# ORKEESWA SCHOOL 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear supporters,

2019 was another incredible year at Orkeeswa School, highlighted by numerous achievements for our students, tangible community impact, and a renewed vision for the role Orkeeswa is playing in our community. We are developing local leaders capable of making positive and sustainable change. In this report, we are excited to share how our work is evolving to serve more people in a variety of ways through our community impact model.

All of this is made possible because of your generous investment and partnership in our work. Thank you for walking alongside us as we continue striving ahead, and we look forward to working with you in 2020.

In gratitude,

Peter Lins

Peter Luis, Co-Founder/Executive Director

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

307 STUDENTS

164 ALUMNI 3,300 PRIMARY STUDENTS

**75** STAFF

53 new students on campus | 27 new graduates | 65% female student body

3 teachers recognized as top educators in the district

74% of alumni are in or completed higher education, compared to 1% nationally

Students contributed 15,000+ hours of Community Service

Students produced 3 podcasts and 3 short films as part of the Orkeeswa Story Lab

Weekly student performances in drama, debate, public speaking, music, and more

42 athletes competed nationally & internationally in volleyball, rugby & basketball

Alumni led local initiatives on girls/women's empowerment & environmentalism

Regular Life Skills lessons taught to over 500 primary & secondary school students

Grow the Game operates girls' basketball programming in 7 local primary schools

Graduate, Sioni, is a Voices of Impact Speaker at Segal Family Foundation Annual Meeting

"Now that I have graduated from secondary school, my family and community see me as a strong woman and a great role model for other young girls. After I graduate, I would like to become a doctor and help make strategic plans so my community can have more access to healthcare and health education."

- Irene, 2019 Orkeeswa School Graduate -



# **OUR CORE PROGRAM: ORKEESWA SCHOOL**

Through the highest-quality holistic education, we equip youth to become leaders in their communities.

In 2008, responding to a high demand for access to secondary education, Orkeeswa School opened in an under-served Maasai community in northern Tanzania on land donated by local leaders. Communities worldwide face systemic challenges with economic inequality, gender discrimination, environmental degradation, access to high-quality social services, and more. In our community, these challenges are exacerbated by unique social and cultural circumstances, and compounded by a severe lack of basic resources. Orkeeswa's model of holistic, community-based education prepares students to become leaders in their communities, equipped to take on these challenges now and in the future. We believe that holistic education is the first and most necessary step toward sustainable community development.









# **COMMUNITY-BASED EDUCATION**

We believe effective and sustainable community development must come from within, conceived, implemented and managed by local leadership. The challenges communities face are complex and interconnected, and call for solutions that are creative and collaborative. Our model works toward a more practical and community-oriented education that recognizes all students' potential to be change-makers. Our students and alumni are serving as compassionate, innovative, ethical leaders in their community.

# THE BEST LEADERS ARE WELL-ROUNDED

They are able to think creatively, inspire and motivate community members, and apply actionable solutions to complex problems. Our programs are designed to nurture our students' creativity, allowing them to hone their own unique leadership styles, while building their capacity to think outside the box. We have designed a balanced, holistic program that prioritizes experiential learning, social and emotional development, leadership experience, and community service.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT MODEL

We catalyze communities to design and implement their own solutions to local challenges.

