

Kupenda for the Children

Annual Report 2016

July 2015—June 2016

“Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” ~1 John 3:18



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FY2016 Summary



Kupenda is celebrating its 13th year as a 501(c)(3). This year we equipped thousands of children with disabilities to reach their God-given potential through advocacy, education, and medical interventions.

FY2016 financial highlights:

- \$349,536 in income
- 10% raised from local Kenyan sources
- \$343,511 in expenditures
- 17,754 children with disabilities in Kilifi County Kenya projected to benefit from our services
- 5,360 (or 46%) more children benefitting this year as compared to last

Advocacy

Our new advocacy event last year was a climb up the highest mountain in Africa. Seventeen hikers, including 3 students with disabilities, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to show what is possible when people with disabilities are given opportunities. The climb was filmed and will be part of a documentary about Kupenda to be released in 2017.

We also continued to expand our reach to community leaders and families to correct misperceptions about disabilities and motivate them to action.

FY2016 advocacy highlights:

- 3 students with disabilities supported to climb Mount Kilimanjaro
- 4,842 people directly involved in our advocacy interventions
- 175,322 individuals projected to receive skills and knowledge about disability through participants of the advocacy interventions (48% increase from FY2015)
- 17,431 children with disabilities predicted to benefit from changes in community mindset and action (50% increase from FY2015)

Education

Our most significant educational success of FY2016 was an increase in scholarships from the

government. These scholarships contributed to a 3% reduction in the number of school fees Kupenda pays directly – another indicator of our success in inspiring local ownership and funding for children with disabilities.

FY2016 education highlights:

- 18 government scholarships for children with special needs as a result of our advocacy work
- 300 children directly benefitting from educational support
- \$22,105 to construct a dining hall at a special school through our proposal to the National Council for People with Disabilities.
- 210 students' school fees paid for by Kupenda sponsors
- 9 school positions funded by Kupenda

Medical

Our most significant medical highlight was transporting 31 children with disabilities to medical facilities. Kupenda secured medical referrals and wheel chairs, arranged transportation to medical facilities, and provided therapy services for 113 children with disabilities.

FY2016 medical highlights:

- 31 children transported to medical facilities for
- 18 wheelchairs distributed
- 20 medical referrals
- 31 children transported to medical facilities for emergencies
- 44 children receiving physical therapy services

The successes of FY2016 were achieved in spite of the challenges we faced this year. Our Kenya director was diagnosed with cancer and had to deal with ongoing chemo treatments in Nairobi. We also had staff changes in Kenya and the beginning of a drought. Although the struggles of FY2016 were difficult, our work continued to benefit the lives of thousands impacted by disabilities and their communities, bringing us closer to a fully integrated society where people of all abilities have access to health, education, and a loving community.

Background



Mission

Kupenda (“love” in Kiswahili) for the Children equips children with disabilities, to achieve their God-given potential through advocacy, education, and medical interventions.

Vision

A fully-integrated society where people of all abilities have access to health, education, and a loving community.

Need

In many areas of the world people with disabilities are believed to be cursed, leading to their neglect, abandonment, abuse, rape, and murder. According to the World Health Organization, “A billion people in the world, 15% of the population, have a disability severe enough that it limits their participation in family, community and political life.” Based on this percentage, there are at least 120,000 children with disabilities in Kilifi County, Kenya where Kupenda’s efforts are focused. The government education office records indicate only 3,000 children with disabilities in this county are in a school of any kind. Without access to education, many of the 117,000 children with disabilities not in school are likely living in neglectful situations without hope for a future.

History

Kupenda exists because the founder was told she might have been killed if she lived in Kenya, since she was born without her left hand. In 1999, Kupenda’s founder and executive director, Cynthia

Bauer, visited Kenya as part of her research for a master’s degree in wildlife biology. While there she learned about the negative stigma and lack of resources for people with disabilities. She was born in the U.S. to loving parents who encouraged and supported her as she lived with her birth defect. Therefore, when she learned many children with disabilities did not have love or opportunities, she wanted to provide it to the children she encountered in Kenya. This led to Cynthia convincing friends and family to provide educational support for the 15 children with disabilities she met on her first visit to the coast of Kenya.

Kupenda for the Children became an official nonprofit organization in the U.S. in 2003 and created a partner organization in Kenya in 2008 which is called Kuhenza for the Children’s Foundation. The partner organization is run by Leonard Mbonani, the Kenyan special needs teacher who first introduced Cynthia to children with disabilities in Kenya. These two organizations worked collaboratively to assist children with cognitive, developmental, physical, and sensory disabilities throughout Kilifi County, Kenya.

In addition to paying for children’s school fees, Kupenda bought hearing aids and wheelchairs, funded surgeries, hired teachers and medical professionals, and provided many important services. Over time, there was a realization that depending on charitable donations from the U.S. alone was making Kupenda’s work unsustainable and limited. Therefore, efforts became more focused on advocating to and partnering with local organizations and government entities to provide for children with disabilities within their communities.

How Kupenda Works

Kupenda (U.S.) provides funding and programmatic support to Kuhenza (Kenya) to reach children with disabilities in Kilifi County through advocacy, education, and medical intervention.

Advocacy



Advocacy is essential to the success of children with disabilities in Kenya. Since the greatest barrier to providing assistance is a lack of awareness, the largest percentage of Kupenda's expenses is committed to areas and activities that educate communities about disabilities. These activities include, outreach to the public, other organizations, government entities, churches, other religious leaders, and families. Costs include materials, transportation, and facilitation of staff and volunteers that are responsible for workshops, trainings, teachings, counseling, preaching, and relationship building with key members of the community. Those involved in the aforementioned activities, take actions like building wheelchair ramps, connecting children with disabilities to care and education, visiting children with disabilities in their homes, establishing special needs classrooms in their communities, donating resources & raising funds, creating inclusive legislation, and dramatically changing the culture regarding views of disabilities.

When community leaders have a better understanding of the issues impacting people with disabilities, they provide innovative strategies to make their communities more inclusive. Kupenda and Kuhenza's model of local empowerment to make a more inclusive community for children with disabilities continues to be improved and expanded in Kilifi County Kenya. Simultaneously, this model is being replicated in communities in Tanzania and is gaining global interest.

Education

Educating children with disabilities was the primary driver behind the creation of Kupenda and Kuhenza. Access to school gives children with disabilities opportunities to discover their full potential. For some



it means they will live independently. Regardless of their situation, every child has the capability to learn; whether it results in going to college or simply learning to hold a cup. The education of children with disabilities is funded through Kupenda's child sponsorship program. Sponsors pay \$30 a month towards a specific child with a disability and they receive updates on his/her progress. This program provides education in the form of school fees and staffing special schools. Kuhenza also partners with other organizations to improve and construct special needs educational facilities.

Medical Intervention



When a child with a disability needs medical attention, they are often brought to Kuhenza's resource center where arrangements are made for them to get appropriate treatment. This includes facilitation of surgeries and follow up visits, treatment for sickle cell anemia, epilepsy management, attention to the congestive issues of children with cerebral palsy, and other sicknesses. Kuhenza often provides funding for transportation to appropriate medical facilities. Sometimes the hospital will reduce fees due to the poverty of the parents and the reputation of Kuhenza. Kuhenza also partners with other organizations and government entities to improve and construct medical facilities for children with disabilities.

2016 Financial Summary

2016 Income

Table 1. FY2016 income compared to FY2015

	2016	2015	Difference
<i>Previous Year Surplus</i>	\$41,124	\$16,570	\$24,554
Foundations	\$63,559	\$93,500	-\$29,941
Individuals	\$48,803	\$56,200	-\$7,397
Child Sponsorship	\$43,738	\$44,680	-\$942
Churches	\$13,624	\$18,662	-\$5,038
Businesses	\$4,864	\$3,425	\$1,439
Events	\$44,573	\$20,754	\$23,819
Earmarks	\$93,112	\$11,550	\$81,562
Kenya Income	\$37,263	\$97,000	-\$59,737
Total income	\$349,536	\$345,771	\$3,765
Total with previous year surplus	\$390,660	\$265,341	\$88,056

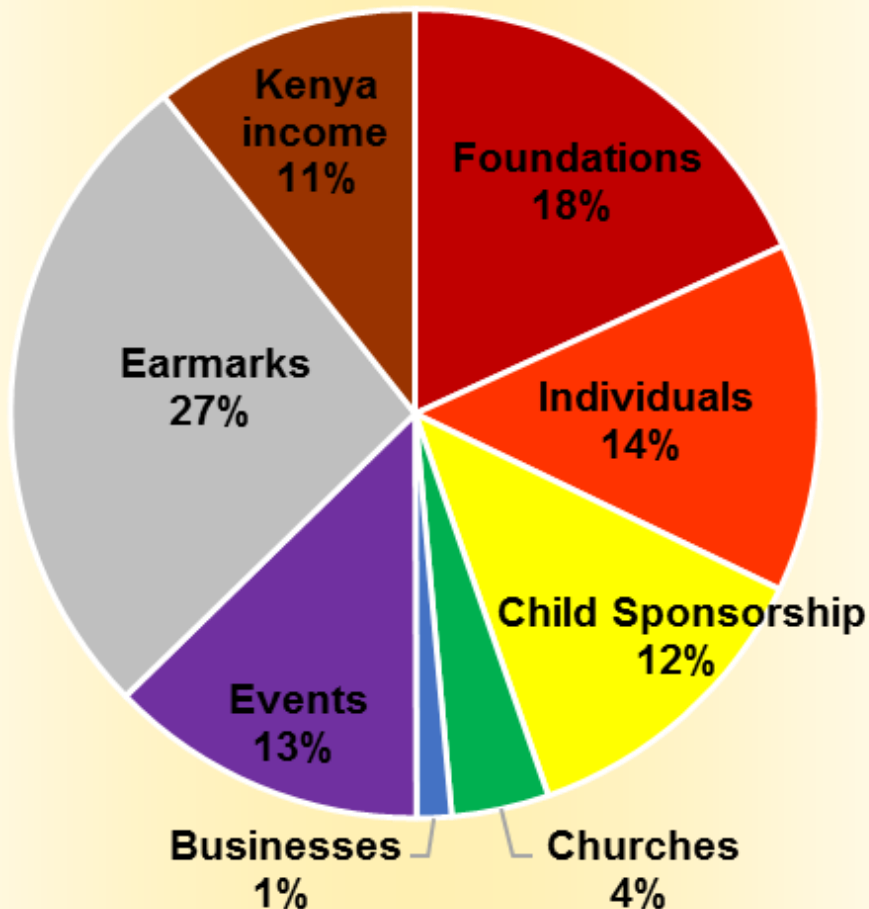


Figure 1. FY2016 income

2016 Financial Summary

2016 Expenditures

Table 2. FY2016 Expenditures from the U.S. and Kenya

Focus Area	2016	2015	Difference
Advocacy	\$202,483	\$134,505	\$67,978
Education	\$64,060	\$72,523	-\$8,463
U.S.	\$34,955	\$39,543	-\$4,588
Kenya	\$29,105	\$32,980	-\$3,875
Medical	\$18,447	\$74,577	-\$64,288
U.S.	\$10,289	\$10,557	-\$268
Kenya	\$8,158	\$64,020	-\$55,862
Administration	\$58,521	\$50,507	\$8,014
U.S. Total	\$306,248	\$235,112	\$71,136
Kenya Total	\$37,263	\$97,000	-\$59,737
Total	\$343,511	\$332,112	\$11,399

