2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The Scholar’s Journey
2-5
INTRODUCTION
Our Mission and Vision
A Message from the Founders

6-9
EDUCATE
Scholar Highlights
• Maria Elena Canseco Cortes
• Chardonnay Lewin
• Harriet Akello
Our Impact

10-13
ENGAGE
Scholar Highlights
• Sitra Nuredin Ababolgu
• Ajmal Shah
• Deekshanta Situala
Our Impact

14-17
COLLABORATE
Rwanda Fellowship
Uganda Fellowship
Kenya Fellowship
Our Impact

18-23
ACT
Scholar Highlights
• Raphael Ajima
• Mthokozisi Moyo
• Judith Aloko
• Alan Harogha
Our Impact

24-29
LEAD
Scholar Highlights
• Henri Kabore
• Jacquelyne Alesi
• Thomas Sevordzi
• Bonny Mark Alinga
Our Impact

30-31
LEGACY PROJECTS
Literacy Project
Haiti Project

32-33
LOOKING FORWARD
WMI Academy
Dream Big Conference

34-37
OUR BOARD AND FINANCIALS
Donor Spotlight
Our Board
Our Financials
Our Donors

38-39
THE SCHOLAR’S JOURNEY
Scholar Highlight
• Felix Kawooya

Table Of Contents

Cover Photo: Onesai Chiguvere, Zimbabwe
SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

OUR MISSION
Wells Mountain Initiative works to create social change through education and community building by providing bright young people in the developing world with student scholarships and skills training, building a network of grassroots leaders who are catalyzing community transformation.

OUR VISION
Young people are able to realize their full potential and become leaders in creating the changes they want to see in their communities and, ultimately, the world.

WHAT WE DO
WMI supports undergraduate students obtaining degrees in community-oriented fields, and encourages them to be the agents of change in their own communities, nations and the world. We go beyond providing financial support, ensuring our Student Scholars have all the tools needed to reach their dreams.

WMI supports students pursuing degrees that will best help their own communities, including medicine & health services, community development, law, education, social sciences and engineering.
Wells Mountain Initiative is inspired by the idea of climbing mountains, never easy, but always rewarding to reach one’s dreams and benefit one’s community.

**LEAD**
Our WMI Graduate Scholars go on to do amazing work, leading change in their communities and spurring action in others.

**EDUCATE**
WMI provides education scholarships to highly motivated and ambitious youth pursuing undergraduate degrees in regions with little or no financial resources.

**CONNECT**
Every three years, WMI hosts The Dream Big Conference, which brings together current Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars (those who have completed their tertiary education) to learn, network, and create in-country fellowship groups.

**ENGAGE**
A fundamental component of the scholarship program is community service. Every WMI Scholar is required to complete and document a minimum of 100 hours of volunteering each year.

**COLLABORATE**
WMI Scholars create Fellowship groups, which have led to the building of support systems that provide networking and mentorship opportunities and the creation of group community service projects and activities.

**ACT**
The Micro-Grants program is open exclusively to WMI Graduate Scholars and provides grants, on a 2-year cycle, of $100 to $1000 USD to help start or significantly expand an initiative of their choice.
A Message from the Founders

2017 was our twelfth year of operation and, in many ways, a watershed year for us. After completing a new strategic plan, we decided we needed a new name, Wells Mountain Initiative, and a new tag line “Social change through education and community building.” Our organization began in 2004 as a scholarship program with a single scholarship recipient. In 2017, we chose 73 new scholars from over 1,100 applications, bringing the total number of Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars to just shy of 300.

Over the course of the past twelve years, the WMI Scholars program has become much more than just a scholarship. It’s now a journey from what can only be imagined, to what can be realized. We believe that to climb a mountain, one should not undertake the journey alone. It takes resources, knowledge, the support of others and immense dedication. That is why we believe in providing more than just financial support to our Scholars. Our programs are designed to enhance our Scholars’ potential to reach important milestones along their journey and bring forth their best attributes, enabling them to achieve their lifelong goals and achieve transformational change in their communities.

A key component of the Scholar’s Journey programming is the Dream Big Conference, held every three years. This year, we will hold the Dream Big Conference in Kampala, Uganda where we are expecting 120 scholars from 20+ countries. As we did at our first DBC in 2015 in Nairobi, the 4-day conference will be dedicated to sharing ideas and experiences, teaching new skills, building networks and motivating all to achieve even greater goals.

Major staff reorganization occurred during 2017. Most significantly, after completing our strategic plan, Jordyn, who helped found our organization twelve years ago, assumed the role of Managing Director. We’ve also welcomed a part-time Development Director and Administrative and Communications Coordinator.

