

A young boy is captured mid-jump, his body suspended in the air. He is wearing a white t-shirt with the word 'MindLeaps' printed on it and dark shorts. His arms are outstretched, and his face shows a joyful expression. The background features a building with corrugated metal siding and a corrugated metal roof. To the left, there are some green plants and a wooden fence. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom and happiness.

MindLeaps

FY 2018

Annual Report

MindLeaps harnesses the power of dance to guide vulnerable children and youth to safe spaces, academic opportunity & lifelong skill development to help them leap forward in life.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

Since 2014, 3,500 children have completed the MindLeaps program across six different countries. MindLeaps has now positioned our permanent centers in Rwanda and Guinea as research hubs to support our growth through new partnerships across East and West Africa.

MindLeaps' organizational growth has continued with a 27.8% increase in our operational budget. We also partnered once again this year with the US State Department, Segal Family Foundation, Under Armour, Broadway Cares and formed a new partnership with the Diller von Furstenberg Family Foundation. In her continuing advisory role with MindLeaps, Misty Copeland, Principal Dancer at American Ballet Theatre, returned to Rwanda to build awareness of the MindLeaps program and the need to increase access to education for Africa's most vulnerable youth.

As a result of our growth, MindLeaps has reached a new milestone in 2018: over 100 children are being sponsored to attend primary and secondary schools and vocational training centers! This number will grow to 200 in January 2019. This is the highest sponsorship enrollment in our organization's history and represents multi-year commitments to seeing these children through to independence. Reintegration into school is the final step in MindLeaps' transformational program and sets vulnerable children on a permanent path to self-sufficiency.



The uneven distribution of resources throughout the world has resulted in increasing gaps in knowledge between individuals and countries, with children being significantly impacted. According to UNESCO, there are 263 million out of school children in the world (2016). We want to change this and improve the livelihoods of at-risk youth through education and development, working towards a shared vision where every child lives a healthy, fulfilling life of happiness and dignity.

As always, our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our many friends, supporters, staff, volunteers, foundation partners, and corporate donors who help us to achieve our mission. As we reflect and learn from this year, we're excited to grow MindLeaps and reach more children next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rebecca Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional yet personal style.

Rebecca Davis
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS



Rebecca Davis and Dr. Janelle Junkin present on MindLeaps' impact research at The Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit.

September



Students in MindLeaps' Girls LEAD initiative perform with remarks from US Ambassador to Rwanda Erica Barks-Ruggles and Liana Nzabampema of Segal Family Foundation.

January



MindLeaps expands its programming in Uganda through partnerships with six local NGOs.

February



MindLeaps launches its first program in Kenya in partnership with local NGO Kiwimbi.

June

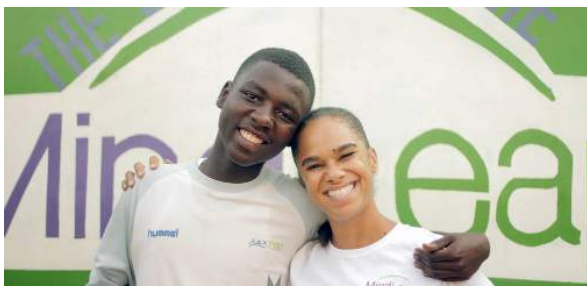


Five dancers from America, Canada, and Rwanda join the Train The Trainer program in NYC to become MindLeaps dance teachers.

August



Ten of MindLeaps top African dance teachers from its programs in East and West Africa convene in Rwanda to train and perform at the Ubumuntu Arts Festival with original choreography by Royce Zackery.



American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Misty Copeland returns for her second visit to MindLeaps in Rwanda.

737 Students Served

3,930 Hours of dance instruction

1,400 Hours of academic classes

900 Hours of IT training

33,600 Meals served

24 Local staff employed

350,868 Data points on social-emotional learning collected

STORY OF ZANI



Zani is a 16-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who came to Uganda in 2013. She was orphaned at four years old and is now living in Nsambya, Kampala, with a mother and father who are not her biological parents. She speaks five languages fluently French, Lingala, Swahili, Mashi, and English.

