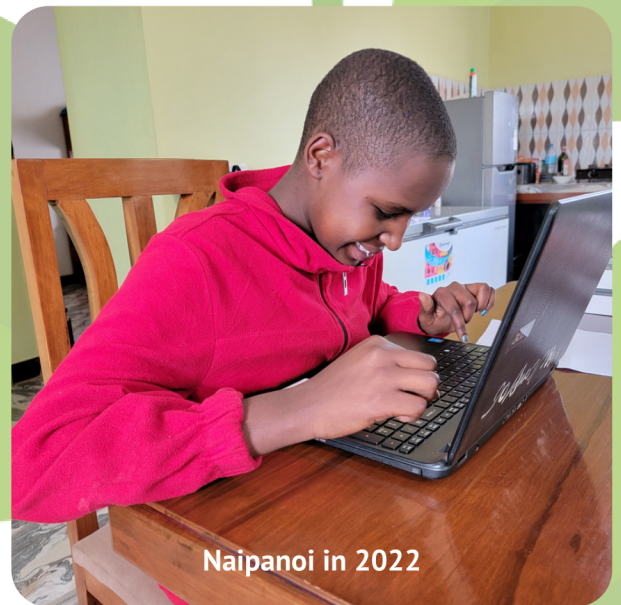
In addition to formal education, the girls are **learning life skills**, making their beds, doing their laundry, and cooking African and Western foods. They enjoy helping the other girls and around the ecoVillage.

Our goal is to **prepare the girls to be self-sufficient**. We provide them counseling and guidance for making wise decisions about their futures. In addition, they receive vocational training in the areas of agriculture, hospitality, animal husbandry, hair styling, cooking, sewing, and computer literacy.

Maasai girls come from a culture where there are few opportunities beyond marriage and child bearing – so it's our mission to **open their beautiful minds to all the wonderful possibilities**.



Naipanoi (left) in 2013



Naipanoi in 2022

# SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIRLS

## AMAZING PROGRESS



**Maria** won the NATIONAL TITLE in the 100m race! She competed at district and regional levels before being invited to travel to the Tabora region for this competition. Maria came to us after being forced into marriage age just 8 years old. In her 5 years at MGRC, she has come such a long way!



**Momoi** completed standard 7 (the end of primary school) with high grades and has started Form 1 in secondary school. Less than 40 percent of Tanzanian girls go on to secondary school.



**Bahati** came to us two years ago with severe vision problems. She had never attended school. Thanks to specialized care for her eyes her vision has improved. She is very smart and was number one in her class. Her English is good and she is very confident.



**Naiyai** came to us last year to escape a child marriage at 5 years old. She had never attended school, but she can now read and write. She understands and speaks English, and just started Standard 1.



**Upendo** was born with albinism and nearly blind due to albinism. Superstitions and rituals among the Maasai made living with albinism very dangerous. She came to us having never ventured more than a few yards from her hut. Despite her beginnings, she is outgoing and confident. She made it all the way to the National track competition where she placed in the top three!



# ENSURING THE FUTURE

## ECOLOGDE AND ECOTOURISM

Breaking the bonds of dependency and need for charity among the Maasai girls is at the heart of MGRC. To ensure this becomes a reality, we are launching the ecoLodge and impact vacation experience that will fund all operational expenses of the Center.

We are building and nurturing relationships with travel agencies, safari companies, and Tanzania National Parks.



Tourists will experience first-hand the positive impact MGRC is having on the girls, the community, and the environment:

- High-end lodging villas for western travelers, maintained and managed by MGRC graduates, older MGRC residents, and the local community.
- “Impact eco-vacation” experiences include safaris, ecoFarm tours, trips to the bush, and more.
- Facilitate volunteer experiences at MGRC that in turn, positively impact local communities. The entire enterprise including the ecoFarm, ecoLodge, and the Center will be staffed by dedicated, passionate Tanzanians.

The ecoLodge and related services will generate enough revenue to fully fund expenses of the Center – breaking the bonds of dependency and allowing us to make a greater impact for at-risk Maasai girls.