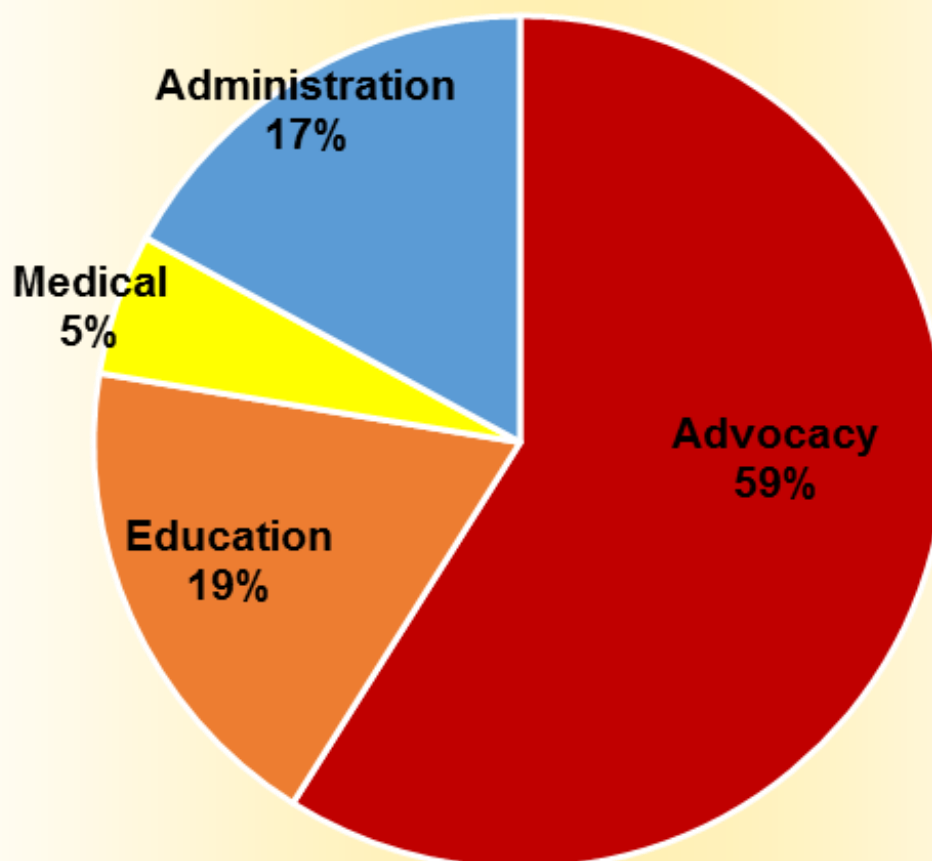


Figure 2. FY2016 Kupenda U.S. and Kenya Expenditures

2016 Financial Summary

2017 Projected Income

The projected income for 2017 is based on the 2017 hiring of a development director in the U.S., and a project officer hired in Kenya. Funding from Kenya is already promised for 4 classrooms and several income generating projects were started in 2016 that are expected to have results in 2017. We also have a commitment of a matching grant up to \$150,000 which significantly increases our foundation income projection. Earmarks for 2017 include a June volunteer trip and funds for the Kupenda documentary.

Table 3. Projected Income Compared to 2016 Actual Income

	2017	2016	Difference
<i>Previous Year Surplus</i>	\$53,730	\$41,124	\$12,606
Foundations	\$146,405	\$63,559	\$82,846
Individuals	\$88,639	\$48,803	\$39,836
Child Sponsorship	\$52,456	\$43,738	\$8,718
Churches	\$14,622	\$13,624	\$998
Businesses	\$7,089	\$4,864	\$2,225
Events	\$53,137	\$44,573	\$8,564
Earmarks	\$59,700	\$93,112	-\$33,412
Kenya income	\$200,000	\$37,263	\$62,737
Total Income	\$622,048	\$349,536	\$272,512
Total with previous year surplus	\$675,778	\$390,660	\$285,118

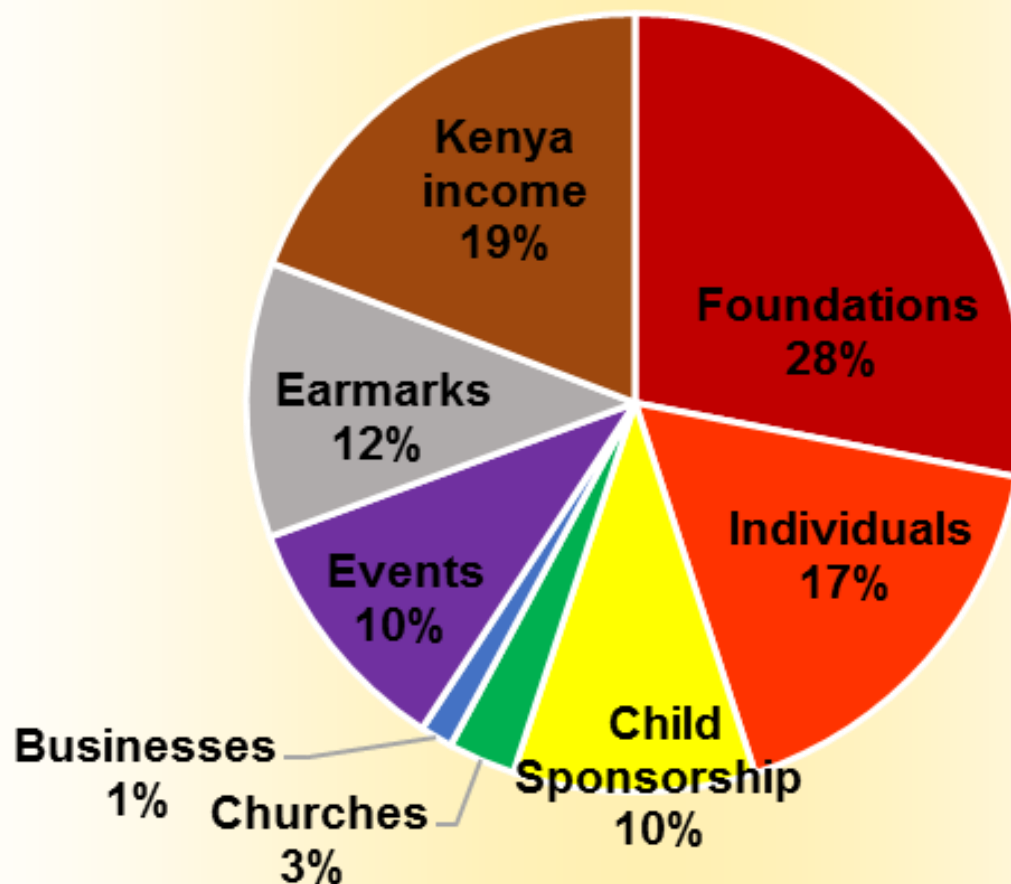


Figure 3. FY2017 budgeted income

2016 Financial Summary

Table 4. FY2017 Budgeted expense compared to FY2016 actual expenses

Focus Area	2017	2016	Difference
Advocacy	\$205,739	\$202,483	\$3,256
U.S.	\$205,739	\$202,483	\$3,256
Kenya	\$0	\$0	\$0
Education	\$200,988	\$64,060	\$136,928
U.S.	\$40,988	\$34,955	\$6,033
Kenya	\$160,000	\$29,105	\$130,895
Medical	\$103,642	\$18,447	\$9,092
U.S.	\$83,642	\$10,289	(\$2,750)
Kenya	\$20,000	\$8,158	\$11,842
Administration	\$129,255	\$58,521	\$70,734
U.S. Total	\$459,624	\$284,990	\$104,634
Kenya Total	\$180,000	\$37,263	\$162,737
Total	\$639,624	\$322,253	\$267,371

