

HOPE IS SHAPING OUR FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT - 2022

Somali Hope Foundation



President's Report



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to be able to report on a very successful year for the Somali Hope Foundation. With your help we have made great strides towards our mission of providing free, high quality and equitable education to girls and boys in rural Somalia.

Though school operations are always our first priority, the Board spent time this past year to consider our future. We finalized a Ten-Year Business Plan and have mapped out a clear way forward for the Foundation. We've named it "Continuing Our Success", to remind ourselves of how far we've come since 2008, and to set the focus for the next decade.

We also received outstanding financial news this past year. The Somali Hope Foundation was named one of five recipients of the proceeds of the global "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" campaign. We are very grateful to Sabrina Dhowre Elba, Idris Elba and Christian Louboutin and their support for charitable organizations fighting oppression and advancing racial justice, equal rights and access. As a direct result of their generous philanthropy, the Foundation will receive a grant of \$400,000, phased-in over three years. It is a very timely injection of funds that will enable us to fulfill some key goals in the SHF Business Plan.

Our pinnacle achievement this year was the important step we took with our Bursalah partner towards achieving long term financial sustainability. With the completion of Phase 2 of the Water Well Project this past year, we are synching up with the Community Education Committee's ingenious plan to generate new funding for the school. The CEC has set-up the Rajo Water Company and once Phase 3 is completed in 2023, it will sell water from the well to the local community. There's a very strong business case backing-up the plan, paving the way for us to move from aid to development and sustainability in the coming years.

Thank you again for your support of the Somali Hope Foundation. I look forward to sharing the next steps of our journey with you.

Sincerely,

**Mike Sanford
President
November, 2022**

Dear Somali Hope Family,

This year is my first in the dual role of Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Somali Hope Foundation. Thank you for placing your confidence in me. I've enjoyed working with our team, both on the advancement of the schools and on the management of a very active volunteer enterprise. It's given me a front-row seat on the many "firsts" that we achieved this past year.

In the Spring of 2021, we saw our first class of Grade 12 students graduate from the Somali Hope Academy. Some of them were part of our inaugural class when the school opened in 2012, and all 14 students entered university in the Fall. They have become Hope Academy role models. And when half of them are girls, they are also living proof that a university education is not just a dream for our students.

I'm gratified that the Bursalah community has continued to embrace the school and the free, high quality and equitable education it offers. This past year - for the first time - our enrolment grew to over 840 students. Once again, half of the students are girls, there is a 100% pass rate on the government exams for Grade 8 and Grade 12 students, and students attend for free. Hope Academy continues to demonstrate that a free education can go hand-in-hand with one of high quality, and can be offered to all.

The success of the Hope Academy has prompted the first expansion since it was built in 2012. We aligned the expansion with the goals of the new Business Plan, and focused on enhancing the curriculum and expanding the school facilities.

Our supporters have played a key role in helping the Foundation achieve these milestones. Thank you for sharing our vision of a childhood rich in education and hope.

Sincerely,

**Amoune Omer
Executive Director
November, 2022**

Executive Director's Report



OUR FIRST CLASS OF GRADUATES



Our Proud Graduates

We reached a very important milestone this year – our first class of Grade 12 graduates. To demonstrate how proud we are of the class of 2021/22, a lively graduation ceremony was held in Bursalah for this group of 14 students.

Off to University

All of the grads attended university in the Fall - seven young women and seven young men – some with the support of scholarships from the Foundation. To help ensure that they have the tools to succeed, each graduate was presented with the gift of a laptop. It's a promise that we've made to each graduate of the Somali Hope Academy – complete your studies and we'll equip you with a laptop to help you take your next steps. "It's a dream come true", one graduate said.

It Takes a Village

Many people worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help us achieve this important milestone. The Community Education Committee and the Hope Academy staff went the extra mile to support the students throughout the year and to create the celebratory events. Amina, our volunteer in Dubai, arranged for the purchase and shipping of the laptops. And the "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" campaign provided the funds for the purchase of the laptops. It really does take a village!



OUR FIRST SCHOOL EXPANSION



Construction Zone

The school grounds started to resemble a construction site as work got underway to create two new classrooms this past year. It is the first expansion of the Hope Academy since the elementary / middle school was built in 2012 and the high school in 2018. Not surprisingly, the strong growth in enrollment means more students, and more students means more space.