To all of our staff, our volunteers, our Board of Directors and our supporters we extend our most sincere thanks.

THOMAS M. WELLS
Founder & President

JORDYN C. WELLS
Co-Founder & Managing Director
“All my life, I’ve had great achievements which my family and I are proud of. Even though there have been hard circumstances to overcome, I have gone forward and been persistent. Every time I fail or make a mistake, I remember who I am and why I’m here...”

Maria Elena comes from a small village in Oaxaca, Mexico, an area that is low-income and marginalized. She is of indigenous background and as such, her family struggles with basic needs and consistent employment. She is the fourth of six children and her mother, who works in the fields, is the sole breadwinner.

Maria Elena has worked as a nanny and domestic helper to contribute towards her school expenses. She dreams of being the first in her family to receive a university education. After graduation, she hopes to use her medical degree to help provide services in areas where access to healthcare is difficult.
“I understand that life is more challenging being poor, so I have decided to overcome this challenge of life by attaining an education.”

Chardonnay comes from Spanish Town, Jamaica, and is the youngest of seven children. Her mother was imprisoned during Chardonnay’s youth and when released, left the country, so Chardonnay was raised by her father. Her family’s poverty has compelled Chardonnay to strive to achieve her vision of becoming an accountant. She worked long hours both in and out of high school, and graduated as valedictorian of her class.

While in university, Chardonnay started “Lewin Academy,” an online tutorial she hosts to help students with math and economics. She also tutors fellow accounting students and regularly volunteers.

Her dream is to become a successful businessperson who can use her resources to improve Jamaica. She says, “Jamaica is a beautiful country and as such deserves beautiful citizens with a quality education.” She hopes to influence her government and the private sector to encourage better access to education and promote more equality throughout her community.
Harriet, the sixth of eight children, grew up in a displaced persons camp in the war zone during the time of the Lord’s Resistance Army in northern Uganda. Due to the fact that she wasn’t first-born, she avoided being married off in her teens. Her brothers dropped out of high school, leaving some small funds to help Harriet receive her secondary education. Her family’s struggles to procure sufficient food along with the attendant malnutrition she observed influenced her decision to study agriculture. She aspires to work to strengthen her country’s agricultural infrastructure and food security for all Ugandans.

“**You have lit and given me a candle that I should not only keep burning, but use it to brighten the way to my future. I will do my best throughout my studies, so that I can use the knowledge and skills gained to create change that I want to see in my community, Uganda and beyond.**”

Harriet Akello
Agriculture, Uganda

Harriet, the sixth of eight children, grew up in a displaced persons camp in the war zone during the time of the Lord’s Resistance Army in northern Uganda. Due to the fact that she wasn’t first-born, she avoided being married off in her teens. Her brothers dropped out of high school, leaving some small funds to help Harriet receive her secondary education. Her family’s struggles to procure sufficient food along with the attendant malnutrition she observed influenced her decision to study agriculture. She aspires to work to strengthen her country’s agricultural infrastructure and food security for all Ugandans.
OUR IMPACT

WMI Student Scholars come from 28 different countries but they all demonstrate a shared commitment to education. They have overcome significant challenges in their journey to obtain a university degree and to improve their lives and the communities in which they live.

152 Student Scholars in 2017

50% of Scholars are the first generation in their family to complete secondary school

73% of Scholars are the first generation in their family to attend tertiary education

23 Scholars completed their degrees in 2017

152 Student Scholars representing 28 countries

Afghanistan  Bangladesh  Bhutan  Cameroon  Colombia  Ethiopia  Fiji  Ghana  Jamaica  Kenya  Lesotho  Liberia  Malawi  Mexico  Nepal  Nigeria  Pakistan  Palestine  Peru  Philippines  Rwanda  Sierra Leone  South Africa  South Sudan  Swaziland  Uganda  Zambia  Zimbabwe
Engage

We encourage our Student Scholars to be critical thinkers; therefore, a fundamental component of the scholarship program is community service. Every WMI Scholar is required to complete and document a minimum of 100 hours of volunteering each year. Past volunteer activities have included conducting free health screenings, teaching and mentoring youth, caring for elderly people in their communities and community clean-ups.

Sitra has been a WMI Scholar since 2015. She has participated in a number of community service projects and has a particular fondness for working with children. After visiting a pediatric cancer hospital last year, she and a group of medical students decided to start tutorial programs that were aimed at helping the children with basic education and having fun, thereby helping to give them hope for their future.

Sitra also is planning on expanding an initiative she undertook herself at a local orphanage to provide training to the older children on reproductive health, time management and future plans on education.