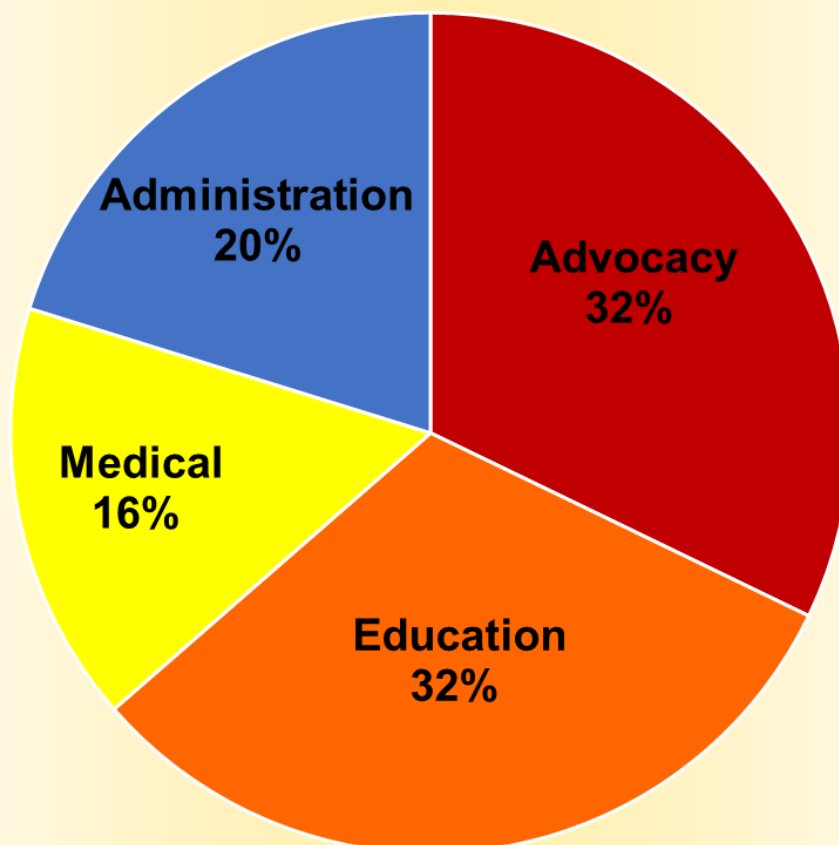


Figure 4. FY2016 Kupenda U.S. and Kenya expenditures budgeted for FY2017

2016 Financial Summary

FY2016 Kenyan Income/Expenditures

The income and expenditures listed below are funds contributed to projects that benefit children with disabilities that did not go through the Kupenda account but went straight to special schools because of our efforts. The schools included below are the Marafa Special School and The Gede Special School. Kuhenza, Kupenda's Kenyan affiliate, is working hard to convince Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and Governmental Organizations to assist children with disabilities. We do this through stakeholder meetings that bring these groups together to share the needs of those with disabilities in the community. This also happens through proposal writing, and meeting with the organizations individually. Most of the contributions are the result of hours of work from Kenyan staff to connect with these organizations in multiple ways highlighted in the advocacy portion of this report. Funds coming from other organizations directly to the assistance of children with disabilities allows us to use our funds for more outreach that increases leveraging of funds by more organizations in more areas.

Table 5. FY2016 projects funded by Kenyan organizations that did not go through our accounts but were a result of Kupenda's efforts.

Project	Contributing Entities	Estimated USD	Kuhenza's role
Scholarships for special needs education	Kilifi County Government Ward Scholarship Program	\$2,632	Kuhenza sensitized the *MCAs and helped parents in filling bursary applications
Additional special needs teachers	Kilifi County Government Department of Education, Culture, & Social Services	\$3,789	This is after Kuhenza held talks with the officer in charge of **ECD on the need of these teachers to the schools
Food donations to special needs schools	Churches, businesses, and families	\$579	As a result of meetings with parents, churches, and community leaders
Construction of dining facility at Marafa Special School	National Council for persons with Disabilities	\$22,105	We connected the school and the organization along with assisting with the proposal writing
Occupational therapist placed at special school	Kilifi County Government	\$7,579	Result of multiple meetings with the governor
Medication for children	Local doctors	\$368	Medications provided from doctors to children based on relationship with Kupenda
Wheelchairs	Tanzania Resource Assessment Centre for Disabled Children (TRACED)	\$211	As a result of meetings with Non-government organizations in Dar es Salaam
Total		\$37,263	

* Member of County Assembly

** Early Childhood Development

FY2016 Program Activities and Impact: Advocacy



Incorrect spiritual and cultural beliefs about disability often pose greater challenges for children with disabilities than their physical limitations. In the areas we work, many people do not expect children with disabilities to be productive members of society and some view them as cursed by witchcraft or God, which often results in their neglect, abandonment or even murder. Fortunately, when Kupenda facilitates education and discussions about disability, participants often develop a more accurate understanding of disability causes, treatments, and the issues impacting children with disabilities. Many of these participants then work to teach others what they have learned and provide innovative strategies to make their communities more inclusive.

Because Kupenda's low-cost advocacy interventions often have the most significant and long-term impact, we devoted 59 percent of our FY16 budget to educating leaders and communities about disability issues. These activities included direct outreach to chiefs, government leaders, traditional healers, pastors, parents, caregivers, other organization staff, and community members. Based on population estimates and follow up data collected from our field teams, these participants are estimated to have reached more than 174,000 people in their congregations, homes and communities through disability education and activism that benefited 17,500 children with disabilities.

Mount Kilimanjaro Climb

This year, for the first time ever, Kupenda arranged for three children with disabilities to climb Mount Kilimanjaro as a symbol of what is possible when people with disabilities are given opportunities. In January of 2016, Julia Spruance and Anthony Monaco led the three children, as well as ten Americans and three Kenyan adult hikers, up the

highest mountain in Africa. Julia is a former Kupenda intern who works for Waypoint Adventures, an organization focused on including people with disabilities in outdoor adventures. Anthony has led multiple hikes up Kilimanjaro through his hiking organization, HGT Travel Foundation. Prior to the trip, Julia, Anthony and the 10 other American hikers fundraised to cover their own costs as well as the hiking, clothing and equipment costs for the five Kenyan hikers.

Fourteen of the 17 climbers summited Kilimanjaro on January 5, 2016. Although one of the children with disabilities did not make it to the summit, her climb was still a phenomenal achievement and a testament to the fact that her "disability is not inability." The group completed their full ascent and descent in seven days.

Among the hikers were two Los Angeles filmmakers who gathered footage of the children before, during and after the hike. The filmmakers are now developing a documentary about these children which will be used to further raise awareness around disability issues and Kupenda's work.

After the hike, the three students who climbed Kilimanjaro quickly became local celebrities. They were recognized at two well-attended Disability Awareness Days (see pages 12-13 for more on the celebrations) in their communities to acknowledge and celebrate the rights and capacity of people with disabilities.





Table 6. Summary of outreach activities involving the general public in FY2016

Activity	# of Activities	# of Participants	# of Community Members Indirectly Reached	# of Children with Disabilities Indirectly Reached
Volunteer Days	2	25	250	25
Disability Awareness Days	3	3,000	15,000	1,500
Resource Center	195	195	1,950	195
Total	200	3,220	17,200	1,720

Kupenda educates the general public about disability needs and rights through Volunteer Days at special schools, community Disability Awareness Days, and individual counseling sessions at our Resource Center. This year, these interventions reached 3,220 people directly and are estimated to have reached an additional 17,200 community members indirectly. As shown in Table 6 and described in the narrative below, this type of public outreach was estimated to have improved quality of life for 1,720 children with disabilities in Kilifi County this year.

Disability Awareness Days

Kupenda's Disability Awareness Days are usually attended by thousands of people, many of whom travel several hours to join the celebration. The day often starts with a parade led by people pushing the children in wheelchairs while singing popular Swahili songs. Children from the Kupenda-supported special needs schools then perform dances, songs, poetry and plays to show the community what is possible when children with disabilities are given opportunities to develop academically and creatively. We then arranged for speakers such as politicians, teachers and people with disabilities to give speeches about disability justice issues. Community members who attend these days develop greater awareness and compassion for children with disabilities and learn that they need to support and encourage all children, no matter what their ability, to reach their full potential. During these days, Kupenda staff also help many children with disabilities and their families connect to proper education and medical resources. Although Kupenda has been organizing Disability Awareness Days since 2006, this was the first time we arranged three such events in a single year.

Celebration at the Gabriela Centre for Children with Autism in Moshi, Tanzania



This awareness day took place on January 7 to celebrate the three children who had hiked Kilimanjaro and present them with certificates of acknowledgement upon their return from the mountain. More than 200 people attended the event and speeches were made by Bishop Kalu from the Mombasa Anglican Diocese and another bishop from a local Lutheran church. Both gave disability advocacy sermons to their congregations and a local newspaper published an article about the event soon after the ceremony. The event raised a great deal of local awareness regarding disability justice issues and support for children with autism. It even inspired one participating pastor to enroll his granddaughter, who has autism, at the Gabriela Center.

Community

Memorial and Celebration at Gede Special School



On January 16, Kupenda held another Disability Awareness Day in celebration of the children who had hiked Kilimanjaro. Two of these students attend the Gede School. The day also acted as a memorial for Kupenda's Executive Director's father, Richard Bauer, who passed away in March 2015. His wife, and the director's mother, who also works for Kupenda, took her first trip to Kenya to speak at this event.

The event was attended by more than 1,000 people including teachers, parents, Ministry of Education (MOE) staff, the provincial administration, and students with disabilities from Kilifi, Magarini and Malindi sub-counties. Children with disabilities performed plays, poems, dances and songs and local leaders gave compelling speeches in support of justice, education and care for children with disabilities. Several journalists attended the celebration and published an article on the event in the Kilifian newspaper.

World Awareness Day on Autism



Each year, April 2 marks World Autism Day. In recent years, Kupenda has realized there is a need for more autism education, diagnoses and treatments in our target regions. In response, we met with a neurodevelopment researcher from the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and agreed to coordinate Kilifi County's first Autism Awareness Day. The event was held on April 2, which has been commemorated as World Autism Awareness Day by the United Nations since 2007. The festivities took place at the Karisa Maitha Sports Ground in Kilifi town and was attended by more than 1,800 community members. In addition to KEMRI, the event was supported through our partnerships with the National Council for Persons with Disabilities,

Plan International, the Kilifi County Government, and Pwani University. The day provided an opportunity for parents of children with autism to share their experiences and receive counseling and referrals for medical and educational support. Kupenda also arranged for children to access professional autism assessments. All participating parents and their children received T-Shirts labeled "Autism" as a way of expanding awareness about this disability.

Volunteer Days

Our team organizes special days at the Kupenda-supported boarding schools where parents and members of the community can volunteer their time. Volunteers typically assist the house parents with facility tasks such as washing dishes and feeding children who need help. They also assist with special projects like painting walls and building walkways for wheelchairs. These volunteer days allow community members to get to know the children at school and develop compassion for them. Most of the children show great enthusiasm for the visitors and report to enjoy their interactions and the extra attention.

