



A More Balanced World

Annual Report 2016



A More Balanced World
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**Creating A More Balanced World,
Using Education as the Means to Better Opportunity and Success!**

A Message from the President



Friends,

Can this be true? Yes it is! A More Balanced World is entering its 7th year of operation. As I reminisce about our humble beginnings, it seems like a very long time ago. And as I think about all that we have accomplished over the past 6 years, I'm so very proud, and excited about what is yet to come.

In this 2016 Annual Report, I have the privilege of bringing you up-to-date on A More Balanced World's key accomplishments during the prior year, and to highlight how the organization will continue to evolve in 2017 and beyond.

As an overview, during 2016, we have continued our focus on providing more assistance to higher-level students. Currently 31% of our support is going to post-secondary/college students. In support of these efforts, we have established a **"Let's Put A Youth Through College"** slogan, and began development the A More Balanced World Scholarship that will be introduced in two countries during 2017.

We have also continued our shift from working solely with individual country representatives, to partnering with other non-profits, to provide a local presence. During 2016, we introduced

programs in Afghanistan, Nepal and Uganda, with plans to expand further during 2017.

Other key accomplishments include:

- Providing financial support to over 200 students in 13 countries- Providing financial support at every grade level: Elementary-25%; Secondary-44%; Post- Secondary/College-31%
- Providing financial support in a diversified manner; 61% Female; 39% Male.
- Began the process of evolving our Board of Directors to focus on long-term sustainability
- Began an online store on Amazon and eBay
- Held 5 successful fundraising events that funded 1/3 of students supported by AMBW

As always, I am extremely proud to provide this 2016 report, with the acknowledgement that none of this would have been possible without the generous support of our friends and partners. I hope that you share in this pride, and I hope that you find this report informative and helpful.

On behalf of AMBW, and the children we serve, I thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fazeli

2016 In Review

Key Accomplishments

Began the development work on the establishment of 2 educational scholarships to qualified students in the 2017-18 school year, in the USA (Southern California) and Iran. These scholarship support college level students from underserved communities, and provide a significant amount to support their education endeavors. Qualifications include demonstrated financial need and academic achievement.

The AMBW internship program at UC Santa Barbara continued with activities in support of the organization. These included supporting fundraisers, and students, as well as development work on key programs planned for 2017 and beyond. We had 3 college students from UCSB intern for AMBW in various capacities for college credit.

Held 5 successful fundraising events. The proceeds from these events account for more than 1/3 of the students supported by the organization. The remaining budget to support our work comes from individual sponsorship of students by our friends and supporters. Thank you all!

Began an online store on Amazon to sell items as a fundraising means for the organization.

Began the planning and development process for the **AMBW Outreach Center**. This physical center will play an integral role in our future delivery of services. Our hope is to have a pilot center in place in late 2017.

Began the planning process for evolving AMBW's Board of Directors with new members focused on long-term sustainability. There will be specific documentation of roles and participation responsibilities. Our current Board of Directors have served us well in getting the organization off the ground, and moving us from a start-up to a thriving entity. And for that we thank each of them.

Key Partnership Expansion

As we described in last year's report, AMBW wanted to significantly expand our Reach and Effectiveness for the services we provide. To that end, we had identified an opportunity to partner with other like-minded non-profits, and leverage off their local presence in the countries we operate. Hence, during 2016, we made some significant strides in this area. We were able to implemented partnerships in Uganda, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

In Nepal, we partnered with "Empower Nepali Girls" (www.empowernepaligirls.org)

In Uganda, we partnered with "Pearl Community Empowerment" (www.pce-foundation.org)

In Afghanistan, we are working through the **ROYA Mentorship Program**.

Each of these partnerships support our key focus of educating the underserved, but more so, support our evolving focus of treating access to education as a basic human right. AMBW is excited about these unique partnerships, and eagerly look forward to our mutual successes.

Key Challenges

While we remain excited about the progress we have made as an organization, we must also acknowledge that **AMBW** does have challenges that threaten our continued success if not addressed.

Financial stability and sustainability are two key such challenges. As we endeavor to help more and more students, we must identify and implement funding resources that will support them. Not just today, but into the future. Our new Board of Directors should go a long way in helping in this area.

Visibility to the broader world is another key challenge. We must increase our Brand and presence as we seek support from the broader population.

Social Media presence also must be improved. With our total volunteer organization, providing a consistent online messaging has been difficult.

We are endeavoring to improve in this area.

In conclusion, 2016 was a very successful year for **AMBW**.

With strong support from our contributors and partners, we were able to expand our financial support, and the number of students we were able to help. But as the old adage says,

“just wait, you haven’t seen nothing yet”!



2017 Preview

2017 will be a year of continued evolution and growth. In addition to addressing our acknowledged challenges, we will also seek to expand our Brand, Reach, and Effectiveness. This includes enhancements to current programs and services, as well as, the introduction of creative new programs. Some of the key initiatives for 2017 are shown below.

We will look to internalize the concept that access to education is a human right, meaning our work has to be broader than just providing money to students. We must address social issues like homelessness, health, and nutrition, for the students we serve. This approach will come primarily through partnerships with other organizations, but also through our Outreach Center.



We will continue our focus on post-secondary education, with focus on our slogan “Let’s Put A Youth Through College”. In support of this we will establish two educational scholarships for two qualified recipients for duration of their college education, one in Southern California, the one in Iran (private funding). Recipients will be from underserved communities, and have a demonstrated financial need.

We will continue to change the perception of AMBW from a charity providing educational funds, to a nonprofit providing scholarships. While this is a small change in words, it is a huge change in how others view us as we seek to increase our funding sources into the broader community, and Corporate and Governmental Grants arena.