SITRA NUREDIN ABABULGU
Medicine, Ethiopia

“It is amazing just how much you can learn from the experiences of others.”
“I want...to assist the poor of my hometown to raise their lives and equip their children with adequate free education for a better nation and better world.”

Ajmal Shah is one of six children from the village of Katlang, in Pakistan. His father was a blacksmith who passed away when Ajmal was 9 years old, leaving his older brother responsible for providing the only source of income for the family. Ajmal was a bright, dedicated student who graduated high school with top honors. He eventually secured entrance to university through savings, donations from teachers and friends, and a WMI scholarship.

While in high school, Ajmal started a foundation to offer education and career counseling called the Barkat Foundation, which he hopes to one day incorporate as a non-profit. He has continued to expand its offerings and is currently recruiting volunteers to help with its mission of providing academic help to needy students. Included in his plans for the future is opening The Barkat School and College, offering free primary and secondary education.
DEEKSHANTA SITUALA

**Medicine, Nepal**

“I want to share the story of hard work to every rural village in the nation, so I often volunteer in rural projects. It makes me feel like I am at home. That’s what motivates me to work.”

As a student, Deekshanta has volunteered in several blood drives and programs organized by the Nepal Youth Red Cross Society at his university, as well as conducting health camps and awareness programs with a local community project. After the 2017 flood that caused such devastation in Nepal, he worked with a youth empowerment group in flood-engulfed areas, conducting health camps and distributing relief materials.

Deekshanta also helped lead a Youth Empowerment and Art of Living course through a group at his university. About 280 students were provided with yoga, meditation techniques and inspirational teaching for three hours after school for a week. As a vice president for the group, he was involved in planning, fund-raising and other program-related activities.

**OUR IMPACT**

16,106 community service hours completed in 2017

80% of students have leadership positions in community and/or school groups

21% of Student Scholars have started their own business or NGO while in school
Collaborate

WMI provides Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars (those who have completed their tertiary education) with the unique opportunity to expand their social and professional networks. WMI Student Scholars are encouraged to create strong bonds and assist one another throughout the process of succeeding academically and professionally through the creation of Fellowship groups. These groups are founded by the Scholars themselves and have led to the building of support systems that provide networking and mentorship opportunities and the creation of group community service projects and activities. WMI provides a small matching grant program to help these groups operate.

RWANDA FELLOWSHIP

Hosting eight meetings throughout the year, the WMI Rwanda Fellowship has earned the title of most active and organized in 2017. With 17 members, Scholars are proud of creating greater unity, welcoming and empowering new Student Scholars to become active members and hosting an environmental protection community service project in December. Members welcomed community involvement and worked together to build a garden at the Gitega Primary School to promote a greener world.
UGANDA FELLOWSHIP

Actively meeting every quarter, the Fountains for Change - WMI Uganda Fellowship has 24 members and is excited to host the next WMI Dream Big Conference in Kampala. A kick-off hosting meeting was held in April 2017 where sub-committees were formed to lead specific aspects of conference planning. In addition, the group has been busy organizing one of the Fellowships largest community service projects to date - a free medical camp to take place at the start of 2018.

KENYA FELLOWSHIP

The WMI Kenya Fellowship aims to provide leadership opportunities for its 28 members, and has crafted a constitution to guide its growth and sustainability. In-person meetings were augmented with 14 virtual meetings to reach Scholars located throughout the country to facilitate planning and create support networks. They visited the Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children Centre in April to learn about disabilities affecting children, services available within Nairobi, and therapy techniques for both physical and mental disabilities.
OUR IMPACT

WMI’s Fellowships originated with three student-initiated groups and have since evolved into six dynamic, organizations which offer networking opportunities and mentorship to their members, as well as strengthening bonds between Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars.

125 Fellowship members worldwide

6 Fellowship groups

29 elected Fellowship officers

41% of elected Fellowship officers are female - 13% increase from 2016

20 in-person meetings held in 2017 - 25% increase from 2016

125 Fellowship members representing 6 countries!

Ghana - 35 members
Kenya - 28 members
Nepal - 4 members
Rwanda - 17 members
South Sudan - 17 members
Uganda - 24 members
The Micro-Grants program is open exclusively to WMI Graduate Scholars and provides grants of $100 to $1000 USD to help start or significantly expand a community-based organization (CBO), non-governmental organization (NGO), business, community service project or event. WMI Graduate Scholars have used their micro-grant funds to provide primary and secondary education programs, vaccination clinics, agricultural empowerment projects, and peace and conflict resolution programs.