This year, Kupenda organized volunteer days at two special schools in Kilifi County. We welcomed 25 volunteers who were each paired with a child at the schools. Many of these volunteers continue to stay in contact with our students and share information about disability issues to increase awareness among their families and communities.

Resource Center

Kupenda's Resource Center has become well known in Kilifi County as a place where community members can learn about disabilities and receive advice and assistance. In addition to having trained staff able to answer visitors' questions, Kupenda's resource center has text books for teachers and parents of children with disabilities. Some of these books include Kupenda's Disability Guidebook and Disability Law Guidebook. This fiscal year, Kupenda held counseling and support sessions with more than 195 Resource Center visitors. These sessions helped to correct misconceptions about disabilities throughout Kilifi County and positively impacted the lives of more than 195 children with disabilities by helping them access education, medical care, and other support services.



Community Leaders



Table 7. Kupenda's FY16 Advocacy Activities with Community Leaders

Activity	# of Activities	# of Participants	# of Community Members Indirectly Reached	# of Children with Disabilities Indirectly Reached
Government Gatherings	11	96	96,000	9,600
Nonprofits	4	10	40,000	4,000
Pastor Workshops	4	180	6,000	600
Sermons	4	910	9,100	910
Traditional Healers	1	20	4,000	400
Total	24	1,216	155,100	15,510

People with disabilities are often overlooked, even by government, nonprofit, and religious leaders working to help those in their communities. Kupenda educates and empowers these leaders through community gatherings, workshops, meetings and trainings. This year, Kupenda conducted 24 such activities, which were attended by 1,216 local leaders (Table 7). Based on their spheres of influence, these leaders could use their new knowledge and attitudes about disability to influenced an additional 155,100 community members. As shown in Table 7 and described in the narrative below, these changes have the potential to have positively impacted quality of life for more than 15,000 children with disabilities in Kilifi County this year.

of existing policies connected to people impacted by disability. There is also inadequate funding in support of disability needs and a lack of legislative measures. Some government officials in our focus area still believe that curses, witchcraft, incest and evil spirits are causing disabilities. Correcting these misperceptions often inspires government leaders to implement existing legislation and expand more laws to include children with disabilities.

Kupenda regularly meets with government groups to share information and highlight existing legislation protecting children with disabilities. We also bring up current disability issues that require more laws, law enforcement, and funding. Some of the main issues affecting children with disabilities in Kilifi County include:

- Inadequate funding of special learning institutions,
- Discriminative and poor implementation of existing policies, and
- Poor performance by learners with disabilities (especially those with hearing impairments) in the national exams.



Government Leader Gatherings

The involvement of the government is essential to sustainably meeting the needs of children with disabilities. Throughout the world, there is widespread discrimination and poor implementation

Fortunately, in Kilifi County, Kupenda has become the main consultant on new and existing laws related to disability. Because Kenya new government structure is now providing more power to the counties, our involvement has supported dramatic improvements to funding and legislation related to the rights for children with disabilities at the local level. We bring leaders together and join their meetings to bring awareness to the disability needs in the areas they oversee.

Community Leaders



This year, representatives from Kupenda participated in chief meetings in the regions of Adu, Muryachakwe, Chakama, Jilore and Garashi. During these meetings, we were given time to explain the issues affecting children with disabilities in their regions, such as low literacy and school enrollment, insufficient medical care and the issues of discrimination from community members. After our sessions, many of the chiefs began to address the issue of school absences by identifying parents of children with disabilities and instructing them to send their children to school.

We also facilitated 11 gatherings with 96 government representatives who are estimated to have improved the disability-related knowledge and attitudes of 96,000 people in their jurisdictions (Table 7.). The box below describes one example of these

gatherings and the impact it had on children with disabilities in the Magarini Sub-County.

One-on-One Government Meetings

After Kupenda holds large public gatherings and group meetings with government representatives, we arrange 1:1 meetings with select officials. The goals of these meeting are to:

- Provide awareness about disability issues and needs;
- Encourage implementation of existing policies related to disability, and
- Increase partnership to support meeting the needs of children with disabilities.

These meetings were also opportunities to address the following outstanding issues regarding the education and care of children with disabilities in Kilifi County:

- The long overdue review of Kilifi County's Policy on Special Needs Education,
- Inadequate staffing at institutions for children with disabilities, and
- Lack of adequate facilities in special learning institutions.

This year we held such meetings with 24 government representatives, which led to numerous positive outcomes for children with disabilities in their jurisdictions, as outlined in Table 8 on page 16.

Disability Workshop for Magarini Chiefs



On January 15, 2016, Kupenda held a full-day disability awareness workshop that was attended by 36 chiefs and sub-chiefs from the 26 sub locations of Magarini Sub-county. We provided an in-depth review of the issues impacting children with disabilities in their sub-locations and supported the chiefs in developing action plans to uphold their legal obligations to support these children.

After the workshop, chiefs took the following actions:

- They gave disability-related talks during in their monthly public meetings, reaching approximately 3,600 people with information about the rights and needs of children with disabilities in their regions;
- They identified children with disabilities in their sub-locations and referred them to schools and health facilities;
- They reprimanded parents of children with disabilities for neglecting their right to education, which inspired several parents to enroll their children in school.

Community Leaders

Table 8. Kupenda's FY16 Advocacy Activities with Government Leaders

Individual	Topic Discussed	Meeting Outcome
County Governor	Several meetings were held with the Governor to encourage funding an occupational therapist, special needs classrooms, and learning materials for schools in Kilifi.	The Governor and the Kilifi County Chairman committed to building four classrooms in the county's special schools.
Chairman of the County Budget Committee	The need to include resources in the County's annual budget to meet the education and health needs of children with disabilities.	The Governor and the Chairman promised to build model ECD classrooms at the county's special schools.
County Department of Early Childhood Education	Ensuring children with disabilities were included in their new programs.	
County Minister for Education, Culture, and Social Services	The need to provide feeding programs and a model classroom at Kilifi County's special needs schools to improve support for children with disabilities	
The Chairman of the County's Public Service Board	The need to increase job opportunities for people with disabilities.	11 Kupenda-sponsored students who graduated from high school were interviewed for employment by the County Government.
Deputy Speaker to the County Assembly	Corrected the misinterpretation held by MCAs and their managers that education scholarships could not be awarded to students with disabilities.	These officials are discussing the possibility of offering scholarships to children with disabilities in the coming years. We continually follow up with these individuals to ensure they continue to pursue this issue.
Garashi County Representative	The need to award scholarships to learners with disabilities in their counties	
Marafa County Representative		
Magarini County Representative		
Ganda County Representative		
Jilore County Representative		
Dabaso County Representative		
Matsangoni County Representative		
Kakayuni County Representative		
Tezo County Representative		
County Officer in charge of Early Childhood Education	The need to staff special learning institutions professionals in early childhood education and care	Two early childhood development teachers employed by the county government were posted to Gede and Kakyuni Special Schools.
Sub-County Commissioner	Disability awareness raising meetings	The Sub-County Commissioner's Office in Magarini increased its relief food donations to Marafa Special School.
Director of Social Services	The need to allocate funds for awareness on autism	The Director and the County Government promised to include autism awareness activities in the FY 2016/2017 budget.
County Chief Officer of Health	The need to employ occupational therapists (OT) at Gede Special School	The government employed an OT at Gede Special School and another at Marafa Special School.
Dabaso Ward Administrator	Disability awareness raising meetings	Two children were brought to school due to local county officials encouraging them to go, based on the law.
Ganda Ward Administrator		
Marafa Ward Administrator		
Shella Ward Administrator		
Kakayuni Ward Administrator		

Community Leaders



Nonprofit Organizations

Kupenda continues to collaborate with other organizations to provide more support for children with disabilities in our focus areas. This year, we met with representatives from Amref Health Africa, Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Plan International, World Vision, and the National Council for Persons Living with Disabilities. We also expanded our outreach in Tanzania, where we collaborated with the Longido Community Integrated Program (LOCIP).

One of the greatest outcomes from these meetings was the construction of a dining facility at Marafa Special School, fully funded by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. Kupenda supported this project by arranging meetings with both the Council and school staff and supporting the school leadership team in writing the funding proposal. This \$22,105 project now supports a hygienic and consistent feeding program for hundreds of children with disabilities at the Marafa Special School.

We also conducted a disability sensitization meeting with the Chalinze community during our visit to Tanzania, which inspired a local nonprofit organization called TRACE to donate wheelchairs to two children in most urgent need of this equipment.

Kupenda's other achievements with our nonprofit partners include the following:

- KEMRI co-facilitated and co-funded a World Autism Awareness Day;
- Educational scholarships were provided for two children with disabilities;
- 200 dry coconuts were donated to support the feeding program at the Gede Special School;
- LOCIP worked with Kupenda to develop construction plans for a special class for deaf children at Longido Primary School in Tanzania; and
- The Driftwood Hotel in Malindi and Ocean Sports Resort in Watamu invited Kupenda staff to make a presentation on our work.

Community Leaders

Pastor Workshops



Many people in Kenya, even Christian pastors, believe disabilities are caused by witchcraft or are a punishment from God. Since over 90% of Kenyans practice Christianity, pastors' views on disability have a significant impact on views held by community members. Kupenda reaches out to these pastors by facilitating full-day workshops designed to educate them about disabilities within the framework of Christian theology. By drawing on participants' beliefs and experiences related to disability, the workshop also guides them through the process of developing a compassionate, inclusive response to disability, based on the example of Jesus Christ, and tailored to their communities' unique needs.