Zani first joined the MindLeaps program in 2017 through the refugee organization HIAS. From the beginning she worked hard, and MindLeaps teachers recall a particular day during the second week when they were busy changing the music at one point during class. When they turned around, Zani was leading her peers in the warm up and counting out loud since there was no music!

Zani had to drop out of school due to lack of school fees. But her interests lay in dance and she continued to excel. Because of her love of dance and her commitment to MindLeaps, she was chosen to attend the Train The Trainer program and became a qualified MindLeaps instructor.

With the money she earns as a trainer, Zani is now the sole breadwinner for her family. Her guardians suffer ailments that limit their ability to work, so Zani is their source of support. She has continued to hone her dance and teaching skills by taking part in an intensive training program in Rwanda with the MindLeaps international team.

With her dedication and enthusiasm, Zani has not only become a role model for other refugee youth in her community, but has also enabled MindLeaps to reach many other disadvantaged children in local communities.

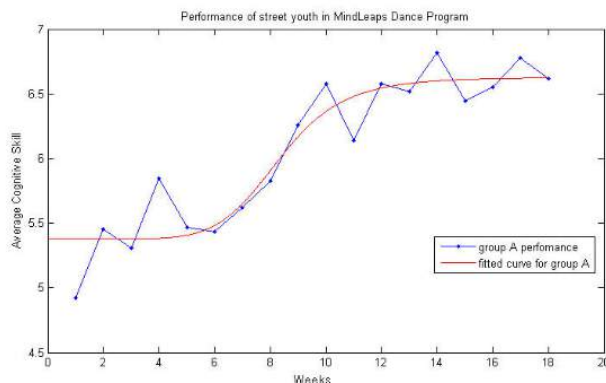
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All of MindLeaps' dance programs use Tracker, a data-driven Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system that measures changes in cognitive skills and social-emotional learning.

Developed in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University, psychologists and software engineers, Tracker is an innovative assessment tool to measure a child's learning development. It is a software system that uses a kinesthetic-based rubric to capture and graphically display changes in seven particular skills: memorization, grit, teamwork, discipline, self-esteem, creativity and language.

Tracker is unique because it gathers data from a child's execution of dance moves to visually graph changes in behavioral patterns. Since the assessment relies on actual movements the child performs in the dance space, it reduces subjectivity.

The Tracker system consists of an Android tablet containing the rubric and an online analytics website. The data from the tablets sync to a front-end web application that stores student and class information. A mathematical model is applied to the data to generate graphs demonstrating learning curves of individuals' achievements.



15 Street Children's Cognitive Development Over 20 Weeks in the MindLeaps Dance Program

Click here for a video to learn more about Tracker: bit.ly/2tj5Am6

MindLeaps
Tracker

In September 2017, Executive Director of MindLeaps, Rebecca Davis, and researcher, Dr. Janelle Junkin, presented at the Global Youth Economic Opportunities Summit in an interactive demonstration and discussion: "MindLeaps in Rwanda: How Can the Arts Improve Learning Skills in Youth and Create Measurement Tools for Service-Based Programs?"



Making Cents International *presents*

**Global Youth Economic
OPPORTUNITIES
SUMMIT**

RWANDA



70% of MindLeaps students who enter the formal education system perform in the top 20% of their academic classes.

74-80% of participants are permanently reintegrated into a household and off the street after one year.

The MindLeaps Center in Kigali, opened in 2014, has been dedicated to the memory of Jim Bell, a humanitarian, educator and long-time supporter of MindLeaps.

THE HOLISTIC MINDLEAPS OPERATION

An eight-member Rwandan staff work with 90 children ages 9 to 18 daily to provide a 'catch up' program for vulnerable in-school children and out-of-school youth who are struggling to become literate and perform well in formal education.

The program consists of...



Dance training to change behavioral patterns and increase cognition



Academic Acceleration led by teachers from the local White Dove Global Prep, consisting of English, Kinyarwanda, Math, Science, and Social Studies courses



Sexual and reproductive health classes and hygiene and sanitation services



A daily meal program to improve learning capacity and overall health



IT classes to introduce children to technology and the outside world



School sponsorship to fully reintegrate children into formal education and ensure school completion



In addition, three new programs were added at MindLeaps Rwanda in FY18:

1. GIRLS LEAD PROGRAM

Girls face particular challenges, especially when they are forced to drop out of school and survive on the streets. With no clear alternatives, many fall into prostitution and/or teen pregnancy. MindLeaps is a safe space for out-of-school girls and in-school girls at-risk of dropping out. MindLeaps also provides social work and counseling services to address their many needs.