Growing up in a community without technology, Raphael needed to work extra hard once he entered university, taking five hours to type a report that his classmates could do in one. Through his registered organization, the A-Ogo Foundation, Raphael set out to provide access to educational supplies and build computer proficiency within the Nsukka community. In the summer of 2017, he launched a six-month computer training course. Fifty-five youth attended the first meeting, which quickly expanded into over 100 members. To meet the demand of an eager community embracing technology for the first time, Raphael secured laptop donations to supplement the desktop computers available for use at the computer facility. With access to new skills, program beneficiaries can now pass their knowledge on to classmates and family members.
Every day, WMI Graduate Scholar Mthokozisi Moyo observed children going underground to work in the gold mines in Silobela, Zimbabwe. A downturn in the economy has forced many families back to work in the mines, with children taken out of school to work alongside their parents. “Youth do this without proper mining skills or knowledge, and no protective clothing,” exposing themselves to dangerous conditions and harmful particles and gases. Understanding that getting these children back in school was not an option, Mthokozisi chose to focus on ways to keep them safe. Her youth training program focuses on how to remain safe and aid others if they are hurt. This WMI-funded project is in partnership with the Youth Mining Institute & Resource Management Trust, and Bulawayo Integrated Youth Survival Alternative Project.
Judith’s goal is to, “inspire others to continue with their education and encourage communities to find opportunities to meet their own needs locally.”

JUDITH ALOKO
Basic School Assistance Fund Project, Ghana

Even with Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education in Ghana, Judith witnessed students unable to achieve basic primary and secondary school skills. She worked with four rural government schools to identify students without essential supplies, but with high potential and a desire to learn. Forty students received a school uniform (for some their first), school bag, 10 exercise books, pens, and pencils. This directly reduced the financial burden on their family and the emotional embarrassment, empowering the students to work harder, care for their school materials and set an example for others. Ongoing mentoring helps to ensure their continued success. Judith’s goal is to “inspire others to continue with their education and encourage communities to find opportunities to meet their own needs locally.”
For two years, the lighting in the Omugo Health Centre's maternity ward had been shut off due to dwindling funds being prioritized for medical supplies. Light during delivery not only helps the medical professionals and mother throughout the delivery, but also increases the ability to avoid contact with bodily fluids from HIV positive patients. To avoid complications with night births, 283 mothers had to be referred to the main hospital 28 miles away to deliver their babies. Together with community members, Dr. Alan Harogha collected small donations and received a WMI Micro-Grant to purchase and install a solar panel and lights at the centre. Since the return of light in the maternity ward, only 24 mothers were referred for treatment during the last three months of 2017, while 280 babies were born at the Centre.
WMI’s Micro-Grant program was started in 2015 to assist motivated Graduate Scholars with their dreams of creating new opportunities or solving challenging issues in their communities.

**OUR IMPACT**

28 MICRO-GRANTS GIVEN IN 10 COUNTRIES!

- **Ethiopia**
- **Gambia**
- **Ghana**
- **Kenya**
- **Liberia**
- **Nigeria**
- **South Africa**
- **South Sudan**
- **Uganda**
- **Zimbabwe**

**Micro-Grants awarded in 2017**
- 5 Micro-Grants
- $3,800 awarded
- $21,475 awarded since 2015

**Micro-Grants awarded in 2017 to fund medical programs**
- 2

**Micro-Grants awarded in 2017 to fund youth entrepreneurship & education programs**
- 3
Our WMI Graduate Scholars (those who have completed their tertiary education) do amazing work, lead change in their communities and spur action in others. They have successful careers in medicine, non-profit management, development, law and business. Our graduates create non-profits, run clinics, establish schools, mentor and teach youth, fight injustice and work tirelessly to improve their communities. We are proud of our WMI leaders and the small part we play in their journey.