This year, Kupenda held four pastor workshops, which were attended by 180 church leaders. After completing the workshop, participants began to identify and support people with disabilities in their communities. Here are some examples of the actions taken by these pastor participants:

- Kupenda arranged for 10 pastors from Gongoni to visit the children at Marafa Special School. The pastors donated 5,000 Ksh to the school and spent time socializing and praying for the students.
- Bishop Kalu of Mombasa diocese organized a fundraising event at his church and raised 80,000 Ksh for Kupenda;
- Led by their pastor, members of the Angelical Church of Tsangalaweni built a ramp so people in wheelchairs could join the church's sermons and events;
- The pastor from the Redeemed Gospel Church of Jilore provided a 10,000 Ksh scholarship to Kambi John, a child in their community who has a disability; the scholarship allowed Kambi to begin attending the Pwani Secondary School;
- Organized by their pastor, members of the Angelical Church of Gede helped wheel children from Gede Special School to and from their church every Sunday;

- At Kwa Dadu, church members identified two children with disabilities in their community and referred them for school placement.

Church Sermons

The Kuhenza and Kupenda executive directors gave four disability-related sermons at the Kakoneni Anglican Church Cathedral in Mombasa, the Anglican Church in Tsangalaweni, and a church in Longido, Tanzania. These sermons reached 910 people directly, who then had the potential to have shared the message of God's inclusive love for people with disabilities to more than 9,000 others in their communities. Many in these church congregations also began taking action to respond to this message. For example, Mr. George Mwadai, a church leader at Anglican Church in Gede, shared Kupenda's disability message at several local churches. Many church members also participated in Kupenda's volunteer meetings to improve support for children with disabilities at the Gede and Marafa Special schools. Kupenda's disability sermons are estimated to have improved care, support and inclusion for more than 900 children with disabilities over the course of the year (Table 7).

Traditional Healer Meetings

This year we held our second meeting to sensitize traditional healers about the true causes and treatments of disabilities, since they are known to be the primary sources of the superstitions surrounding disability on the Kilifi Coast of Kenya. In addition to traditional healers, we welcomed soothsayers, herbalists and traditional birth attendants. We held the session at Kwa Dadu Primary School and were pleased to welcome a total of 20 participants. Our discussions and exercises helped to correct some of the misconceptions and participants agreed to share the information with their clients and refer children with disabilities to local health facilities for appropriate medical care. We estimate that these 20 participants have the potential to positively influenced the disability-related beliefs and behavior of more than 4,000 community members and provide support and medical referrals for 400 children with disabilities (Table 7).



Families



Table 9. Kupenda's FY16 Family Advocacy Activities

Activity	# of Activities	# of Participants	# of Community Members Indirectly Reached	# of Children with Disabilities Indirectly Reached
Parent Gatherings	9	189	252	126
Support Groups	2	25	250	25
Family counseling	100	252	2,520	50
Total	111	466	3,022	201

Families are often the most successful advocates for children with disabilities; the more they understand, the more they become involved in supporting and protecting their children. Kupenda educates parents and caregivers of children with disabilities through small gatherings, support groups, and family counseling. This year, these interventions reached 466 people directly with the potential to have reached an additional 3,022 community members indirectly. As shown in Table 9 and described in the narrative below, family education and changed attitudes regarding disability improved quality of life for 201 children with disabilities in Kilifi County this year.

Parent Gatherings

This year, we facilitated nine meetings to help parents and caregivers better understand the causes and treatments of disabilities, find support among one another, and access education and services for these children. Meetings were held in Jilore, Gede, Kwa Dadu, Adu, and Mnazimumwenga and one in Longido, Tanzania. Meetings of parents involved in special schools were held in Gede, Kakuyuni and Marafa. The 189 family participants also brought new knowledge and resources back to their homes

and communities, reaching an estimated 252 community members and improving the quality of life for the 126 children in their care.

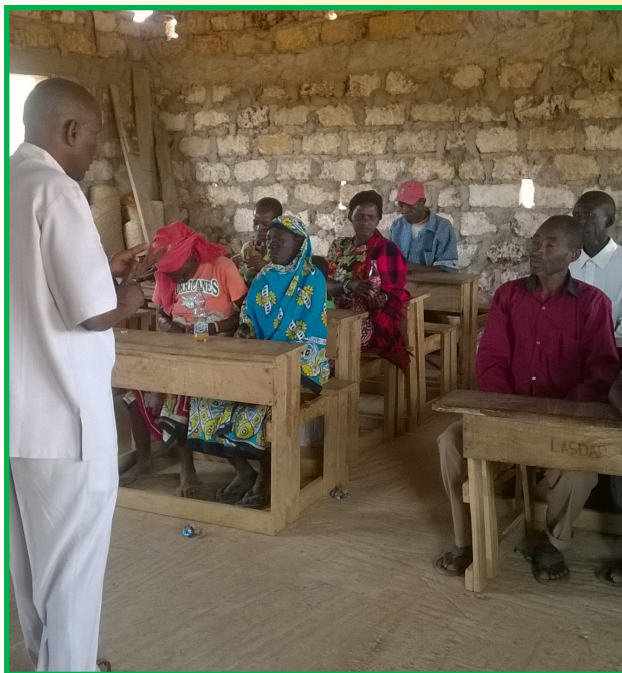


Families

Parent Support Groups



We regularly visited two parent support groups in Jilore and Adu that Kupenda had previously helped to establish. Our staff provided resources and information to these groups and helped the participants stay organized, goal-oriented, and hold consistent meetings. These support groups continue to provide emotional support to the 25 members and, this year, they also helped several children obtain school placements. The Jilore support group is particularly active – they have started an incoming generating project to raise money for children with disabilities in their community and are advocating with the local government to reopen the unit for children with disabilities at the Jilore Primary School. Our team is supporting them in these efforts. Members of both support groups regularly visit and support other parents and caregivers of children with disabilities in their communities. This year, the groups' outreach efforts are estimated to have reached 250 community members with new information and resources to support children with disabilities.



Family Counseling

This year, Kupenda counseled 100 families impacted by disability in Jilore, Adu, Mnazi Mmwenga, and Kipangaajeni. Families in Londigo, Tanzania were also counseled. We welcomed both immediate and extended family members to these meetings and asked them to share the challenges they faced in relation to their child with a disability. The Kupenda team then educated the families about the true causes and most effective treatments and support services available for their children. Finally, we



assessed the child's health and educational status and referred him or her to schools and medical facilities for care. Over the course of the year, 252 family members participated in these home visits, and approximately 50 children benefited from the information and resources Kupenda provided. We estimate that the participating family members also had the potential to share their new disability knowledge and resources with more than 2,500 community members, further expanding the message of compassion and inclusion for children with disabilities.



Other Stakeholders

Head Teachers at Mainstream Public Schools

According to Kenyan law, mainstream schools should offer inclusive education for students with disabilities whenever possible. However, stigma and lack of knowledge and resources often prevent these schools from including people with disabilities in their classes. Therefore our staff worked with leaders in eight mainstream schools to complete a Kupenda created questionnaire. The survey was designed to help Kupenda:

- Identify barriers preventing full inclusion of learners with disabilities in the mainstream schools,
- Inspire government support for learners with disabilities, and
- Bring partners on board who will support the needs of these students.

We also organized meetings with the head teachers from Gede Special School and Pwani Secondary School for the Deaf. During these meetings we discussed the poor performance of students who are deaf in the national examinations and made a plan to better support them in the months and years to come.

Local Supporters



Upon learning of Kupenda's mission, many local and international community members want to support our work. This year, we were fortunate enough to receive support and funding from the following Kupenda supporters:

- Two business professionals who assisted our staff in developing Kupenda's first Transportation and Finance Policies,
- A local resident who donated pigs to help Kupenda start an income-generating project, and
- Another local resident worked with a website developer, to help Kupenda develop a professional website specific to the Kenyan branch of the organization (Kuhenza)

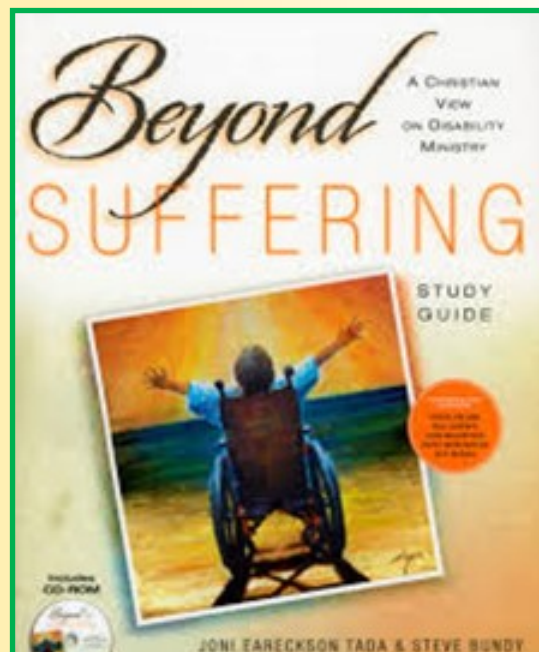
Friends of Disability Group



Every month Kupenda hosts a meeting for local pastors, church leaders and parents of children with disabilities that have registered as their own community group called "Friends of People with Disabilities." During these sessions, we go through the Joni Eareckson Tada's Beyond Suffering course with an aim to support Christian outreach in the disability community. In addition to discussing the Bible and text book, we facilitate discussions about personal beliefs related to disability and brainstorm ways we can better support people with disabilities in our homes, churches and communities.

This year's Beyond Suffering meetings inspired participants to facilitate the course for a group of pastors in Gongoni. The program ran for 10 sessions and sensitized 11 pastors on the importance of loving, caring for and including people with disabilities in the outreach of the church. These pastors are now delivering disability sermons and supporting inclusion and care for people with disabilities in their communities.

The program also led participants to begin saving funds to support children in their communities and encouraging parents to enroll their children with disabilities in school.



Advocacy Staff

U.S. Director



Cynthia Bauer spends increasingly more time on advocacy. Her experience with the organization and as a person missing her left hand allows her to provide a unique insight into helping people with disabilities though most of the children's disabilities are very different from her own. Her advocacy activities include; developing new programs, leading outreach meetings in Africa, connecting appropriate volunteers from the U.S. to the work in Kenya, teaching on the subject of disability in Kenyan and U.S. churches, researching special needs education in the U.S., developing needs assessments, authoring strategic plans in coordination with the Kenya director, and serving as an example to correct misperceptions of children with disabilities. This year she continued to play her guitar (using a Dixie cup and pick attached to the arm missing a hand) when speaking both in the U.S. and in Kenya as an example of what can be done if parents support their children to try anything.

