Over the last six years, Nuru Center has touched many lives. We've seen children grow into young men and women. Shy students become more confident. We've seen hopelessness turned into dreams renewed. Lupita Nyong'o, while accepting her Oscar award, reminded us that every child’s dreams are valid regardless of where they live in the world. That's the message Nuru has carried the last six years and continues to carry as we strive to reach, touch, and change more lives.

2013 was a successful year overall. The Elimu scholarship program added 5 students. We saw two more students successfully complete their secondary school education. In addition, two of our high school graduates admitted to public universities and one enroll in a vocational college through Nuru.

We had yet another successful Holiday Kikapu Giving campaign. The program continues to touch and bless the communities we serve in different ways. Families and children who would have gone hungry during the holidays had food. We boosted the economy for the small scale women who vend farm produce and brighten their holiday as we bought in bulk. Most importantly the program gets Nuru Center on the ground and gives best opportunity to interact with the larger community. This way we get to understand the areas that we need to focus on in order to improve our programs and touch more lives.

Our farm project faced a few hurdles and was not as productive as we envisioned for the first year. Lack of direct road access to the farm was a major hindrance to our operations. In 2014 we are working with the community to build a bridge that will ease access to the farm by car. This will ensure we get material and produce to and from the farm easily. In addition, we plan on building a semi-permanent house for the caretaker and storage on the farm. These things will enable us to fully operate the farm to the level of productivity that will contribute to a decent level of self-sustenance which is one of our long term goals.

With the farm being profitable, we will focus in on our other long term goal of buidling a community center. The American society is a great example of the benefits of engaging children at an early age to organized extra curricula activities. In addition to constructive ways of spending their time, they get to nurture their talents and learn important social behaviors like leadership and teamwork. We foresee the community center being this resource for children in the rural community we serve in Kenya.

Nuru Center is proud to continue matching towards important strategic goals with the all work being accomplished on 100% volunteer basis. But for us to continue to reach our goals, we will need to hire a few resources to help manage our assets on the ground. This in itself is not a bad thing; it’s another way of changing lives by providing employment. In 2014 we plan on hiring a full time farm caretaker and a part time farm manager. As the caretaker will oversees the day to day activities on the farm, the manager will work strategically to make sure we have a ready market for our produce. All efforts in the USA will continue to be done on a 100% volunteer basis.

The fact that we cannot accomplish anything without our donor and sponsor support is not lost on us. For your support, we’re eternally grateful. The children benefiting from our programs are always reminding us to thank you for being a part of their lives. We don’t take your confidence and trust for granted.

In this annual report, we highlight our accomplishments from the year 2013, showcase the students who are on the Elimu Scholarship as well as share with you our strategic vision for the future. Our doors are always open and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible because Nuru Center is YOU!

On behalf of the Nuru Center board and beneficiaries, thank you for your continuing support of our mission. You continue to make a real and positive impact on the lives of many children and community at large. Without you, there’s no Nuru Center. We look forward to continuing this partnership changing lives, one child at a time!

Shem Orwenyo

Executive Director and Founder,