

QUILTS FOR EMPOWERMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2021





MESSAGE FROM MARY ANN

Dear Friends of Quilts for Empowerment,

Six years ago, I went to Kenya with a suitcase full of quilting notions, embroidery floss, and hopes that quilting would be a way to empower fistula survivors. During my four-week stay I taught basic embroidery to young fistula survivors. We worked hard to create products that could be sold and for which they would be paid to make. I returned home with hope, but no products.

It took several trips back to Kenya to develop products that women would be paid to make that we could sell. Now, beautiful examples of our women's work are sold on our website store: table mat sets, tote bags, and folk-art quilts in different sizes. All feature our trade-mark: hand-embroidery. Prior to Covid, product sales accounted for almost 40% of our annual revenue. Sales are slowly recovering.

Our unique business model of matching women's individual income with contributions to their income-generating support group fund has paid off. The fund has provided non-refundable investment cash transfers, health insurance for all women and their families, and a source of emergency loans. Our women are hopeful, proud, self-confident and becoming economically empowered. The success of the women's program allowed us to address our mission of empowering young assault survivors in early 2019. We now offer safe housing, education, love, and trauma-informed counseling to 12 hopeful young women.

None of this would have been possible without the support of people like you. Our women and girls are deeply grateful and along with our QFE Board, send you heartfelt thanks.

QFE's journey from a suitcase full of quilting notions to building our own compound in Kenya has exceeded my wildest imagination. Along the way, I have learned about operating a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, goat management, treating jiggers, how to obtain missing birth certificates, and negotiate a pandemic. Most important, I have witnessed the resilience of our women and girls and the dedication of our Kenya staff to empower each one with hope for a better future.

"Our women are hopeful, proud, self-confident and becoming economically empowered."

Program Highlights

Women's Program



Economic Empowerment for our Women

When the impact of Covid began waning this summer, our ten original women's small businesses began picking up after faltering during the pandemic. This allowed them to expand their businesses and invest in more livestock, including several who bought cows. By this September, their initial \$100 cash transfer in 2019 was worth at least 50% more in current assets. Most used their 2021 \$120 cash transfer to build houses for their animals. All are moving towards becoming economically empowered, including paying their children and grandchildren's school fees and feeding over 90 people.

Safe Motherhood

Everlyne, one of our fistula survivors, safely delivered a healthy baby boy by a scheduled Cesarean Section in September, the third QFE baby safely born to our women in the past two years.

QFE support group members were instrumental in coaching Everlyne to ensure a healthy outcome when her family pressured her to have a home birth.



Program Highlights

Girls Program



Healing For Our Girls

We provide a safe, loving and healing home for our 12 young assault survivors. Each has experienced severe trauma from multiple forms of assault, and for many, the additional trauma of being abandoned by family members, including their mothers. The trauma-informed counseling provided by our psychologist, Dr. Opondo, is helping each girl build her self-esteem and become a confident and hopeful young woman. Because of the extensive tutoring the girls received in 2020 when schools were closed because of Covid, when they returned to the classroom this year, every girl was operating at the top of their class. It was a big boost to their self-esteem.

