



Credit: Steve Organ



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Mission

MindLeaps uses dance to develop the cognitive skills and social-emotional learning of at-risk youth to ensure that they can succeed in school, enter the workplace and leap forward in life.

About MindLeaps

Founded in 2005 (as RDDC: Rebecca Davis Dance Company) by social entrepreneur Rebecca Davis, the company was originally based in Philadelphia with the goal of building awareness of social justice issues through professional performance in the USA. In 2010, Rebecca and the organization decided it could do more to affect social change by working in post-conflict countries directly with vulnerable youth. In 2014, the organization changed its name to *MindLeaps* to reflect its international orientation.

MindLeaps has locally-based staff and carries out its programs in conjunction with local partners. Teams of international instructors and volunteers support the programs through projects year-round.

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MindLeaps Model: Permanent Centers in Rwanda and Guinea

Phase I: DANCE

- Phase 1, children are attracted to MindLeaps' safe spaces through free, positive, high-energy dance classes. Dance is a magnet drawing kids to the centers – consistently and for long periods of time – where they have fun while being involved in a carefully crafted dance curriculum focusing on cognitive and social-emotional skills development.



Phase II: ACADEMIC TRAINING

- In Phase 2, as kids catch up in their learning development and start to gain command over their emotions, they begin more formal academic classes in addition to their dance classes. These include academic acceleration courses in the humanities and sciences, IT training and English language classes – all taught at the MindLeaps centers.



Phase III: YOUTH ADVANCEMENT

- Phase 3, those children who have adapted to this more structured framework, and have grown and developed across key cognitive skills areas, are sponsored to attend school or vocational training programs in their own country. The holistic approach is rounded out with counseling support, family strengthening, a sanitation program, sexual and reproductive health workshops, and daily meals.



Partnerships

Taking advantage of its core competencies, MindLeaps partners with NGOs and international organizations to put vulnerable youth on a path to self-sufficiency with the readiness and confidence they need to succeed.

The program is delivered through the MindLeaps Toolkit Suite, which equips partnering organizations to continue the program with their own locally-trained teachers after an initial three-month period of collaboration with MindLeaps staff in the field.

Since 2017, MindLeaps has launched partnerships across Uganda, Kenya and Mauritania.



Our Impact

By the Numbers

- 3,500 Youth Served
- 6 Countries with MindLeaps programs
- 7 Cognitive & SEL Skills Developed
- 24 Teachers Trained in MindLeaps Methodology and M&E Systems
- 41,000 Data Points Collected Annually Through Tracker

View the 2017 Annual Report:

<http://bit.ly/2zhEm49>



How Much Does It Cost?

It can be surprising how far \$1 – or less – will go to provide the basic needs of life to children around the world.

Program Costs in 2015					
PROGRAM	DANCE	MEALS	COMPUTER SKILLS	HEALTH SUPPORT	BOARDING SCHOOL
COST/YEAR	\$60/child	\$132/child	\$180/child	\$84/child	\$1800/child
DESCRIPTION	Six hours of dance classes per week	Hot meal, clean drinking water daily	Four hours of computer training per week	Towel, soap, toothbrush, daily shower, ability to wash clothes, uniform, medical insurance	Three meals/day, dormitory for sleeping, school uniforms, tuition fees, full education

Recent Press:

CNN, *Rwandan Kids Defying the Odds Through Dance*

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/10/africa/rwanda-kids-dance/index.html>

iRwanda, *US Ambassador urged Rwandan girls to prepare become tomorrow's leaders*

<http://www.irwanda24.com/?p=17017>

RTG – Guinea National Television, *MindLeaps Distribution de 13,000 paires de chaussures*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4Zgnc_hlgY&feature=youtu.be

Video:

About MindLeaps:

<https://youtu.be/v0ELiJp6uWg>

Discovering YOU matter: Rebecca Davis at TEDxFulbright:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxdZPdiaSO4>