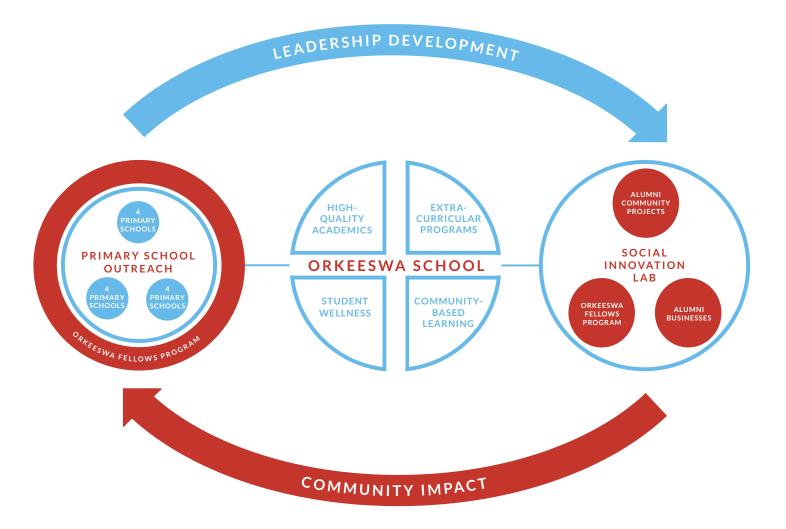
#### ORKEESWA IS MORE THAN A SCHOOL

We are re-inventing what it means to be a school and its relationship to the community it serves. The Orkeeswa model goes beyond high-quality secondary education. We have recognized the incredible leadership potential of our students and alumni, and have developed a model that capitalizes on this resource of committed, educated, and ethical leaders keenly in tune with the needs of their own community. We are developing a network of community-driven innovators who can collaboratively address complex systemic challenges from a variety of disciplines and positions of influence.

To achieve this, we:

- 1. Operate Orkeeswa School
- 2. Run a Primary School Outreach Program
- 3. Offer a Social Innovation Lab

Furthermore, by leveraging endorsements from the Tanzanian government and solidifying our monitoring and evaluation strategy, we are positioning ourselves as a systems innovator with the potential to share our model across communities in Tanzania and beyond.



#### PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH

The primary schools in our community are some of the lowest-performing, least resourced schools in the country. Girls attending these schools face significant barriers to education, including a lack of financial resources and cultural practices, such as forced early marriage, that keep them from completing primary school, much less continuing to secondary school.

Our Primary School Outreach Program helps change this reality and makes sports, life skills, and mentoring a normal part of these primary school students' education. Led primarily by Orkeeswa students and alumni, this outreach is also a testament to the power of local, sustainable leadership.



## SOCIAL INNOVATION LAB

Orkeeswa alumni have a strong sense of purpose, academic achievement, leadership skills, and commitment to their community. However, opportunities to continue their post-secondary education and to gain employment in the local area are limited. Support services are a necessary next step to ensure alumni are truly equipped as local leaders.

Our Social Innovation Lab provides alumni with career & college counseling services, access to higher education funding, professional development opportunities, and support and mentoring for local projects and business start-ups.



# STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

Retain each Orkeeswa student through seven years of our program.

Facilitate graduates returning to their community, equipped and inspired to make a positive impact.

Expand our impact within the Orkeeswa community and beyond.

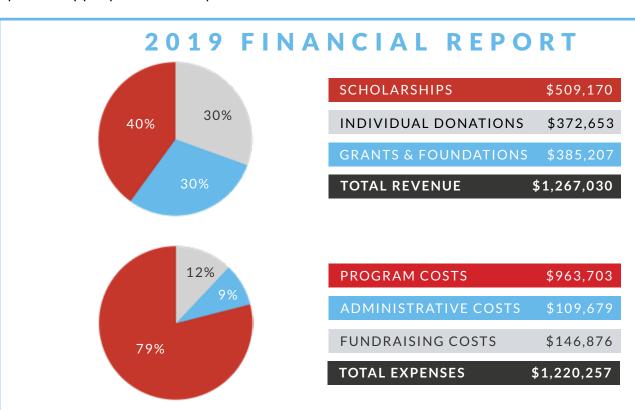
Strengthen leadership and governance to build a more durable organization.

Build a base of reliable and diverse funding to ensure sustainability and longevity of our program and impact.

# 2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our 2020 priorities include a specific focus on strengthening our core programming at Orkeeswa School, with an emphasis on school operations, academic performance, and student wellness services. On campus we will also prioritize key infrastructure upgrades that will allow us to better serve our students and staff, as well as our outreach efforts. We will continue to expand and strengthen our Primary School Outreach Program and our alumni support services through the Social Innovation Lab, reaching more people in our community and further supporting sustainable, locally driven change.

We will strive to significantly bolster our monitoring, evaluation & learning procedures as we further document and articulate our core model and community impact model as replicable systems appropriate for implementation in other communities.



Orkeeswa School is committed to fostering a culture of financial transparency and efficient spending practices to maximize the impact of every dollar we raise.



"Orkeeswa School is a model school for Tanzania. These students are creative, confident, and they can do a lot of different things, both in theory and in action... This is not just happening accidentally. It is how they have been taught... this is a student-centered, skill-based approach to learning."

- William Olenasha, Tanzania Deputy Minister of Education -