New Classrooms

As part of this first expansion, two completely fit-up new classrooms were added to the campus to help meet the demand for space and to enable students to learn in a modern environment. One classroom houses the new Science Lab and the other is the home of the new University and Career Preparation Course. This new course was added to help Grade 11 and Grade 12 students chart their path to a future career.

A School Bus

Adding a school bus and driver this past year is another first for us. It has helped expand access to free education to more and more students in Bursalah. Not surprisingly, it's very popular with students, teachers and parents alike. The students have more energy for their studies, the teachers have more attentive students, and when students arrive home after school they have more time to assist with family chores. Successful fundraising campaigns were launched in Canada and Bursalah to make this new service a reality.



OUR FIRST YEAR OF 800+ STUDENTS



A Trusted School

The Hope Academy Schools continue to be a success story. If judged only on growth in enrollment, the results are astounding: it has grown by an average of just over 25% each year since it opened. For the first time ever, the number of students enrolled exceeded the 840 mark. It's another first for us and an important sign that the community has come to trust the school and the free education it is providing to students.

High Achievers

We're proud to say that the school scores high marks in other categories as well: half the students are girls; the Grade 8 and Grade 12 class had a 100% success rate in the government exams; and the students attend school for free. The "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" campaign funds provided enrollment scholarships for half of the Hope Academy students. Our SHF supporters did the rest.



OUR PARTNERS IN BURSALAH: THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Somali Hope Foundation has developed an international partnership that really works: SHF in Canada raises money and awareness amongst our supporters across the world, and our partners in Somalia do the hard work in the community. Together, we bring our shared vision to life. This past year the CEC's savvy volunteer women, men and students have had a tremendous impact on Bursalah.

Lessons from Our Work

The activities of SHF and the CEC have attracted the attention of researchers from Bristol University in the UK. Through a group called Transparency Solutions they are studying our approach to providing free, high quality and equitable education to girls and boys in rural Somalia. They can see that things are changing in the relationship between SHF and the CEC in a very positive way.

At the start of our journey in 2008, the CEC relied almost 100% on financial aid from SHF to build and operate the Hope Academy elementary / middle school. Through its own fundraising efforts, the CEC has shifted things. For example, several years ago, it raised 100% of the funds needed to build the Hope Academy high school. And it now supplies about 20% of the funding needed to operate both schools, dropping SHF's share to 80%.

This change from an aid situation to one that is moving towards sustainability is top of mind for academics and researchers. Through a series of in-person meetings with the CEC and reviews of milestone documents, Transparency Solutions hopes to uncover the conditions that have created this change. The outcome in 2023 will be recommendations for SHF and the CEC and lessons that others in our field can learn from.



Hope Academy Expansion

With enrolment growing each year by an average of more than 25%, the elementary / middle and high schools were bursting at the seams. To add the capacity called for in the Business Plan, the CEC managed the construction and fit-up of two purpose-built classrooms: a Science Lab and a space for the University and Career Preparation Course, a new offering for Grade 11 and Grade 12 students. They also led a fundraising campaign for a Hope Academy school bus, providing more access to school than ever before.

Phase 2 of the Water Well Project is Complete

With the completion of the construction of the water tank – Phase 2 of the Water Well Project - this past year the CEC took a major step in its ingenious plan to develop a new source of funding for the school. It is creating a for-profit water supply company that will service the school, area farmers and their livestock, and the local community. The company's profits will be applied to the school budget and create long-term financial sustainability for the Hope Academy. There's a good chance it may even be self-sufficient within 10 years.

The water tank stands more than 20 feet off the ground, collects water from the nearby well, holds 450 barrels of water and can be refilled several times per day with the help of its generator. Since the average household in Bursalah uses 1 barrel of water per day, the needs of over 1,000 households can be met each day.

The school is now connected to the water tank and has a reliable supply of potable water for the staff and students. Troughs have been built to provide drinking water for local livestock, creating a more sustainable environment for the area's pastoral farmers. In a typical week more than 1,000 heads of livestock will drink at the well.



CONTINUING OUR SUCCESS: THE SHF BUSINESS PLAN

Looking to the Future

Forward looking organizations have the best chance of succeeding. So this past year the Board developed a ten-year business plan to help guide the future of the Somali Hope Foundation. Business plans are a simple way for organizations to share their view of the way forward. They are crucial in an environment like SHF's which is built around support from partners who need to understand how SHF's goals align with theirs.