LIGHTING THE WAY
Social Good

HENRI KABORE
Burkina Faso Youth Interfaith Network, Burkina Faso

At a young age, Henri committed himself to making a difference in his nation. While studying Medicine and Surgery, he participated in youth empowerment, peace building, and health promotion activities. In 2016, he founded the Burkina Faso Youth Interfaith Network in partnership with Religions for Peace (RfP), to counter terrorism by fostering interfaith and intercultural dialogue. In November 2017, his Youth Interfaith Network initiated an international youth forum on the culture of peace. The forum, held in Burkina Faso, brought together young people from different religions to discuss and promote peaceful coexistence in spite of religious differences. He says, “Without peace, there is no development .... Young people are actors of peace and development.” Henri also works toward promoting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and is currently lobbying his government to establish a United Nations Youth Delegate Program. He hopes to become the first UN Youth delegate from Burkina Faso.
Jacquelyne Alesi beats odds and breaks down all barriers placed in her way. As a graduate with a degree in counseling, she is currently the Executive Director of Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV, owns Link Up Consultancy Management, and started a community school, Above All Kindergarten Day Care and Primary School. At UNYPA, she provides leadership and champions the meaningful community and professional involvement of young people living with HIV throughout Uganda. Committed to fostering opportunities for others, she has worked closely with WMI Scholars in Uganda and welcomed them as interns and staff members. As an advocate for HIV and AIDS awareness, treatment and empowerment, Jacquelyne has been an invited guest speaker at numerous public and government events throughout Africa.
At the start of 2016, Thomas proudly held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the first physical office of Vasco Consult Limited, in honor of his father. As a Chartered Accountant and graduate of Business Administration with first-class honors in Accounting, Thomas sought to apply his knowledge and create a team of like-minded young professionals to help grow business opportunities in Ghana. The company is the first of its kind in Takoradi, offering auditing, accounting, business planning, research, capacity building and photocopying services to small and medium-sized businesses. With the initial intention of creating economic opportunity and giving back to his community, Thomas now employees 11 staff members. He has been awarded two WMI Micro-Grants to expand Vasco Consult’s business offerings and engage new clients.
"I am a Rotarian because it allows me to be a part of the community. I enjoy networking, getting to know and interacting with like-minded individuals who are dedicated to providing service at the local, national, and international levels. I also enjoy the friendship and the sense of camaraderie that working together on projects and socializing at the weekly meetings provides. As one person, we can't do much to change the world, but as part of over two million Rotarians worldwide, great things can happen! Joining Rotary was the best decision I have made in my professional life and I am fortunate to have found such a warm, welcoming group."

Bonny Mark is a proud eight year member of the Rotary Club of Mbale and recently served as Executive Secretary. In the upcoming year, he will be President Elect, leading the 54-year-old club, the second oldest club in Uganda, to new horizons. As a Rotarian, Bonny Mark has begun an annual project to give back to Lira Regional Referral Hospital where he was born. On his birthday in 2017, he visited the hospital and presented 36 Birthday Charity baskets to expecting and new mothers, containing supplies to help them keep their new babies healthy, as many had no supplies prepared for their baby’s arrival at home. Together with Rotary members, Bonny Mark commits to making this a tradition that will only continue to grow.
Our Graduate Scholars improve and contribute to their communities in significant ways, thereby amplifying the original investment in their education to impact the world at large.

84% of Graduate Scholars are employed - 96% are employed in their field of study

35% of Graduate Scholars run their own non-profit or business

67% of Graduate Scholars currently have leadership positions in community service groups

79% of Graduate Scholars are supporting the education of someone else

134 GRADUATE SCHOLARS REPRESENTING 27 COUNTRIES

Afghanistan  Bangladesh  Burkino Faso  Cameroon  Colombia  Ethiopia  Gambia  Ghana  Haiti  Honduras  Kazakhstan  Kenya  Liberia  Macedonia  Madagascar  Nepal  Nigeria  Pakistan  Peru  Rwanda  Senegal  South Africa  South Sudan  Tanzania  Uganda  Zambia  Zimbabwe
Legacy Projects

Although our Scholar programs stand at the forefront of our mission, our special interest projects play an integral role in WMI’s vision for impact. Our legacy programs include community projects in Haiti and a global literacy program.

LITERACY PROJECT

WMI donates books to numerous organizations that work with children and young adults. WMI also participates in the Book Angel program, which began in 1998 at Deerleap Books in Bristol, Vermont. Each year, we receive hundreds of children’s names from social service agencies in Addison County, Vermont. WMI orders books based on the interests of each child and these books are delivered to them during the holidays.

What happened in 2017?

In early 2017, we funded 50% of the Books for Babies program at Bristol’s public library. Every year, a new children’s book is purchased and dedicated to each of the babies born in Bristol the previous year. The books feature a bookplate with the name of the child and WMI, as the donor.

In the spring, WMI purchased sets of award-winning books for the Tari Shattuck Foundation. We acquire these books at cost and TSF donates them to the elementary and middle school libraries in the school district of which Bristol is a member. These books are very popular with the students and this gift of 245 books each spring encourages and inspires the children to read.

