

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry,
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will RISE in the darkness . . ."

ISAIAH 58:10



December 2021

Greetings—

It is hard to believe that another year has passed, and 2021 is coming to a close. Amidst the challenges, I love that we can continue to make a tangible difference in the lives of kids and their families in Angola!

Highlights of 2021 include... the successful completion of our co-funding partnership with Educate A Child and ExxonMobil, which began in 2017, and exceeded all targets – 26 schools were built as part of the project, at which **28,784 out-of-school children** were enrolled! Our Monitoring & Evaluation team collected detailed data on the 28,784 individual students – a significant accomplishment. The RISE database, where all information is tracked, continues to be enhanced.

Two wells, funded by Rotary, were drilled. Bolonguera, a remote location where there had never been a school, was dedicated February 3rd; the Mayor gratefully shared that “without RISE we could not move forward.” Beautiful new schools at Cassualala, Calombinda, Kwawa, Cabaia, 11th of November, and Lonjombele (visit “the schools” page on our website for detail) were also dedicated with celebration, joy, and gratitude. Kids are excited to have classrooms and access to education for the first time! The RISE Angola team masterfully navigated the complexities of construction in the pandemic. Jobs were created for building teams, teachers and staff, and serve as both a stimulus to the local economy, and a valuable provision amid high unemployment countrywide.

Fundraising efforts included a Brewery Tour, Fantasy Football leagues, GlobalGiving campaigns, Team RISE marathon runners, and school events, which all raised money to give kids the chance to go to school. Our annual benefit, at Sketchbook Brewing Co., was a night of celebration and challenge. Incredibly, funds were donated to build a 10-classroom school at Bairro Novo where over 1000 kids have no access to education. The money was wired, the first stone laid on November 9th, and construction is underway!

Education is a right, a strategic investment, and a driver of development. Education matters and every child should have the chance to go to school – this is what we want and expect for the children in our lives. An Angolan Administrator shared, “we see these children, and without access to education, we know that we are killing their future.” We have the unique opportunity to bring hope and a future to more kids in Angola.

Please consider a year-end gift – use the enclosed envelope to give by check or credit card, stock or via an IRA, or donate online one-time or monthly. I thank you for your investment and impact in the lives of others, and wish you a meaningful holiday season!

With much gratitude—

Lynn Cole, Executive Director

