2019 was an incredible year for all of our programs at Mainsprings. We expanded our educational programs at our Kitongo campus to include more technology and hands-on learning, further developed our sports programs, and accepted our first 16 residential girls at our second campus in Kahunda. Thousands of additional trees were planted on both campuses, hundreds more livestock added, and our staff grew to over 100 members. Our very own Permaculture Institute of Tanzania took on its first grant-making partnership so that we can truly be a hub for restorative agriculture in Tanzania. In December, we graduated our 5th class from our Secondary School, and our community seminars nearly doubled in size from 2018.

It is thanks to our incredibly generous supporters and partners that we are able to see so much momentum and change. This year, donations were up 23% over 2018. Our campuses continue to have more buildings added. Trees planted years ago are now starting to create a canopy on our Kitongo campus. As Mainsprings matures as an organization, we are taking additional steps to become self-sustaining. 2019 marked substantial improvements in sustainability from both our farm and on-campus restaurant, Papa’s. We saw record breaking amounts of produce and increased traffic at our restaurant and lodge.

As we near our 14th birthday, Mainsprings is truly serving as a model and benchmark for what real, sustainable, deep-rooted change in communities can look like. We are successfully replicating nearly all aspects of our model on a second campus and look forward to further expansion in the future. Thank you to everyone who makes what we do possible. We look forward to many more decades of change thanks to our global Mainsprings family!

Chris Gales, Founder & CEO

A look at this year

102 volunteers visited our campus
Harvested 42 tons of food

100% pass rate on national exams from Primary and Secondary School

400 students

Girls basketball placed 2nd nationally

694 Community members attended our World AIDS Day seminar

1,248 trees planted
2019 Income: $1,663,334

Number of new donors in 2019: 281
Average gift in 2019: $2,550
Percentage of donors who increased giving in 2019: 42%
Capital Expenses in 2019: $160,989

2019 Income by Donation Source

New in 2019

- Accepted our first 16 residential girls at our Kahunda campus
- Robotics extracurricular opportunities added to our Joseph & Mary Schools
- Pig project added to our Kahunda campus
- Solar water system installed on the Kahunda campus
- Partnered with Princeton in Africa and welcomed our first year-long fellow to our Kitongo Campus
- Promoted Kahunda’s Campus Director, Lyimo, to Country Director, creating a 100% national staff in Tanzania
- Held our first International Permaculture Design Certification Course in Kitongo
- Held our first “Graduate Summit”, bringing together our alumnae from the past 4 years

2019 Expenses by Department

*These departments generate income that exceeds their expenses
PIT Grant Program

The Permaculture Institute of Tanzania is a project of Mainsprings designed to provide permaculture education and training to organizations, community members, and permaculture practitioners around the world. PIT was born after Mainsprings saw how the enormous success of its own farms could be replicated by other farms and organizations. This year we received a grant from several foundations to allow 10 organizations to attend our internationally certified permaculture design course. Within an application window of one month, we received over 30 applications from organizations in seven countries across the East African region. These organizations represent children, women living with HIV/AIDS, health systems, people with disabilities, subsistence farmers, pastoralists, and all the surrounding communities in which they work.

Together, with Mainsprings’ efforts, we are collectively impacting the lives of over 12,000 people across Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Malawi. These organizations also received a grant to implement the techniques they learned and receive ongoing support and accountability from Mainsprings.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward the future, we plan to finish construction on our Early Childhood Center in Kahunda, which will enable us to accept up to 120 children from Pre-School through 2nd Grade. We will continue to expand our Permaculture Institute of Tanzania to be a hub for restoration agriculture for all of East Africa. We will accept guests at our Kahunda campus. We plan to expand our medical clinic and laboratory to provide more healthcare services to the community as well as expand Papa’s, our on-campus restaurant and lodge, to accept more visitors, generating more in-country revenue.

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