In the fall, we once again launched our Book Angel program. Three local social service agencies give WMI a list of children and teens (codes instead of their real names) with their ages and interests. Our staff goes to work to select and purchase the perfect book for each one. The agencies then distribute the donated books during the holidays. In 2017, 475 books were delivered to these children and teens from economically-challenged families in Addison County, Vermont, bringing smiles and hours of enjoyable reading.
HAITI PROJECT

When WMI was founded in 2005, Tom Wells was already working with the YMCA d’Haiti. WMI’s efforts to gather and send clothes to help the Haitian people after the devastating 2010 earthquake were overwhelmingly successful, resulting in an astounding 12 shipping containers of clothes and supplies. The empty containers formed the impetus of what has become such a successful infrastructure program. Since 2012, we have built five container YMCA Community Centers. These buildings provide the local community with access to a diversity of resources previously unavailable.

What happened in 2017?

In 2017, we completed the Laurent Container YMCA. This new community center represents our first true Haitian partnership with substantial backing from local Haitians, as well as U.S. supporters. Late last year, we identified Jacmel, Haiti as our next location and found a site to build the sixth Container YMCA. We are scheduling a construction trip and welcome volunteers willing to go to Haiti and spend a week starting this new Community Center in the last week of January 2019.

We continue our strong partnership with the Ridgewood, New Jersey YMCA, and the Bolger Foundation in seeking to find ways to strengthen our work in Haiti. During our years of partnership, we have helped the YMCA d’Haiti grow from a single branch to now twelve branches, including the six container YMCAs we supported. Our partner, the Bolger Foundation, continues to provide major financial support for the YMCA d’Haiti.
EMPOWER - ACADEMY

WMI is proud to announce the opening of an academy in 2019! Hosted in Nairobi, the academy will be open to all WMI Graduate Scholars and serve as an opportunity to further enhance their professional development and network with fellow Graduate Scholars. Students will participate in three weeks of intensive capacity-building courses in CBO/NGO enterprise development and professional skills training, providing them with a set of tools to launch or enhance their professional career.
The Dream Big Conference, held every three years, brings together current Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars to learn, network, and create in-country fellowship groups. All WMI Student Scholars and Graduate Scholars are invited to attend the conference. Participants are provided partial travel stipends and are encouraged to raise funds themselves to make this opportunity a reality. Conference attendees participate in workshops, panels, team-building exercises, and community service activities. They hear from inspirational speakers, participate in WMI Graduate Scholars and community service panels, and form new bonds and networks. The next WMI Dream Big Conference will be in 2018 in Kampala, Uganda.
Donor Spotlight

MICHAEL DIGGS

“For me, giving to Wells Mountain Initiative is a way to help provide opportunity to students so they can better their situations and bring hope to their communities.”

I worked at Macy's for over 45 years. Their union, of which I was a part, ran annual charity rallies for the United Way and some local causes. I always donated, so giving has been an ongoing part of my life. I've always felt that if you lived in this country and you tried hard enough, and had the brains or the talent, you could make something of yourself that was better than where you started from. I don't think this is the case in other parts of the world where many people who live in poverty or in oppressed situations don't have access to opportunity regardless of their intellect or desire.

When I learned about Wells Mountain Initiative and its mission, I felt it was an organization whose vision was very similar to my own. And it's why I continue to give every year. I feel they are really helping to make a difference for people who otherwise would not have an opportunity to create something more with their lives.

DR. MARY CLARK ROMNEY

“As a retired pediatrician, assisting women in developing countries who are pursuing degrees in medicine has always been important to me. WMI's Women in White Coats program is something I am proud to support.”

When I began thinking about the type of charitable cause I wanted to support, education for the underprivileged immediately came to mind, as I truly believe it is the only way we are going to be able to affect positive change in the world. WMI's mission to support students pursuing a college education in developing countries as opposed to bringing them into Europe or the US helps my giving have far greater impact since the cost of a quality education there is so much more affordable. Another aspect I value in the WMI model is its focus on community, requiring scholars to engage in community service and encouraging their return home after graduation to use their education for the greater good.

I appreciate that WMI supports scholars throughout their journey. It's not just about providing a scholarship. It's about offering micro-grant opportunities, skills building, collaboration, and other ongoing support once scholars have graduated to ensure their best possible chance for success.
Our Board and Staff