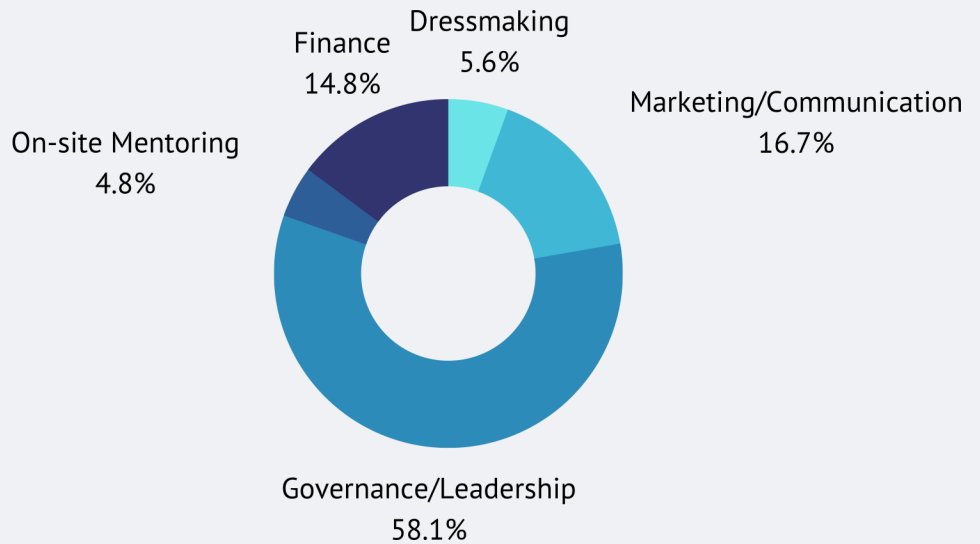
# OUR DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

People from around the world give their time, money and skills to MGRC. Our organization is entirely dependent on donors and volunteers.

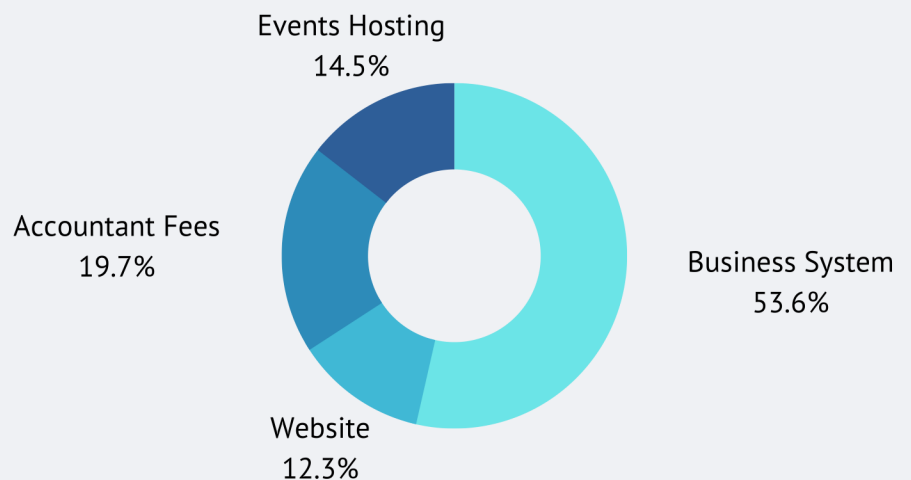
One of MGRC's greatest assets are the thousands of hours from dozens of volunteers. Our philosophy to have **100% of donations** go toward the direct care of our girls or construction projects, means we need support from many different disciplines to manage and support our organization. In 2022, we had the honor of receiving **over 6,600 volunteer hours** from talented professionals, executives and entrepreneurs. See chart below for summary of volunteering hours by activity. One of our volunteer groups are seamstresses for Threads of Hope. MGRC has some of the best dressed girls in Karatu!