Kenya Director



Leonard Mbonani is in charge of the operations of the organization in Kenya and is accountable to the Kuhenza for the Children's Foundation's board of directors and is in weekly contact with the U.S. director. He is responsible for; overseeing the all program areas, reporting on children in the sponsorship program, following up with children who fail to report to school, meeting with parents, prioritizing projects, facilitation of meetings, meeting with stakeholders including government officials, budgeting, reporting finances, communicating with

donors, organizing volunteer visits, workshops, and events, seeking both Kenyan and foreign funding together with the board members, collaborating with likeminded partners, and assisting parents and children with disabilities who come to the office.

Social Worker



Teresia Zawadi, a former Kupenda sponsored child, transformed the lives of children and their families with regular counseling, helping parents start support groups and meeting with government officials to address issues affecting children with disabilities. Although we will miss her in the office we are proud of her new job working as a social worker for the county government which started in January.

Office Assistant

James Sulubu is trained in bookkeeping and computer use. He is responsible for recording Kuhenza's income and expenses, collecting receipts, developing financial reports and preparing for Kenyan government audits. He also oversees Kuhenza's resource center.



Project Officer



Thomas Katana worked as Kuhenza's office manager for several years, which made him sensitive to the situation of families impacted by disabilities. This inspired him to earn an education degree with a concentration in special needs. After completing his education, Thomas returned to Kuhenza and was hired as a project officer when Leonard was

diagnosed with stage IV lymphoma and the social worker took another job. In this role, Thomas collects information for the child sponsorship program, assesses and monitors children with disabilities, connects children with special needs schools and hospitals, writes reports, and assists the Kenya director, as needed.

FY2016 Program Activities and Impact: Education



Children with disabilities have the right to education without discrimination. Nevertheless, many remain excluded from equal access to schooling. This means they also miss out on many of the benefits that follow, including better jobs, social and economic security, and opportunities for full participation in society. Kupenda works with parents, leaders and communities to support children with disabilities in accessing high-quality education, tailored to their unique physical and learning needs. In addition to their personal gains, children with disabilities who succeed academically show their peers and communities what is possible when they have access to the education they deserve.

Advocating for Community Support for Special Schools

Every year, Kupenda holds various meetings with government officials, parents, churches and community leaders throughout Kilifi County to advocate for improved school access and special

education services for children with disabilities. This year we celebrated a number of successes in relation to these advocacy efforts, as outlined in Table 10 and described in the narrative that follows. These contributions amounted to more than \$7,000 in salary, food and scholarship donations from the community.



Table 10. Educational support from the community through Kupenda's efforts

Project	Contributing Entities	Estimated USD	Kuhenza's role
Scholarships for 18 students	Kilifi County Government Ward Scholarship Program	\$2,632	Kuhenza sensitized the MCAs and helped parents in filling scholarship applications
Additional special needs teacher	Kilifi County Government Department of Education, Culture, & Social Services	\$3,789	This is after Kuhenza held talks with the officer in charge of ECD on the need of these teachers to the schools
Food donations to 3 special needs schools	Churches, businesses, and families	\$579	As a result of meetings with parents, churches, and community leaders
Total		\$7,000	

Scholarships



In Kilifi County, most families earn less than \$2 per day, and on average, have more than four children. In addition to poverty and resource competition within their own families, many children with disabilities are unable to attend school due to transportation challenges and their distance from special education facilities.

Kupenda helps these children by sensitizing law makers and parents about the education rights and capacity of children with disabilities. This year, Kupenda's Board of Director's Vice Chairman attended public forums at which he spoke to more than 1,000 community members on the importance of including scholarships for children with disabilities in their 2016/17 annual budgets. The Kupenda team also conducted meetings with Member of County Assembly (MCA) managers in 10 different wards including Tezo, Matsangoni, Dabaso, Kakuyuni, Ganda, Magarini, Jilore, Marafa, Adu and Garashi. In each meeting, we reviewed the national and county-level legislation that mandates education access for children with disabilities. We then shared compelling stories and data from our beneficiary groups and asked the managers to brainstorm ways they could help develop ward-level scholarship funds for children with disabilities. These meetings inspired County assembly members to provide scholarships

to 18 children with disabilities in Kilifi County.

Kupenda also helps students apply to scholarships. This year, the Kupenda team identified 15 children and worked with them 1:1 to complete their lengthy scholarship applications. Our mentorship provided all 15 children with new academic skills and confidence.

Educators

Over the course of the year, Kupenda's staff held various talks with the Kilifi County Officer in charge of ECD and implored him to hire additional special needs teachers for the under-served special schools in Kilifi. These advocacy efforts inspired the Kilifi County Government Department of Education, Culture and Social Services to fund the salary of one additional special needs teacher who is now supporting the academic development of hundreds of children with disabilities in Kilifi.



Nutritional Support

Kupenda's advocacy with local businesses, churches and families impacted by disability inspired these stakeholders to contribute \$579 in food donations to three special needs schools in Kilifi County. These donations contributed to improved nutrition for hundreds of children with disabilities throughout the year.



Academic support for students and families with special needs

Parent Sensitization Meetings

This year we brought together the parents of children in secondary schools and trained them on the importance of funding and supporting their children's education. Because many of these parents struggle to pay for their children's education, we provided them with resources and strategies for securing scholarships and other forms of tuition funding. We also encouraged them to attend school meetings, events and provide their children with the required school supplies, such as writing implements, paper, dishware, toiletries, etc.

Student Career Planning Meetings

On February 19, Kupenda held a mentorship meeting for 11 children who had recently finished secondary school and their parents. We led the group through a series of discussions to help identify potential career paths for the students that best aligned with their interests, abilities, qualifications and existing employment opportunities.

Advocacy and Emergency Relief Food Donations

In March, Kupenda donated 22,500 Ksh (\$219 USD) in food stuffs to support the Annual Special Sports and Games gatherings at the Kakuyuni and Marafa Special Schools. We made this investment to raise awareness among the local communities about the rights, needs, and athletic capacity of children with disabilities.

Kupenda also donated food to Kakuyuni Special School after the head teacher reported a serious food shortage at the school due to an area drought.

Although the school head master had petitioned the local government ministry for support, he never received a response to this request. The school also helped the parents start a farming project so they could pay their children's school fees. This income helped prevent the food shortage for the first two terms, but in the third term, the farming project also failed due to the drought. Although Kakayuni's food shortage did ultimately cause it to close three weeks early, Kupenda's donation enabled the school to remain open for several months longer than they would have been otherwise able to, allowing the students to successfully complete their schooling for the year.

School and Home Visits to Support School Access and Retention

This year, Kupenda staff visited more than 100 families in their homes to recruit new children for our sponsorship program and complete progress reports on children already enrolled. We also met with families whose children were not reporting to school and inspired five caregivers to bring their children back to school. Finally, we visited the Kupenda-supported school facilities to collect additional progress reports on students in our sponsorship program. These home visits enabled us to retain 193 children in the sponsorship program and bring 17 new children in to the program. As compared to our last fiscal year, we witnessed an improved student retention rate at both primary and secondary schools combined. Among the 210 children now in our sponsorship program, 181 are attending primary school, 21 are in secondary schools and 2 are in either college or vocational schools, as shown in Table 11 on page 26.



Boarding Fees and Tuition



Although the Kenyan government provides free primary school for all children, such coverage does not include the cost of special needs boarding facilities that are necessary for many students with disabilities. Secondary schools (high schools) and vocational schools are much more expensive as they are not supported by the government. We are

excited that 21 students with special needs attended secondary school in FY2016. It is especially impressive considering less than 2% of students without special needs attend secondary schools in this region. In 2016, Kupenda paid the school fees of 210 students with disabilities (Table 11).

Table 11. Number of Kupenda sponsored students and the schools where they are enrolled in FY 2016

Type of School	School Name	# of Kupenda Sponsored Children Enrolled
Primary Schools		187
	Gede Special	111
	Marafa Special	37
	Kakayuni Special	28
	Kizurini Primary	5
	Kibarani School for the Deaf	4
	Kibarani Boarding	1
	St Francis Small Home	1
Secondary Schools		21
	Pwani	16
	St. Angela Secondary School for the Deaf	2
	Machakos	1
	Mida	1
	Rev. Muhoro	1
Vocational Schools		2
	Mombasa Technical Training School	1
	Karen Technical College	1
Total		210

Education Staff



Table 12. FY16 Kupenda funded employees at educational institutions for children with special needs.

Position	# of staff funded by Kupenda	School
Teacher Aide for the Deaf	2	1 at Gede Special and 1 at Marafa Special
Teacher Aide for Children with Cerebral Palsy	1	Gede Special
Teacher for Children with Cognitive Delays	1	Sir Ali School for The Mentally Challenged
House parents	4	3 at Gede Special and 1 at Marafa Special
Cook	1	Gede Special
Total	9	

Most schools that Kupenda supports are public institutions staffed by the government and educational management boards. However, more teachers and support staff are often needed than what these groups can provide. In response, Kupenda works with the school leadership teams to identify and hire for the most urgently needed

positions and then works to help the local government to take over salary payments for these positions. This year, Kupenda funded salaries of nine school staff members, who provided quality special education, nutrition, and care for more than 500 children with disabilities (see Table 12 above).

Former Kupenda Sponsored Student is a Teacher Aide



Zainabu Nduraya is 27 years old and is hard of hearing. Through Kupenda's sponsorship program, she was able to complete high school and is now working as a teacher aide at Marafa Special School. Zainabu, once seen as a burden, is now able to help support her widowed mother, her three siblings and her child from her small salary. She is in the process of getting the proper certifications to be a teacher which will give her a higher salary and improve the lives of even more students.

Since Zainabu's primary mode of communication is sign language, she is more effective than those without hearing issues to train other children in sign language and beginning levels of learning. As someone who is hard of hearing, she is also an effective role model. She is very outgoing and has already made new friends in the Marafa area which is far from her home.