Our Long-Term Commitment

We settled on a vision for SHF – “A childhood rich in education and hope”. It evokes a worthy future state that is deserving of our time and effort. We narrowed our ideas down to a mission statement that is practical and achievable – “To provide free, high quality education to girls and boys in rural Somalia”. As a final step we chose five specific themes that will guide our fundraising, investment and resource decisions. You'll see them below.

A Ten-Year Horizon

We expect it will take ten years to complete the plan, recognizing that it may take more or less time, depending on the resources available to the Board. This deliberate kind of planning will help the Somali Hope Foundation become a longstanding organization that will continue to successfully fulfill its mission.

Themes

Sustainability	+	Attain financial sustainability
Access and Enrichment	+	Expand access to education and enrich the students learning experience
Girls	+	Create an environment for girls to succeed at school
Barriers	+	Lower and eliminate barriers to education
Capacity	+	Make investments in organizational capacity

RECOGNIZING OUR SUPPORTERS

"WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES" CAMPAIGN



Thanks to the generous philanthropy of Sabrina Dhowre Elba, Idris Elba and Christian Louboutin, starting in 2021 the Somali Hope Foundation will receive a grant of \$400,000 over three years. The three friends created the global "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" campaign and donated the proceeds to five charitable organizations fighting oppression and advancing racial justice, equal rights and access.

SCHOOL BUS CAMPAIGN

The Community Education Committee in Bursalah challenged us to raise \$6,000 to buy a school bus... and we did! Over four weeks in the spring of 2021 more than 50 of our supporters joined in the campaign. We want to pay special thanks to TOOS Technical Solutions and Bobbi Bidchoka and Dany Kattar and Family for their very generous donations.



SHF GALA 2021

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David Hollingsworth
Ottawa Personal Injury Lawyers

The annual SHF Gala is our main fundraising event each year. For the second time we hosted a "virtual event" which enabled us to share our celebrations with a global audience.

We are very thankful to each and everyone who helped us reach our fundraising tally of \$50,000.

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ELI TANNIS
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Somali Hope Foundation
Financial Statement
For Year Ending 31 March 2022

Income Statement	2022	2021
Revenue		
Grants	144,011	139,903
Gala Fundraising	50,887	56,483
Other Fundraising	11,346	8,343
Total Revenues	206,244	204,729
Expenses		
Grant to Community Education Committee		
Staffing	81,166	75,436
Health and Safety Program (COVID)	-	23,132
Materials & Supplies	1,310	-
Equipment	47,886	-
Services	-	-
Facilities	12,620	-
Vehicles	7,000	-
Water Well	48,000	-
University Scholarships	5,700	-
Professional Development	-	2,683
Subtotal	203,682	101,251
Foundation Expenses:		
Fundraising and Communication Services	35,749	3,938
Gala Services	10,455	10,440
Administration	123	1,146
Subtotal	46,327	15,524
Total Expenses	250,009	116,775
Net Revenues over Expenses	- 43,765	87,954
Balance Sheet	2022	2021
Cash in Bank	64,473	108,238
Net Assets	64,473	108,238

Somali Hope Foundation



Sustainable Education

Who we are

The Somali Hope Foundation (SHF) is a charitable non-profit organization funded in 2008 and based in Ottawa, Canada.

Where we work

Together with our local partner, the Community Education Committee (CEC), we fund and operate an elementary / middle and high school in Bursalah, Puntland, Somalia.

What we do

Known as the Somali Hope Academy, the schools provide free, high quality and equitable education to girls and boys in this rural part of Somalia. The Foundation funds roughly 80% of the schools' costs. The CEC raises the remainder from local sources. Both partners share the goal of moving from aid to sustainability in the medium term and are actively engaged in projects to help achieve this goal.

Why we're needed

The need for our work arises from the state of the education system in Somalia, which has few public schools and limited funding for education. When combined with the extreme poverty in the country, prevailing cultural norms about education for girls and the pastoral nature of life for families in rural areas, opportunities for education are limited.

What makes us unique

Sustainable education is at the heart of our approach. We have adopted Goal 4 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and life long learning opportunities for all", as the core mission of our school. We have focused on community partnerships, so that financial sustainability can be a realistic goal for our school. The expected results of this approach are clear to us: on the horizon we see a community in rural Somalia where children are educated, able to achieve their full potential and contribute positively to a sustainable world.

Contact us and learn more

Email: info@somalihopefoundation.ca

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Facebook: @SomaliHopeFoundation

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