This year, MindLeaps launched the new Girls LEAD program with support from the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda. It is a project that features and advances the top fifteen girls at The Jim Bell Centre. These girls perform at venues across the country and share their stories of change. These performances are opportunities to push girls' confidence to an even higher level by allowing them to showcase what they have learned in their dance classes and to practice public speaking.

Girls LEAD participants are also given lessons in business and entrepreneurship. In May 2018, Goldman Sachs Managing Director, Aya Hamilton, led several of the classes.



2. FAMILY STRENGTHENING PROGRAM

The permanent center in Kigali is also a hub for programs that reach out into the larger local community. MindLeaps has community workers on staff who conduct home visits to evaluate and provide support for difficult life situations.

This year, MindLeaps also introduced the new Family Strengthening Program to further identify and deal with challenges stemming from poverty, domestic abuse, and lack of financial planning. When they join MindLeaps, each child identifies a “caretaker” (parent, guardian or older sibling), who is then enrolled in a “Self-Help Group”. These groups come to The Jim Bell Centre every Sunday and receive training in basic business skills. Each Self-Help Group identifies a small income-generating project, and MindLeaps makes modest grants to each of the groups, enabling them to implement their project.

The ultimate goal is to help families find a way to support children in their homes or under their guardianship, so that the impact of MindLeaps goes beyond the individual children receiving long-term school sponsorship from the organization.



3. SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM

Our new LEAPS (Lifeskills Education for Adolescent Positive Sexuality) Program was introduced this year. In addition to topics on puberty and hygiene, the curriculum focuses on healthy relationships, gender equity, communication and consent. Among the sexual and reproductive health topics considered are the complex issues surrounding pregnancy and prostitution, as well as communication, self-worth, family issues and cultural expectations that affect girls and boys.

Listening to the kids, involving parents, and responding to the community, are principles embedded throughout the curriculum. The curriculum was written by health educator Leslie Massicotte and Givan Hinds, MPH, and is taught in a series of workshops by local teachers.



GUINEA



In July 2017, MindLeaps opened its first permanent center in the capital city of Conakry to provide dance and English classes in a safe space.

After 34 classes (about 10 weeks), the students demonstrated a 28% increase in skill

In October 2018, this current class of students will be reintegrated into formal

THE HOLISTIC MINDLEAPS OPERATION

Throughout the last year, the center has provided dance and English classes and a safe space from the increasing political violence throughout the city.

The daily operation includes...



Dance training
to change
behavioral
patterns and
increase
cognition



An academic enrichment
program to help children
catch up to their grade
level



Health services to
improve hygiene and
sanitation services



Guidance and
home visits with
social workers



A daily meal
to improve learning
capacity and
overall health



School sponsorship to fully
reintegrate children into
formal education and
ensure school completion



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

Train The Trainer Program

In November of 2017, MindLeaps welcomed international dance teachers Cassidy Giordano and Ssali Eugene Joseph as part of our Train The Trainer program. Cassidy and Ssali led 19 teachers and local artists from Guinea to learn the MindLeaps curriculum.



Partnership with United Nations Women's and Guild Lions Club International

In 2018, support from the [United Nations Women's Guild of Vienna \(UNWG\)](#) was given to MindLeaps for the expansion of the Guinean facility to include other components essential to the safety and advancement of children's lives. By adding access to water tanks, a solar water heater and a proper cooking stove, MindLeaps now provides clean water, healthy nutritional meal supplements and sanitation kits to children. The children are able to shower and learn basic sanitation practices. They wash their clothes at the center since their living conditions often lack access to water and soap. They also now have clean water to drink. In addition, the local chapter of [Leo Club Dame de Loura of the Lions Club International of Guinea](#) has provided each child with a personal sanitation kit containing a t-shirt, towel, shoes, toothbrush, jogging pants, water bottle, nail clippers, shower gel and sanitary pads for the girls.



UGANDA

Uganda currently hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa.

A total of 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived as of 2018; 61% are under age 18.

MindLeaps rehabilitates urban refugee youth through our partnership programs with six local NGOs.