Gwenael Apollon  
Director, YMCA of Haiti

David F. Bolger, Emeritus  
President Emeritus, Bolger & Co

JT Bolger  
President, Bolger & Co

Rick J. Claydon  
CEO Emeritus, Ridgewood YMCA

Bob Dill  
President, R2D2

Marianne Dill

Brent Edmonds  
President, Edmonds Contracting

Kenneth Forester  
CEO, Meridian Teterboro, Meridian Air Charter

Ernie Lamour  
CEO, Ridgewood YMCA

Dr. Bob Jones  
CEO Emeritus, Children’s Aid and Family Services

Rick Kushel  
CEO, DealCloud

Christopher Lutz  
Senior Vice President, Morgan Stanley

Seta Nazarian  
Non-Profit Management Consultant

Gail Nystrom  
Executive Director, Costa Rican Humanitarian Foundation

Denis J. Salamone  
CEO Emeritus, Hudson City Bancorp

Nicole Schmitz  
Marketing Analyst, EBANX

Gerald Shanker  
Partner, Kreinces, Rollins & Shanker, LLC

Leanne Tingay  
Senior Associate of Programs, Orton Family Foundation

Philip Wells  
Architect, Peter Raymond Wells Architects

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT  
Thomas M. Wells

CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR  
Jordyn Wells

CO-FOUNDER & DIRECTOR  
Carol Vitz Wells

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
Joanne Fitzgerald

M&E COORDINATOR  
Johnson Abuto

ADMIN & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
Justine Jackson

STUDENT SCHOLAR COODINATOR  
Lisa McLaughlin Wyncoop

GRADUATE SCHOLAR COORDINATOR  
Nicole Schmitz
Our 2017 Financials

2017 APPLICATION REVIEWERS

Mike Abernethy
Juliann Aman
Peter Aman
Gwenael Apollon
Janice Baker
Anne Banta
Christina Barbachano
Sue Barnett
Jennifer Batelli
Pam Berenbaum
Lauren Berlamino
Doug Biklen
Bethany Bingham
Richard Brightman
Ellie Bryant
Linda Buxton
Anthony Carnahan
Joe Ciombor
Richard Claydon
Peggy Connor
Tina Cota
Bettina Daly
Marianne Dill
Robert Diil
Eugenie Doyle
Frankie Dunleavy
Brent Edmonds
Rita Elder
Kenneth Forester
Shala Gorovoy
Mark Grannon
Tony Gray
Phoebe Gunther-Mohr
Nahela Hadi
Sheri Handel
Vinciane Harmonige-Blesin
Gwen Hauck
Megan Heller
Missy Holland
Rory Jackson
Susan James
Michele Jaworski
Robert Jones
Joan Kelly
Helene Lacoff
Ernest Lamour
Casey Lang
Sara Lightner
Chrystal Little
Sheryl Markley
Terence Miller
Laurie Murberg
Claudia Nazarian
Seta Nazarian
Rosie Nelson
Gail Nystrom
James Nystrom
Sara Nystrom
Mia O’Brien
Carol O’Neill
Shelly O’Neill
Kylie Pace
Orlando Ramos
Mary Clark Romney
Spencer Rothwell, Esq.
Benjamin Ryan
Kathleen Ryan
Chelsea Schloerb
Nicole Schmitz
Mike Smith
Sue Soyster
Peter Straub
Becky Strum
Elizabeth Sutton
Sally Taylor
Chris Thomas
Holly Tillman
Leanne Tingay
Jackie Tuxill
Vali Valenti
Jo Van Buskirk
Andy Vitz
Barry Vitz
Don Walby
Anne Wallace
Holly Webb
Betty Wells
Carlyn Wells
Jeff Wells
Peter Wells
Rob Wells
Jessica Whitmer
Kathy Willner
Dave Wood
Paul Wyncoop
Traci Yoshiyama
Carrie Youmans
Ali Zimmer
Connie Zorrilla
Our Donors

Auction Donors

Addison Independent
Bethany Bingham
Bob and Marianne Dill
Bob Jones
Bobcat Cafe
Bristol Suites
Chris Griggs
Christopher Lutz
Danielle Boyce/American Flatbread Co.
Denis Salamone
East Coast Printers
Farmhouse Chocolates
Flynn Center
Gail Nystrom
Gaines Insurance, Co.
Gwenael Apollon
J. T. Bolger
Jordyn Wells
Judy Wells
Julie McLaughlin
Ken Forester
Kevin Harper
Ladies at Yarn and Yoga
Leanne Tingay
Linda Harmon
Llaria Brancoli Busderghi
Maple Landmark
Matlakawujitli Mayforth
Melissa Hernandez
Nicole Bruso
Nicole Schmitz
Peter Aman
Peter Smith
Phil Wells
Reed Prescott
Rick Claydon
Rory Jackson
Seth Nazarian
Shelburne Farms
Sophie Stone
Stan Burritt
Susan Lynne
Tae DeGray
Umiak Outdoor Outfitters
Valleymwide Veterinary
Vermont Soap Co.
Vermont Teddy Bear Co.
Vermont Tree Goods
Village Shala
Wag on Inn
Woodware