Overhead expenses for accounting, website design and hosting, business system design, support and hosting are paid for by GrowthPoint Inc., a marketing services company. GrowthPoint's **pro-bono services** are valued over \$44,000 in 2022.

## Volunteering Hours by Activity



## Pro-Bono Expenses by Type



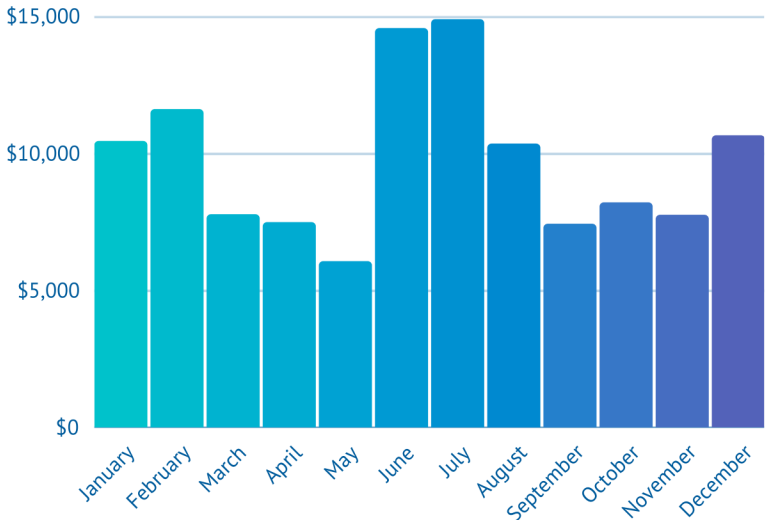
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## JANUARY 2022 - DECEMBER 2022

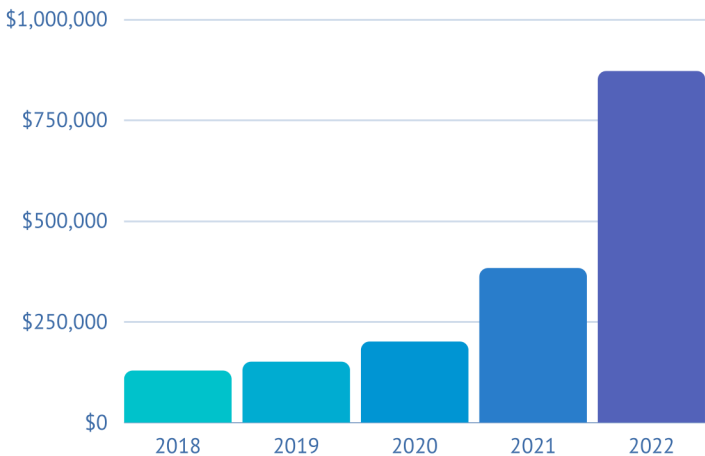
Because the founder, president, board of directors, angel donors, and fundraising team members are all unpaid volunteers, our charity management expenses are zero. **All expenses are Tanzanian expenses used for the direct care of our girls or for building the ecoVillage.**

Our expense per girl in 2022 was under our target of \$180 per month per girl, and we are forecasting that to remain the same in 2023. This is significant based on inflation with ALL our expenses. Food and animal feed costs have more than doubled in 2022. By producing most of our food on our ecoFarm, we were able to control costs and improve the nutrition of our girls. We have built a business system that provides a direct line-of-sight of our donations to the actual expenses - this is updated daily.