We will continue our work to shift from working with individual representatives in our various countries, to partnering with other non-profits with a local presence. Essentially, we will seek to leverage and enhance on our work in Nepal, Afghanistan, and Uganda.

And lastly, we will develop and implement The AMBW Outreach Center. This physical facility will be located in an area of high student homelessness, and address the associated issues of students living on the streets, or in transient housing.

Some of the services we anticipate providing in the center include, providing:

- A safe environment in which to rest and study
- Referral services to social organizations to help with housing, clothing, food, and counseling
- Meals and snacks
- Hygiene products and education
- Job referrals
- Telephone and Mail services
- Housing assistance
- Washers and Dryers
- Showers
- Mentoring and study help
- Medical and Dental referrals

Our plans for 2017 are admittedly ambitious, but given our past successes, we feel well-positioned to achieve each of them.

Our Global Reach

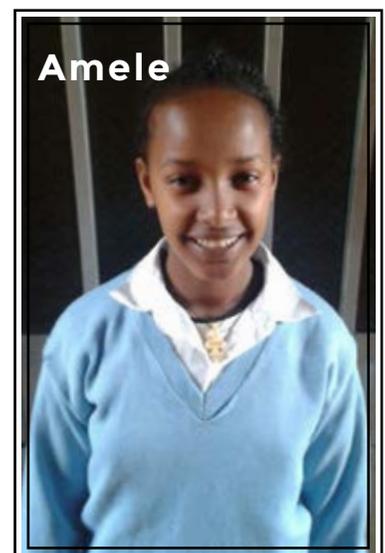
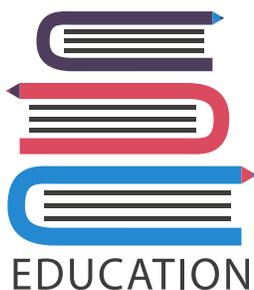


Countries Where We Operate

Afghanistan (5%), Belarus (5%), Cambodia (5%), Ethiopia (7%), Guatemala (4%), India (16%), Iran (21%), Kenya (9%), Mexico (1%), Nepal (1%), Turkey (1%), Uganda (11%), United States (California) (14%)

Beneficiary Profile

61% Girls, 39% Boys
31% in College/Masters Programs
44% in High School
25% in Middle/Elementary School



Funding and Expenses

A More Balanced World is supported by the hundreds of individuals who contribute as sponsors, one-time donors, and attendees at our numerous fundraising events. Our growth in Revenues for 2016 was extraordinary at 33%. This is attributable to our partnership in Uganda. Operating Costs at 3.5% of income remains exceptional due to our all-volunteer staff, in-kind services, and virtual nature.

All this has allowed us to consistently increase the number of students we can help.

Incoming (Revenues)	2016	2015	2014	2013
Fundraising Events	18,665.58	19,929.24	24,209.96	13,033.02
Sponsorships	52,341.07	8,967.00	9,990.00	5,474.00
One-Time Contributions	13,257.56	27,873.42	4,519.70	3,734.64
Total	84,264.21	56,769.66	38,719.66	22,241.66
Outgoing (Spending)				
Student Services	83,541.76	46,905.56	27,201.07	22,519.15
Operating Costs	2,975.27	1,886.56	1,916.96	1,686.89
Total	86,516.94	48,792.12	29,118.03	24,206.04

Board of Directors:

Mandy Fazeli: Chairperson, President
 Krishna Mohan Pai: Treasurer
 John Eglan: Board Member at Large
 Dr. Diana Stephens: Board Member at Large
 Dr. Mona Afary: Board Member at Large
 Mukesh Agrawal: Board Member at Large

Organization:

Arlene Semwezi: Head of Outreach
 Mandana Akbary: Social Media
 Fariba Khosravani: Finance

Representatives / Liaisons:

Afghanistan: MEPO (NGO), Allison Lide
 Belarus: Dr. Niloo Fazeli
 Cambodia: Chandra Pech
 Ethiopia: Andualem Asaye
 Guatemala: Pura Vida Ministries (NGO)
 India: Ranjan Chiplonkar
 Iran: Dr. Maryam Fazeli
 Kenya: Christabel Wangui
 Mexico: Carlos Covarrubias
 Uganda: Beatrice Achieng Nas
 US - Oakland: Jennifer Jastrab

To our Donors, Sponsors, Contributors, and Volunteers, a special thank you from all our Children and from the Organization during 2016! Your support and generosity make our important work possible.



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Looking For **Ideas** To Participate **Further!**

As always, consider these ideas for yourself, or to recommend to family and friends:

- * Become a **Sponsor**, by funding the education support of a specific child.
- * Look into your **Company Sponsored** charity and giving programs and let us know how we can apply for these grants.
- * Lend us your **Talents**, perform at our fundraising events, do pro-bono accounting or legal work, and/or web and social media management.
- * Help us with the operational management of the organization through **Internships**.
- * Help us find **Grant Writers** that would work for a percentage of any grant AMBW receives, or better, for a discounted rate.
- * Attend our **Fundraising** events, as this is a main source of organizational funding.
- * Donate a **Laptop**.
- * Select us as the **Charity of Choice** in your company's "Employee Donation Match" programs, if any.
- * Support us by selecting AMBW as your **charity of choice** when shopping on **Amazon or eBay**.
- * Facilitate a **Speaking Engagement** at your professional and/or social gatherings.
- * Provide **Media** opportunities, if you have a radio/TV program, or publish an online or print magazine.
- * **Connect** us with people/organizations that you are familiar with, and work in the countries we serve.
- * Check us out on our **Website**, like us on our **Facebook page**.
- * Get the **Word** out!

With Gratitude and Appreciation!