$249 and Below

Alice Leeds
Anne Turner
Anne Wallace & David Gusakov
Barbara Lee
Bruce Rambold
Carlynn Wells & Michael Smith
Christine Snell
Clarence Jones
David, Steven and Kevin Shim
Dinah Bain
Donal Delzio
Dr. Selma Mitchel
Fred & Marian Baser
George Sherman
Gerald Heffernan
Helen Young
Jeanette & Joe Devall
Jerry & Marcia Geller
Jim & Chris Runcie
John & Rita Elder
June Turk Solomon
Kathleen Ryan
Kevin & Janice Behnke
Lauren Waite
Linda Buxton
Linda Harmon and Doug Mack
Margaret Harris & Raph Worrick
Mark & Nancy Benz
Marla Wasson
Maynard & Ann Marilyn McLaughlin
Nancy Hulett & Stuart MacFarland
Nicole & Luiz Schmitz
Patty Heather-Lea
Phill Wells
Phoebe Barash & Bob Donnis
Richard & Marge Brightman
Robert & Julie Aman
Robert Bernstein
Romy Luna
Rose Turetsky Foundation
Selma Bernstein
Sheryl Markley
Spencer Rothwell
Stephen McDonald
Stuart MacCullish
Susan Lynne

$500 - $999

Clifford Kammerer
Dave Jones & Ciera Wells-Jones
Gerald Shanker
Jim & Michelle Jaworski
Jordyn Wells
Kevin Schloer
Leanne Tingay
Marita Schine
Mark Menting
Nancy Huffman
Peter & Linda Wells
Robert Jones
Robert Wright
Shala Gorovoy

$1,000 - $2,499

Alison Parker
Barbara Greenewalt
Dean & Carole Cerf
Gwenael Apollon
Jackie Tuxill
Michael Diggs
Park Ridge Rotary
Paula Vitz
Richard & Val Claydon
Sally Taylor
Scott Belair

$2,500 - $4,999

Brent & Amy Edmonds
Gary & Ariel Kenajian
J.T. Bolger
Kreinces, Rollins, Shanker CPAs
Rick Kushel
Wells, Jaworski and Liebman, LLP

$5,000 - $9,999

Christopher & Alison Lutz
Denis & Joanne Salamone
Majorie Burnell Charitable Fund

$10,000 - $24,999

Kenneth & Susie Forester
Dr. Mary Romney
Seth Nazarian

$25,000 and Above

Bolger Foundation
Kathryn Parker
Robert & Marianne Dill
Thomas & Carol Wells
Growing up in a rural polygamous family of thirteen children, the dream of going to university felt thousands of miles away. But Felix was determined to become a doctor in rural communities like his own and worked for over five years saving money to begin his education. At age 33, he became a WMI Scholar and completed his Medicine and Surgery studies at Kampala International University in 2013.

“\textit{I watched many fall sick and die when only local herbs had been used. I was younger, troubled with many questions concerning life, but voiceless. However, deep inside me a voice kept telling me that doctors can make a difference.}”

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

With 10 younger siblings, helping others has been a part of Felix’s life since he was a child. While a senior at university, he orchestrated a one-week medical clinic, free of charge where 2,029 people received counseling and HIV testing. Felix has never strayed from his commitment to serve rural communities where accessing medical services and also retaining qualified doctors continues to be a consistent problem.
COLLABORATE
Believing in the power of working together, Felix is an active leader of the Fountains for Change - WMI Uganda Fellowship. As Coordinator of Projects and also leader of the Dream Big Conference Community Service activities, he relies upon his experiences as a community advocate to motivate and organize activities.

CONNECT
Felix attended the Dream Big Conference 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya to learn from and meet fellow Scholars outside of Uganda for the first time. While there, he connected with young Scholars and encouraged them to remain dedicated community leaders. For the 2018 Conference, he is organizing multiple community service activities for over 120 participants.

ACT
Rural community work is challenged by high demand, lack of qualified staffing, inadequate supplies and limited access to continued health education. Through his Micro-Grant project, Felix launched a combined diabetic and cervical cancer awareness campaign in conjunction with a two-day medical screening event. Forty-one women received private cervical cancer screenings with four referred to a larger hospital for further diagnosis.

LEAD
By returning to his community and choosing a career in serving others, Felix has become an example for all who never stop working towards their goals. He is now the Medical Officer in Charge of Clinical Services at Rapha Medical Center. As a husband and father of three (including a baby boy named Wells!), he continues to mentor and support his young siblings who have dreams of helping their community one day.
Social Change Through Education and Community Building

Learn more at wellsmountaininitiative.org
Contact us at info@wellsmountaininitiative.org