Our Own Compound

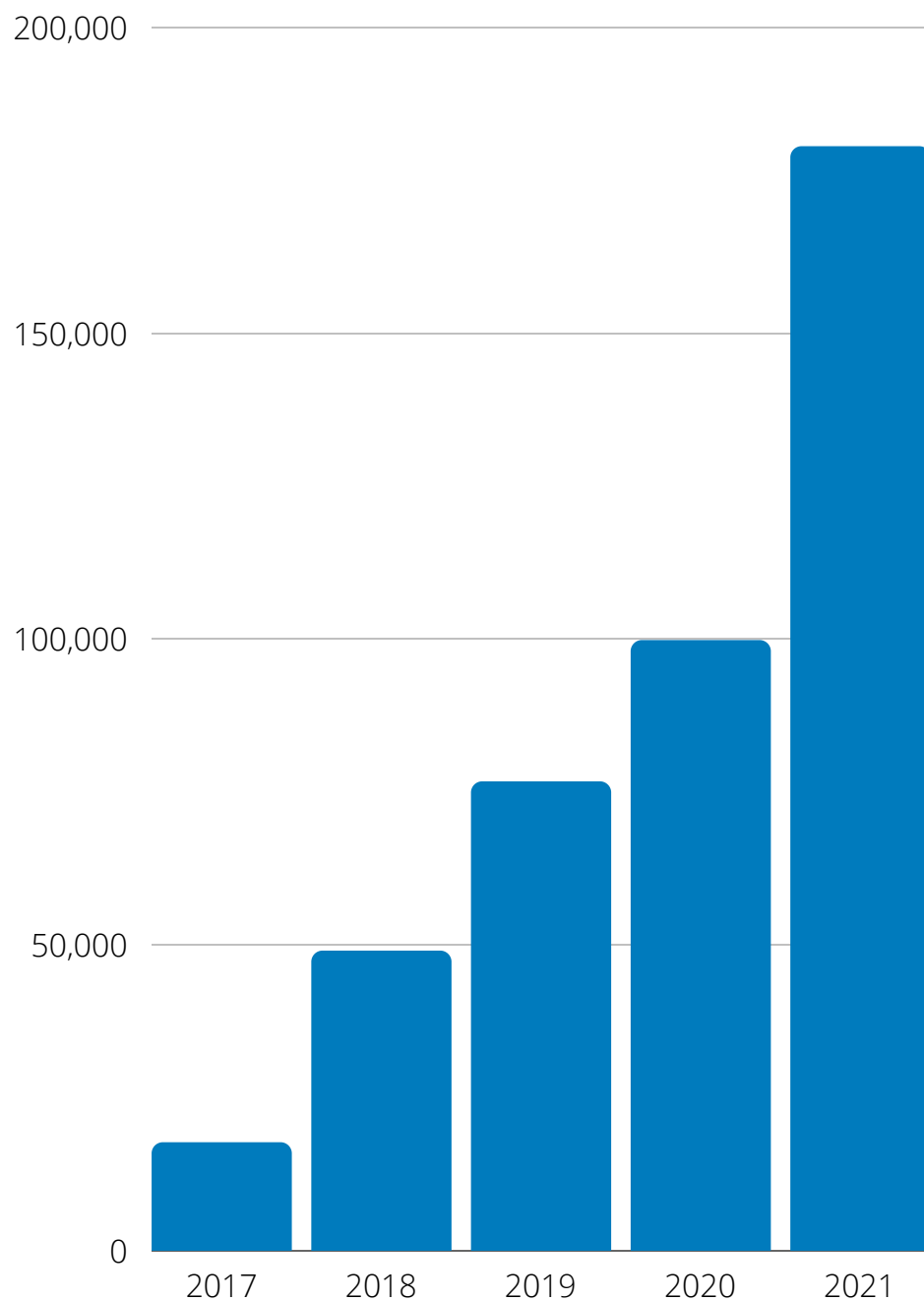
There was much rejoicing June 21 when the opening of our newly completed Compound was blessed and celebrated. Thanks to the diligence of our QFE Kenya Community Based Organization Chairperson, Zedekiah Otolu, the project was completed in just 6 months and under budget. Program Director, Norah and her family are happily settled in one of the two adjoining houses and our girls and their house matron in the other. With all of the infrastructure in place, we are poised to complete the compound with a three-story Community Resource Center. This will expand our residential program for girls and the services we can offer to fistula survivors. Importantly, it will also become a community resource to prevent gender-based violence in the community.



Financial Summary

QFE has seen significant growth since its inception in late 2017. We continue to grow and work towards our goal of empowering fistula survivors to be economically independent and help girls who have experienced gender-based violence reach their potential.