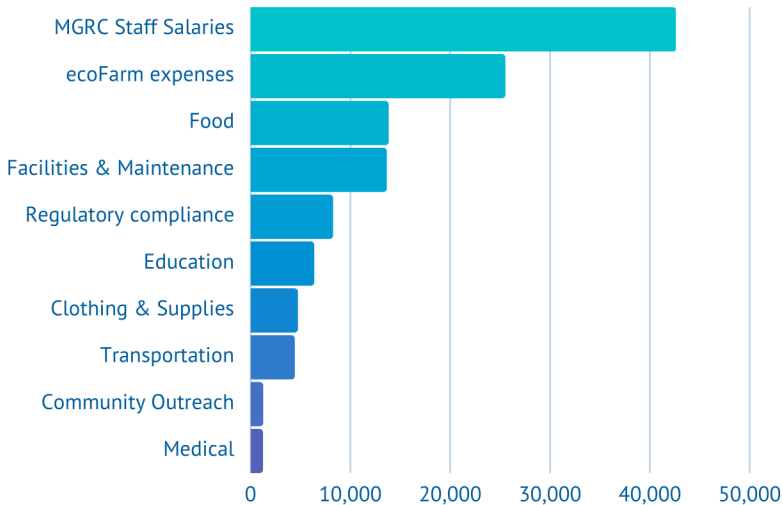
### Expenses by Month



### Annual Donations



### Expenses by Expense Category



100% of our funding comes from individual donors. GrowthPoint® provides marketing services and business systems pro bono for both the USA and Tanzanian organizations.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

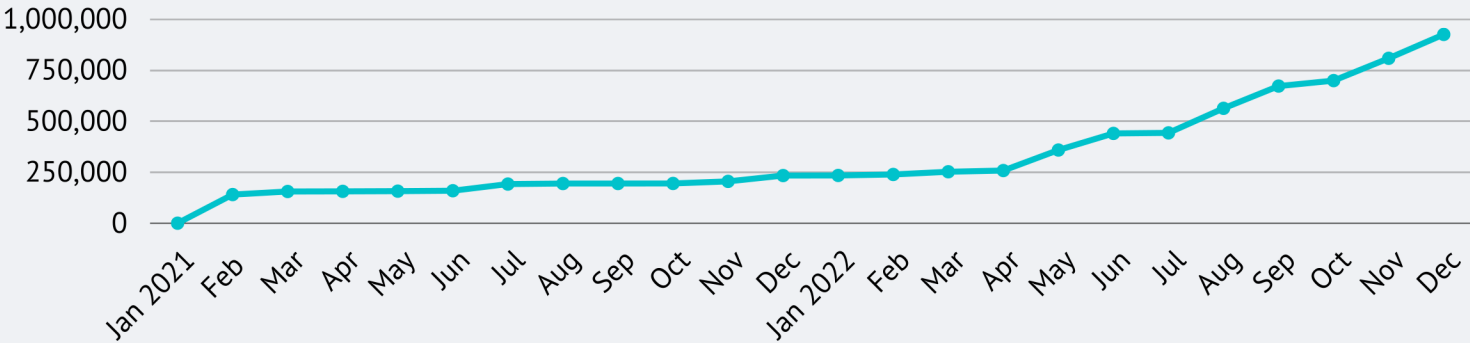
## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

MGRC continues implementing our vision of building a permanent home for the Maasai Girls Rescue Center in Karatu Tanzania. In 2022, we had multiple major Capital projects: \$50,000 to build a Security Wall around the ecoVillage, \$274,000 for a Multipurpose building Complex, \$369,000 to build 3 houses, \$36,000 for Phase 1 of our water project, and \$38,000 for equipment and furniture.