UGANDA

In 2017, in Kampala, MindLeaps partnered with HIAS, an international NGO facilitating the resettlement of refugees around the world, to work with urban refugee children. Building upon this experience, MindLeaps then went on to train talented youth from the HIAS program and alumni of the Ugandan traditional dance group, Rockies Troupe, to become assistant teachers of the MindLeaps dance curriculum. Upon completion of the Train The Trainer program, MindLeaps partnered with local Ugandan organizations to embed the dance methodology in existing organizations that help at-risk youth. These organizations include M-Lisada, Refugee & Hope International, REHORE, and Save Street Children Uganda (SASCU) where over 100 street children and urban refugee youth are given the MindLeaps dance curriculum weekly.



KENYA

MindLeaps
piloted its first
ever program in
Kenya in 2018.

852,000 Kenyan
children ages
6-17 are currently
out of school.

After 3 months in
the MindLeaps
program, students
showed an average
of 30% increase in
skill levels.

KENYA

In 2018, MindLeaps launched a partnership program in Amagoro, Kenya, working with local NGO Kiwimbi, an organization that creates Community Learning Centers to support education. MindLeaps provided dance classes to six groups of students, totaling 150 youth, for three months. The fieldwork also included an intensive Train The Trainer series to prepare and position local teachers and excelling youth to continue the program.



TRAIN THE TRAINER

RWANDA



MindLeaps' ten best teachers and students from five African countries came together in Kigali, Rwanda, to learn MindLeaps curricula and pedagogy. They became better equipped to teach the MindLeaps program to their own communities upon return to their countries. They studied, trained, and lived together in an immersive cultural experience mixing different nationalities, languages, religions, and talents. They also performed in the Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Kigali. They received training from dancer/choreographers Royce Zackery and Chiku Lwambo, and special guest teachers Misty Copeland of *American Ballet Theatre* and Hope Easterbrook of *Hamilton*. The ten trainers hailed from Kenya, Uganda, Guinea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda. Trainers included: Sifa Mukantwali, Gisele Ingabire, Passy Bucyana, Aboubakar Rutayisire, Irene Amooh, Daglous Mataba, Annet Kapule, Morlaye Bangoura, Salifou Camara, and Zani Bagura.

NEW YORK CITY



Dancers from the US, Canada, and Rwanda came to New York City for MindLeaps' two-week Train The Trainer program in June 2018. They studied MindLeaps standardized curriculum, learned how to use Tracker, and studied the model to prepare vulnerable children to re-integrate and succeed in the formal education system. Trainers included: Kenna McCoy, Darlene Ninziza, Mariah Aguilar, Lauren Polansky, and Anna Defent. In July 2018, Kenna was deployed in Kigali, Rwanda, to train the MindLeaps' African teachers in the contemporary curriculum.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS FUND

MISTY COPELAND RETURNS TO MINDLEAPS RWANDA

American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Misty Copeland returned to Rwanda for her second visit to the MindLeaps program. She first visited the program in November 2015, where she launched the Girls Program and gave Ally Sibomana (*right*) the Misty Copeland Scholarship so he could rejoin formal education. In August 2018, she returned and saw the growth of the programs and students, conducted home visits, and worked directly with MindLeaps' international trainers.



Misty Copeland works with MindLeaps International Trainers

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS FUND



*"It means so much to me to be here and to see how dance is helping this community."
- Misty Copeland*



PERFORMANCES



MindLeaps students gave a performance at Heaven restaurant in Rwanda and spoke about the impact of MindLeaps on their lives.

Restaurants in
Rwanda

GIRLS
LEAD



MindLeaps presented a special dance performance from former street girls in MindLeaps' Girls LEAD initiative with remarks from US Ambassador to Rwanda Erica Barks-Ruggles and Liana Nzabampema of Segal Family Foundation.



MindLeaps students and staff members were excited to visit the American School in Guinea and give a performance to all the students and teachers there.

American
School in
Guinea

Kenya
Program



After three exciting months, the MindLeaps program in Kenya celebrated its first 150 enrolled students participating in a final dance performance.