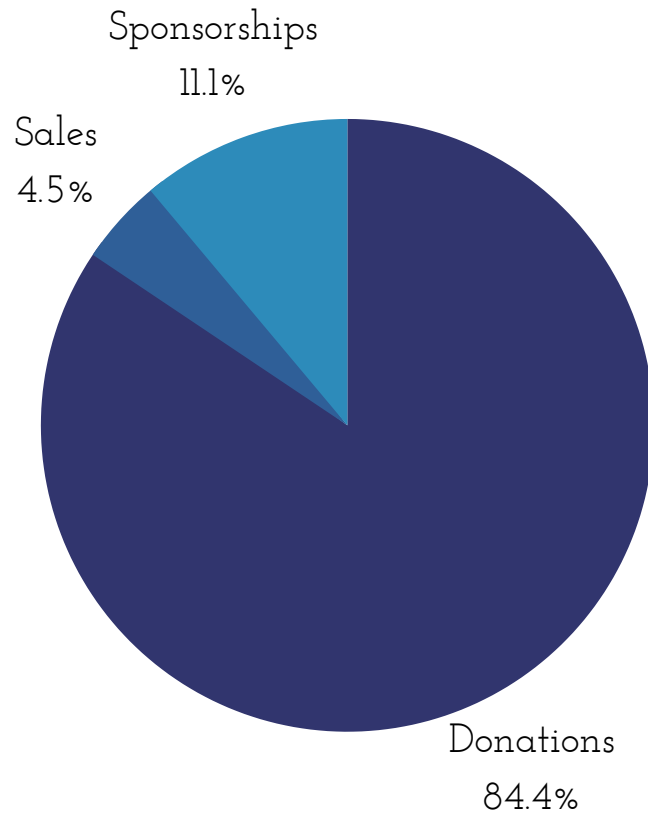
QFE Revenue History



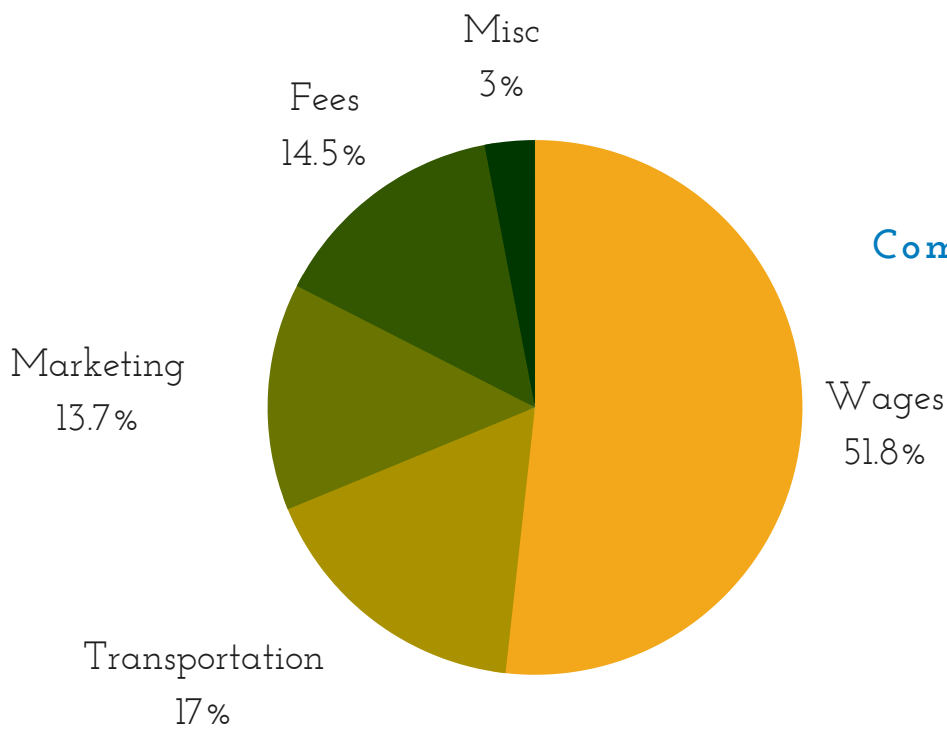
We're coming into the next financial year with significant momentum, plans for the future, and a goal of completing the three-story building to support the women and girls in our program.

Income Statement 2021

Main Sources of Revenue

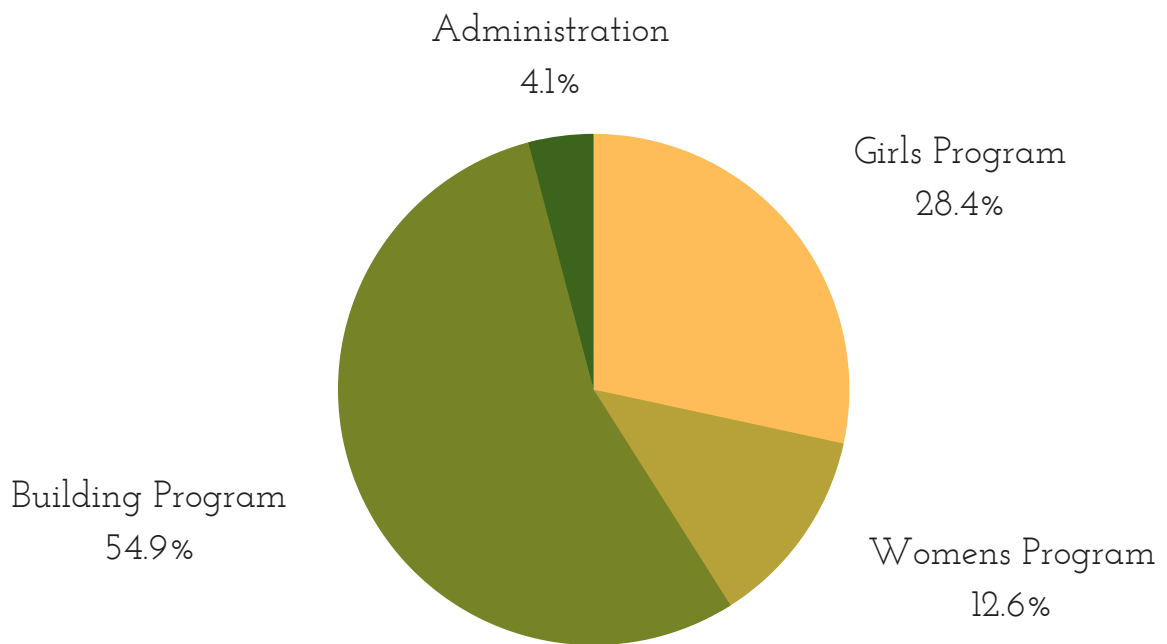


Company Expenses- US



Company Expenses- Kenya

2021 saw our girls return to school and the women return to their businesses. The money raised primarily went to build out our compound. Phase 1 was started in early 2021 and completed in June 2021. We came in under budget and earlier than expected.



First Building Complete - June 2021

New Staff

QFE's New Executive Administrative Assistant



We welcomed Nancy Kay as our Executive Administrative Assistant in November. In just a few weeks, Nancy's commitment to empowering women and girls, was evident in how quickly she embraced QFE's mission. Nancy's curiosity, excellent listening skills, and love of research are all having an immediate and positive impact. The Kenya team adore her and team meetings are punctuated with laughter and good will. She is even teaching herself Swahili and looking forward to being in Kenya this April with Mary Ann.