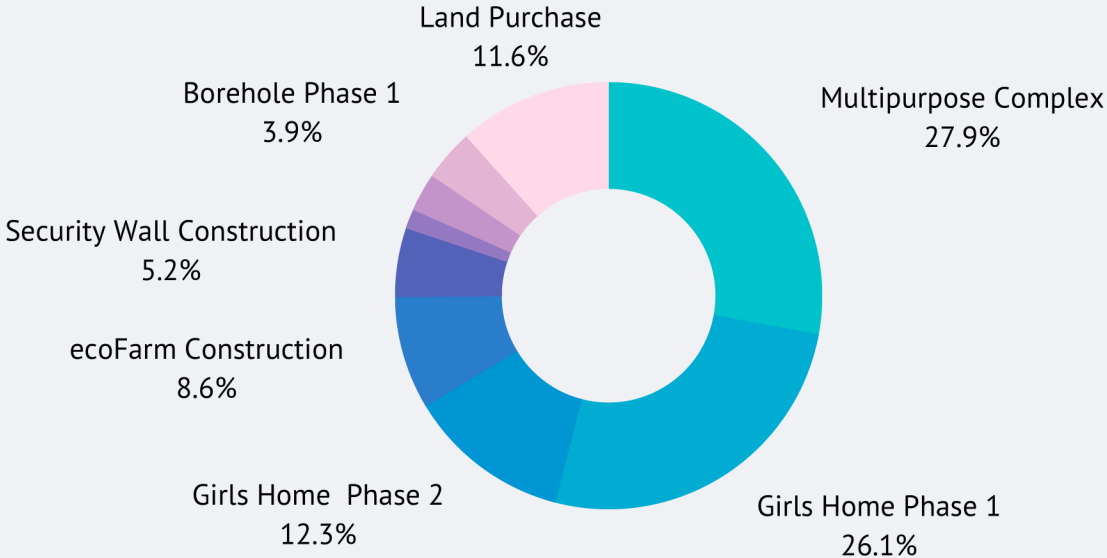
Contributions ranged from \$50 to \$100,000 from generous people wanting to make sure our girls have critically needed water and a permanent home. We raised over \$730,000 in 2022 to begin and complete most of these projects.

We are very proud of our local management, who are working very hard with local construction companies completing these projects, keeping them under budget and sticking to their schedules. The expenditures below are cumulative through December 2022.

### Capital Expenditures by Month (USD)



### Capital Expenditures by Project



# GOVERNANCE

MGRC is governed by all-volunteer boards in the United States and Tanzania. MGRC is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit in the United States. It is a registered non-government organization (NGO) in Tanzania.

## USA Board of Directors



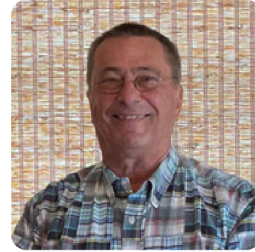
Executive member  
**Bruce Hammond**  
President & CEO,  
GrowthPoint



Executive member  
**Joyce Hammond**  
Treasurer  
CFO, GrowthPoint



Executive member  
**Daniel Martineau**  
Secretary  
Lawyer



Executive member  
**Rick Morro**  
Founder, MGRC



Board Member  
**Randall Freeman**  
Retired engineer  
executive



Board Member  
**Oliver Martineau**  
Real estate executive



Board Member  
**Sue Shimoyama-See**  
Retired business  
executive



Board Member  
**Mary Flieller**  
Retired communications  
executive



Advisory Board Member  
**Greg Scheu**  
Founder, StratPro  
Partners, business  
consultancy

## Tanzania Board of Directors



**Rick Morro**  
President & Founder,  
MGRC



**Elisante Loi Laizer**  
On-site Manager, MGRC



**Peter Mmassy**  
Community Volunteer



**Boniface Plasidi**  
Community Volunteer



**Bruce Hammond**  
CEO, GrowthPoint



**Daniel Martineau**  
Lawyer



While another year is well underway, we want to take one more opportunity to say thanks for all that you have done for the girls of MGRC in 2022. The challenges of 2022 have made us more grateful than ever for all of the support we receive from donors, sponsors and volunteers. The girls lives are forever changed because of the generosity of so many. **Thank you for caring about our girls** and supporting our endeavors to make lasting changes in their lives.

**2022 was a successful year but our work is only half done.** We still have to make the ecoVillage financially independent. Our focus for 2023 and beyond is to finish the projects we started and raise enough capital to build the ecoLodge.



## Maasai Girls Rescue Center

Karatu District, Tanzania  
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info@maasairescue.org  
www.MaasaiRescue.org

## Donations by Check

**Make checks payable to:**  
Maasai Girls Rescue Center, Inc.  
**Mail to:**  
5045 Timber Lake Trail Clarkston, MI 48346