Ubumuntu
Arts
Festival



MindLeaps returned to the Ubumuntu Arts Festival in Rwanda where our 10 African trainers performed an original piece titled "Babel," choreographed by Royce Zackery of Howard University.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We thank our institutional supporters for helping us in providing more children with the access, programs, opportunities, and education that they need to succeed and leap forward in life.

Foundations



AIC Foundation



Broadway Cares



Communities Foundation of America

DILLER-VON FURSTENBERG FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Diller-Von Furstenberg Family



GlobalGiving Foundation



Institute of International Education



Jewish Helping Hands



Level8 Projects



The Nelkin Foundation



Network for Good



Segal Family Foundation



Tully Sennett Charitable Fund



United Nations Women's Guild



Lions Club International



La Fondation We Help

Corporations



AllianceBernstein



AmazonSmile



Axiom Networks



Katie Bartels Jewelry



Capezio



Custom Shirt Place



Goldman Sachs



THINX



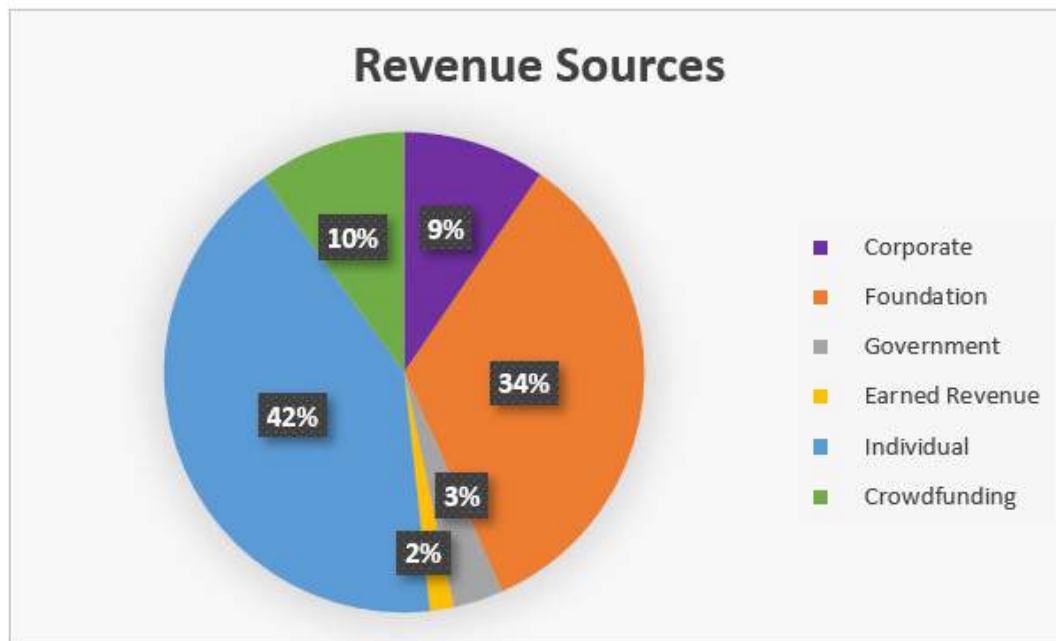
Under Armour

Government



U.S. Embassy in Rwanda

AUDITED FINANCIALS



Revenue	
Corporate	\$44,887
Foundation	\$157,854
Government	\$15,825
Earned Revenue	\$7,471
Individual	\$195,219
Crowdfunding	\$46,799
Total Revenue	\$468,055
Expenditures	
Programs	
Rwanda	\$170,912
Guinea	\$56,075
Uganda	\$15,357
Partnerships	\$61,543
International Artists' Fund	\$29,103
Teacher Training	\$31,983
Tracker and M&E	\$12,085
G&A	
Salaries	\$34,982
Rent	\$15,816
Other fees & G&A Expenses	\$21,713
Fundraising	
Fundraising Outreach & Activities	\$19,256
Total Expenditures	\$468,825

Mindleaps	
Statement of Financial Position	
As of August 31, 2018	
ASSETS	
Bank	\$36,987
Donated Goods	\$26,457
Total Other Current Assets	\$3,314
Fixed Assets, net	\$11,931
Intangible Assets, net	\$10,334
TOTAL ASSETS	\$89,023
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$19,100
NET ASSETS	
Beginning	\$70,694
Net Revenue	-\$771
Total Net Assets	\$69,923
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$89,023

