This is the Foundation’s 4th newsletter of 2020. What can we say, it has been an exceptionally long year for the world. The pandemic continues to rage, but many organizations have made amazing accommodations and have been able to continue their missions. Many of the virtual solutions will likely continue even when the world returns to what used to pass as normal. As the Foundation continues to focus on the needs of people and communities in the developing world, we hope that you will continue to invest with us and help to make our Fall Fundraiser a success. Donate Today! With your support we will soon see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

Speaking of Light
In 2018, the Foundation began solarizing schools in the Karagwe and Kyerwa districts of Tanzania. Leveraging the opportunity to work with Off-Grid Electric, Amizade, and Mavuno, we are adding solar panels, lights, charging stations, TVs, and radios for about $1250/school. To date we have solarized 72 schools, and hope to complete 12 more schools by the end of 2020. At this time, we would like to acknowledge one of our major supporters whose contributions over the past 2 years have solarize 24 of these schools, Reed Schmidt. When asked why he chose to invest so generously, he replied: "I support renewable energy projects, especially solar, to promote energy independence and the slowing of climate change. During my professional consulting career (now retired), I would advise local governments in California on energy issues and encourage them in developing and using renewable energy."

In the follow-up visits with the solarized schools, the following observations were made:

- The presence of Television screens has been used by teachers as a teaching tool, especially for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subject.
- There are some areas whose people have never touched or seen a Television set. The presence of televisions in the package of equipment associated with this project has increased the motivation of students to go to the schools and has led to the almost complete eradication of absenteeism.
- After the normal academic timetable, students have been returning in the evening for self-study. Teachers have been using that opportunity either for accomplishing their duties or for teaching students (especially standard four and seven) who are National examinations candidates.
The lights have added extra time and have helped to improve academic performance. The presence of security lights, especially during the night has added value to the schools by making them look similar to the urban ones which have electricity all the time. Thieves who used to rely on the dark to come and steal no longer have that opportunity.

Of course, there are always challenges to overcome as well:

- During the rainy season when the light is most needed due to the presence of fog, the lights become dim due to the lack of adequate sunlight to charge the panels.

- As the solarization moves to schools further and further from MAVUNO’s home base, monitoring and evaluation has required more travel. In addition, precautions due to COVID-19 have also added an additional layer of complexity and cost.

An update from LifeNet

"Thank you for your partnership with Bugendana Clinic in the District of Bugendana, Burundi. Over the past three months, more than 2,000 patient visits were improved through our work together! As COVID-19 continues to move through Africa, we are working to provide ongoing learning reinforcements, coaching, and mentoring on COVID-19 for health workers in the Bugendana Clinic. While the clinic has not yet received a case of COVID-19, its staff members are trained and ready to address the
Quality primary healthcare remains a high need in the District of Bugendana and we are thankful for the privilege of equipping Bugendana Clinic with the resources they need to provide high-quality, compassionate care to their community. Over the last quarter, the staff of Bugendana had the privilege of welcoming 122 new babies into the world. These babies were born under the care of skilled women and men who had received LifeNet training in Safe Babies Care. Thanks to your generosity, these health workers had the knowledge and tools they needed to safely place 122 babies into their mothers’ arms. Thank you!”