Less than 2% of children without disabilities in primary school even attend high school, so we are especially proud of Zainabu's accomplishments.

Special School Infrastructure Support

Kupenda partners with local government and organizations to source or raise funds for infrastructure projects that support special needs education. We advocate for new and improved facilities in underserved areas, especially those where distance from a special needs school keeps many children with disabilities from accessing any education at all. Because infrastructure projects are so expensive, they often require months and years of local advocacy before they can be completed.

Marafa Dining Facility Constructed



This year, one of the greatest outcomes from our advocacy efforts was the construction of a dining facility at Marafa Special School, fully funded by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. Kupenda supported this project by arranging meetings with both the Council and school staff and supporting the school leadership team in writing the funding proposal. This \$22,105 project now supports a hygienic and consistent feeding program for hundreds of children with disabilities at the Marafa Special School.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) Classrooms

Our staff also devoted time this year to developing a detailed memorandum on the urgent need to construct early childhood development (ECD) classrooms at special learning institutions throughout Kilifi County. The memorandum highlighted the fact that Kilifi is home to thousands of children with disabilities between the ages of 0 and 8 who could benefit from ECD centers that address their physical and academic learning needs at this early and critical stage of development. We then shared this memorandum with the Kilifi County Budget Committee at four different public forums in Malindi, Gongoni, Kanamai and Kilifi. At each meeting, the Governor and his Committee Chairman promised to consider the construction of these classrooms. We continue to follow up with the Governor and Chairman in hopes of seeing this project come to fruition.

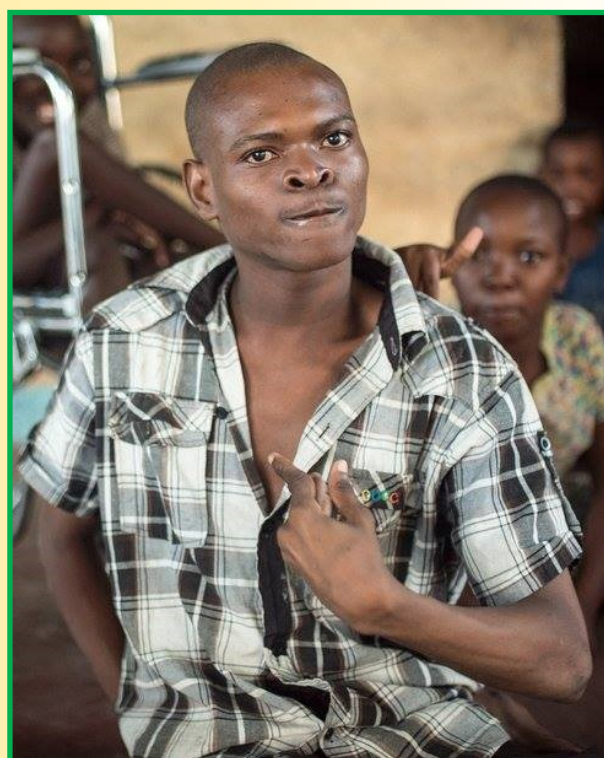
Model Classroom

This year we also sent four Kupenda board members to meet with the Chairman of the Kilifi

County Budget Committee to discuss and advocate for the construction of a model ECD classroom in the

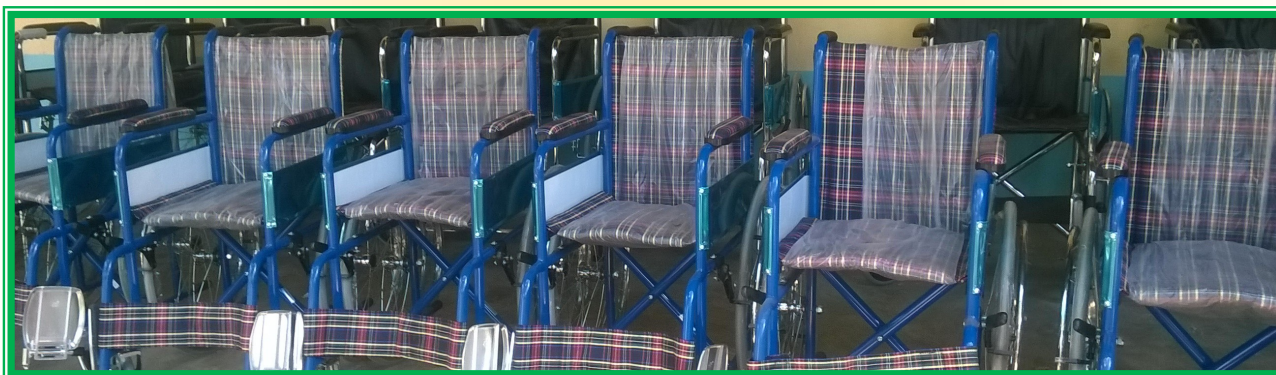


Kupenda-supported special needs schools. A model classroom uses dynamic, evidence-based instructional strategies to help special education teachers increase their students' physical, social and academic progress. Such a classroom could serve as a teacher training site and provide useful data on the impact of using special education best practices to improve learning and development among children with communication challenges associated with cerebral palsy, autism, and who are hard of hearing. There would be a teacher to student ratio of 1 teacher to 2 students for 15 students to show the possibilities when proper techniques and staffing are implemented. We continue to follow up with the Chairman in hopes of securing funding and support for pilot testing this first special needs model classroom in Kilifi County.



FY2016 Program Activities and Impact:

Medical



Kupenda helps children with disabilities access the medical care and supplies they need to reach optimal health and wellness. We work to ensure these medical services are high-quality, consistent, timely and tailored to the child's unique needs. Although Kupenda continues to provide direct medical care to our beneficiaries, we focus these interventions on the most acute and urgent cases, while engaging parents and community leaders in covering other medical expenses. This model is increasing the sustainability of Kupenda's medical program, which we hope will one day be fully facilitated by Kenyan families, leaders and communities.

This year, Kupenda made medical referrals, transported children to health centers, distributed wheelchairs, provided medical supplies, and supported the provision of school-based therapy services. As shown in Table 13 and described in the narrative below, these services improved the health and comfort of 113 children with disabilities in Kilifi County this year.

Referrals and Transportation to Medical Facilities

Kupenda made medical referrals for 20 children with disabilities in need of hospital or clinic-based care. Kupenda's new vehicle also allowed us to transport 31 children with more urgent needs to local hospitals to be seen by specialists. In three cases we provided bus fare to help children access the Kijabe Hospital in Kiambu County for corrective surgeries and follow-up appointments. Hospital-based assessment and care enabled these 51 children to receive medications, therapy and surgery.

Wheelchairs Distributed

Wheelchairs are among the most expensive equipment needs among children with disabilities in Kenya. Children with conditions such as cerebral palsy, paraplegia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and spina bifida find both their mobility and social development significantly improved through access to well-made, appropriately sized wheelchairs. In response to the existing and urgent needs for wheelchairs at the Gede Special School, Kupenda purchased chairs for 18 children with the most severe mobility challenges. The 18 children who received these chairs now have improved mobility, self esteem, and independence. Some have also shown improved social skills and academic performance. Kupenda continues to advocate with the schools and other local organizations to solicit wheelchair donations and encourage inclusion of disability equipment in their operational budgets.

Physical and Occupational Therapy

This year, Kupenda effectively lobbied for school-based therapy services to be provided through the Kilifi County Government. These efforts inspired the County Governor to allocate funds to pay for the construction and staffing of an occupational therapy block at Marafa Special School, which was officially opened on November 13, 2015. This room has helped to improve quality of life for the school's students, many of whom are showing significantly improved fine and gross motor skills due to the care they now receive at this facility.

Table 13. Kupenda's FY16 Medical Interventions and Impact

Activity	# of beneficiaries
Child medical referrals	20
Child transportation to medical facilities	31
Wheelchairs distributed	18
Children receiving therapeutic services	44
Total number of medical needs served	113



Medical Supplies

Kupenda continued to provide the following medical supplies to support children with disabilities at the Gede and Marafa Special Schools:

- Medical materials (such as gauze, anti-bacterial medication, and gloves)
- Medicine (such as epileptic medicine, specialized multivitamins, and de-worming tablets)
- Medical equipment (such as wheelchairs, occupational therapy equipment, crutches, braces and pressure mattresses to prevent bed sores)

These supplies enabled teachers, house parents and therapists to provide hygienic and effective medical attention to the children with disabilities in their care. Kupenda is increasingly engaging the school management teams, parents and community leaders in covering the expenses of these medical supplies to create a more sustainable procurement system.

Kupenda's Road-Block Protest Secures Government-funded Therapy Services at Gede Special School



In late 2015, Kupenda learned that the Gede Special School's occupational therapist, previously funded by Kupenda, had been offered a government-paid position and transferred to a new facility. The loss of Mr. Mutwiri was devastating to the Gede teachers and children, many of whom rely on his expertise and care for basic daily functioning. In response to his transfer, the Kupenda Executive Director, Leonard Mbonani, petitioned with the Kilifi County Department of Health for his return. When the Department did not respond to his requests, our tenacious director arranged a powerful protest. He first called the Gede Police Department and received their support. Leonard then contacted the school and asked the head teacher and house parents to help him intercept the governor as he was driving through Gede.

Everything came together perfectly. As the governor was passing through Gede, he found that his car was forced to stop because the road outside of the Gede Special School was blocked by dozens of children in wheelchairs, teachers and young people. As the governor exited his car, he was met by Leonard and the Gede head teacher who explained their request for Mr. Mutwiri's return to Gede. The governor received the request in good spirits, greeted the children with handshakes, and soon thereafter, granted Mr. Mutwiri return to Gede. Since this day, Mr. Mutwiri's salary at the Gede Special School has been fully-funded by the Kilifi County Government, which has enabled him to continue providing daily therapy to Gede's children with disabilities.

FY2016 Program Activities and Impact: Administration and Fundraising



Kupenda for the Children is a small organization with a big impact. Our U.S. staff consists of just one full time, and one part time employee raising funds to support the on-going activities of Kupenda and Kuhenza.