Leadership & Board

Founder & Executive Director, Rebecca Davis



Rebecca Davis fused her expertise in entrepreneurship, dance, and international relations to build paths to education, technology, and jobs. In serving as the Executive Director of MindLeaps, Rebecca is responsible for the strategic direction, fundraising and management of an organization currently operational in African countries and with headquarters in New York City. As a 2018 Fellow of the Gratitude Network, Rebecca has been recognized for outstanding leadership and MindLeaps' potential to scale an innovative solution to one of humanity's greatest problems: out of school youth. Rebecca has worked for The Carter Center, Stage Holding Russia, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Rebecca graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship from Temple University, and she holds a Masters in International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping from American Military University. Rebecca is a two-time Fulbright Scholar and a former Greater New York City Fulbright Alumna-in-Residence. A sought-after speaker whose accomplishments are frequently noted in various news media, Rebecca has won numerous awards recognizing her many contributions to dance, technology, and education in conflict zones.

MindLeaps Board of Trustees & Advisors provides essential guidance, strategic planning, and oversight. Among the Board's activities are fundraising, financial management, legal counsel, strategic planning, and monitoring & evaluation.

Board of Trustees

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Denise Umunyana - Right Seat

MindLeaps' volunteers provide considerable and vital support to its operations in the US and internationally. The many roles they undertake include graphic design, translation, research and analysis, video editing, and much more. The Board is grateful to the following for their commitment and wonderful contribution:

Stacy Acker, Bowie Alexander, Joseph Anderson, Ashley Brandenburg, Magali Brieva, Ryan Brodie, Seana Parker-Dalton, Mackenzie Deary, Hichem Elbahi, Chloe Farrell, Stanley Fertig, Helen Flaster, Lauren Frattaroli, Herb Freedman, Jeannie Freeman, Kara Grijalva, Givan Hinds, Ali Hoyt, Samantha Hyde, Shannon Jones, Jillian Kenny, Rachel Ketterer, Jerry Krivitzky, Michael LaPointe, Helen Liu, Dan Longfellow, Fidel Magno, Aidan Marcotte, Julia Marshall, Leslie Massicotte, Jude McCoy, Kenna McCoy, Matt Molina, Erica Mumford, Julia Sawatzky, Harold Slamovitz, Christelle Smith, Lauren Rich, Liam Roberts, Zoe Schneider Robert, Laura Rowe, Julie Russo, Romy Tierney, Sharmin Tuli, Jenny Weightman, Nia Williams, and Marie Windal.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY



The present international orientation of MindLeaps is the company's second growth phase. The company was founded in 2005 as "Rebecca Davis Dance Company" with a focus on developing original, full-length contemporary ballets based on famous literary works, significant historical events and modern social issues. In 2010, it underwent a mission change to reflect today's international work serving children.

The stimulus for the mission change began in 2008 when Rebecca Davis choreographed a full-length ballet about the genocide in Darfur. The creative process of transforming Brian Steidle's book "The Devil Came on Horseback" into an aesthetic presentation was an all-consuming experience and left Rebecca wondering what happens in post-genocide countries. She traveled to Rwanda to answer her lingering questions about genocide and reconciliation. Instead of finding answers, she found hundreds of kids living on the streets that loved the same thing she had built her entire company around – dance. Since that trip, Rebecca has committed her life to getting kids off the street and educated in order to break the cycle of poverty. By 2010, she had piloted projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea and Rwanda.

From 2011-2013, Rebecca traveled in Africa and the Balkans working with educators, dancers and psychologists to build the current dance curriculum and methodology that is used by MindLeaps. This curriculum targets learning skills that are essential for success in a formal educational environment. In 2014, the company changed its name to MindLeaps to better reflect the mission of the organization and the collective effort put forth every day to help advance these children. In 2015, MindLeaps concentrated on developing a rigorous Monitoring & Evaluation system to evaluate the effectiveness of its program in collaboration with staff from Carnegie Mellon University-Rwanda and Drexel University. Since then, MindLeaps has concentrated on scaling this innovative model to reach increasing numbers of out of school youth and refugees yearly.

For a historical timeline of activities visit: <https://www.hstry.co/timelines/mindleaps>



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