In this reporting period, 17% of Kupenda's costs went to administrative support. Administrative costs include bank fees, printing, postage, fundraising, office expenses, accounting, funding the U.S. director's travel for fundraising and training, and her time spent on administrative and fundraising activities. These costs also include our part time book keeper and child sponsorship coordinator.

Administrative and Fundraising Staff

U.S. Executive Director



Cynthia Bauer is responsible for overseeing Kupenda's administration, programs and strategic planning. Her other key duties include fundraising, marketing, and community outreach. She reports directly to the Board of Directors. Through her speeches, writing, and networking, Cynthia

advocates for children with disabilities in Kenya, Tanzania, and the U.S. Cynthia also encourages others with disabilities to meet their God-given potential by sharing the message of God's inclusive love and by playing her guitar to demonstrate what is possible when opportunities are available to everyone.

In FY2016 more speaking engagements were scheduled to increase the organization's visibility and donor base. Cynthia also worked with a donor organization to get funding for a much needed development director to work full time in the U.S. to

expand Kupenda's resource base, supporting more children with disabilities in Kenya and beyond. This investment means an increase in administrative expenses for FY2017 until the development director gains enough experience with the organization to raise significant funds.

Bookkeeper and Child Sponsorship Coordinator



This was Sandra Bauer's first full year as a funded part-time employee for Kupenda. Since 2006, she volunteered her time to keep the financial records. With the growth of the organization, Sandra Bauer was hired part time to manage Kupenda's child sponsorship program and continues to be responsible for the organization's financial recording and reporting. As Cynthia's mother she also shares her experiences as a parent of a child with a disability to advocate for the organization.

Sandra visited Kenya for the first time in January 2016 to improve the child sponsorship program, share with community leaders about her experiences as Cynthia's mother and be a guest of honor at the Disability Awareness Day. The day was in honor of her husband because of his influence on the organization as Cynthia's father and passed away in March 2015.

Board of Directors

Statement of Faith

The following statement of faith is agreed upon by all board members in the U.S. and in Kenya to create unity in our mission. It states: "We believe in the Triune God: the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, ministered while on earth, was put to death, and rose bodily from the dead as atonement for our sins. We are committed to the ministry of the Church chosen by God to be his channel of blessing to the world. We particularly wish to affirm: that throughout history, God the Father has a particular concern for the poor and needy; that in His ministry on Earth, Jesus his Son healed the sick, fed the hungry, and loved the outcast and the downtrodden; that today God is still calling his Church to care for the poor and needy. We believe in the divine inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God, and that it is the final authority in all matters of life, faith, and conduct."

FY16 U.S. Board of Directors

Table 14. U.S. board of directors for Kupenda for the Children

Role	Name	Background
Chair person	Lauren Blair	Writer and gifted with fundraising and leadership
Vice Chair	Jeff Gentry	Pastor and full-time employee of U.S. disability nonprofit
Secretary	Patricia Prasada-Rao	Extensive experience in nonprofit management and international work
Board member	Cynthia Bauer	Founder/Executive Director
Board member	Isaac Olatunde	From Nigera but worked in a hospital in Dubai. He is also getting a counseling degree.
Board member	Graham Messier	Works with individuals with developmental disabilities or acquired/traumatic brain injuries

The U.S. board of directors is responsible for approving budgets, fundraising, assistance with strategic planning, and providing input to African programs.

We are excited to have Graham Messier join the U.S. board of directors this year. He is a valuable addition considering his experience working with adults with disabilities.



FY16 Kenya Board of Directors

Table 15. Kuhenza board of directors in Kenya

Role	Name	Background
Chairman	Rev. Robert Mangi	Pastor of church within the Gede Special School Compound
Vice Chair	Norbert Deche	Parent of a special needs child & had experience as a legal advisor
Treasurer	Gabriel Mwanengo	Special needs teacher
Secretary	Leonard Mbonani	Founder/Kuhenza director
Board member	Martha Karo	Head teacher of Gede Special School
Board member	Cynthia Bauer	Kupenda founder and U.S. director
Board member	Linnet Mkutano	Early childhood teacher and has a disability
Board member	Mohamed Mugaza	Head of the Kakayuni unit for the mentally challenged

"Kupenda for the Children's Foundation" is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Kenya (2008). They meet regularly to determine funding priorities and other board issues. They are the primary decision makers regarding the way things operate on the ground in Kenya. They are responsible for developing budgets, fundraising, and assistance with strategic planning. Activities in Kenya are approved by this board before the U.S. board reviews it.



Fundraising Activities and Results



Foundations (\$63,559 – 20%)

Most foundation support came through individuals connected to Kupenda that serve on the boards of granting organizations. Many granting organizations wish to remain anonymous so they are not listed here. Five foundations contributed to our work in 2016.

Individuals (\$48,803 – 16%)

Individual support includes monthly supporters, one-time donors, and those who have given periodically over the years. Though we do not always know what sparked individual contributions, we know that some is the result of our newsletters, social media sites, and speeches delivered by our U.S. executive director, board members, and volunteers. Most of our individual supporters come from the U.S. and now represent most of the U.S. states and the United Kingdom.

Child Sponsorship (\$43,738 – 14%)

Kupenda's Child Sponsorship Program connects donors with individual children. Donors receive an annual progress report on the child they support and reminders when payments are due. The cost of sponsorship is \$30 per month or \$360 per year. This year sponsorship income was about the same as last year. More sponsors are signing up for automated monthly payments, which helps with consistency.

Contributions go to sending a child with a disability to

a specialized boarding school or caring for a child at home who is not yet school- aged. Sponsoring a child provides him or her with: boarding school fees, food, learning materials, assistance equipment, physical therapy, medical care, caretakers, and qualified special needs teachers

Churches (\$13,624 – 4%)

Church support may be a smaller percentage of our overall income but it is a more consistent source of income than the bigger donors. Three churches gave monthly to our funds connected to advocacy and medical intervention. Many individual donors are connected to these churches as well. The 5-mile race event (described below) is organized by the associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church Northshore on a yearly basis.

Quarterly monthly church support: Mosaic Christian Church (MD), First Presbyterian Church Northshore (MA), Hope Community Church (MA), and First Baptist Church Hampton Falls (NH).

Other contributing churches: Moses Corner Baptist Church (ME), Essex Street Baptist Church (ME), Trenton Baptist Church (ME), and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (UT).

Businesses (\$4,864 – 1%)

Businesses are a small but important part of our donation base. Omega Healthcare and DBM Communications Inc. give matching donations when one of their individual employees donates.

Businesses include: St. Clair Enterprises, BNY Mellon Community Partnership (NJ) Omega Healthcare (MD), and DBM Communications (MD).



Events and Campaigns (\$44,573 – 14%)

Holiday Appeal Letter (\$22,487)

The end of the calendar year appeal letter focused on the January 2016 climb up Mount Kilimanjaro with three of Kupenda's beneficiaries. This climb symbolized what can happen when children with disabilities are given opportunities. In the letter, we also emphasized that contributions to Kupenda will continue to change the cultural perception of disability in Kenya and Tanzania, rescuing children with disabilities from the kind of hunger, neglect, and abuse that most of us cannot even imagine. They will have renewed hope, understanding of their value, access to healthcare and education, and love like they've never known.

Adventures for the Cure (\$15,876)

In addition to raising awareness and funds related to diabetes, Adventures for the Cure (AFC), www.adventuresfortheure.com, was created to inspire everyone to use their gifts and talents to make a positive change in the world around them. They have focused on using their love of cycling to accomplish this task. AFC has grown along with us and is continually our most consistent supporting organization over our 13 years of existence.

AFC is listed under events instead of foundations because they have three annual biking races that generate income for Kupenda. Since they grew with us as partners, we do not have to go through a granting process.

Father's Day Appeal (\$2,615)

The end of fiscal year 2015 appeal letter was written in honor of the founder's father, Richard Bauer, who passed away unexpectedly at just 63 years old in March 2015. The letter spoke of honoring fathers and encouraging them to care for their children with disabilities like Cynthia's Richard did for her. Most of the funds raised through that appeal arrived in July of this fiscal year.

5-Mile Race (\$2,080)

We are grateful to members of First Presbyterian Church for organizing the June 2015 race, and to the runners for their participation. The income from this year's race was not processed until July of FY2016.

Kilimanjaro Fundraising Hike (\$1,515)

Ten American hikers raised funds to climb

Kilimanjaro above the earmarked funds needed to cover the expenses of the climb itself which included the three Kupenda beneficiaries and two Kenyan adults to join the American hikers. Although the funds raised were minimal, we are hopeful that the investment in this advocacy activity and the documentary being created about this adventure will create more awareness and increase funding for Kupenda's work.

Earmarks (\$93,112 – 30%)

We try to avoid earmarked projects since we need to ensure we meet our monthly running costs with a fluctuating base of support. As such, most funds raised for buildings or equipment are now sent directly to the implementing organizations, as opposed to going through Kupenda's accounts. This year's three earmark projects were as follows.

Kilimanjaro Fundraising Hike (\$67,674)

Ten hikers climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2016, led by Julia Spruance. Julia was a Kupenda intern and works with Waypoint Adventures, an organization focused on including people with disabilities in outdoor adventures. The total earmarked portion of the funds they raised covered the costs of the 10 American hikers, three Kenyan climbers with disabilities, and the two Kenyan adults that accompanied them.

Kilimanjaro/Kupenda Documentary (\$16,500)

Thanks to funds raised by Adventures for the Cure's friends, Phillip Knowlton and Justin Francis could document the Kilimanjaro Fundraising Hike. After the hike, Phillip also accompanied the U.S. director and Kenyan climbers to Kenya where he captured the initial reactions of the community to the climbers' amazing accomplishments. The documentary will hopefully be released in The U.S. in FY2017. It will also be used in Kenya and other countries around the world to raise awareness for children with disabilities.

U.S. Volunteers to Kenya and Tanzania (\$8,938)

This is the amount of money individuals provided to Kupenda to visit Kupenda's work. Resulting in raising funds and awareness in their spheres of influence.