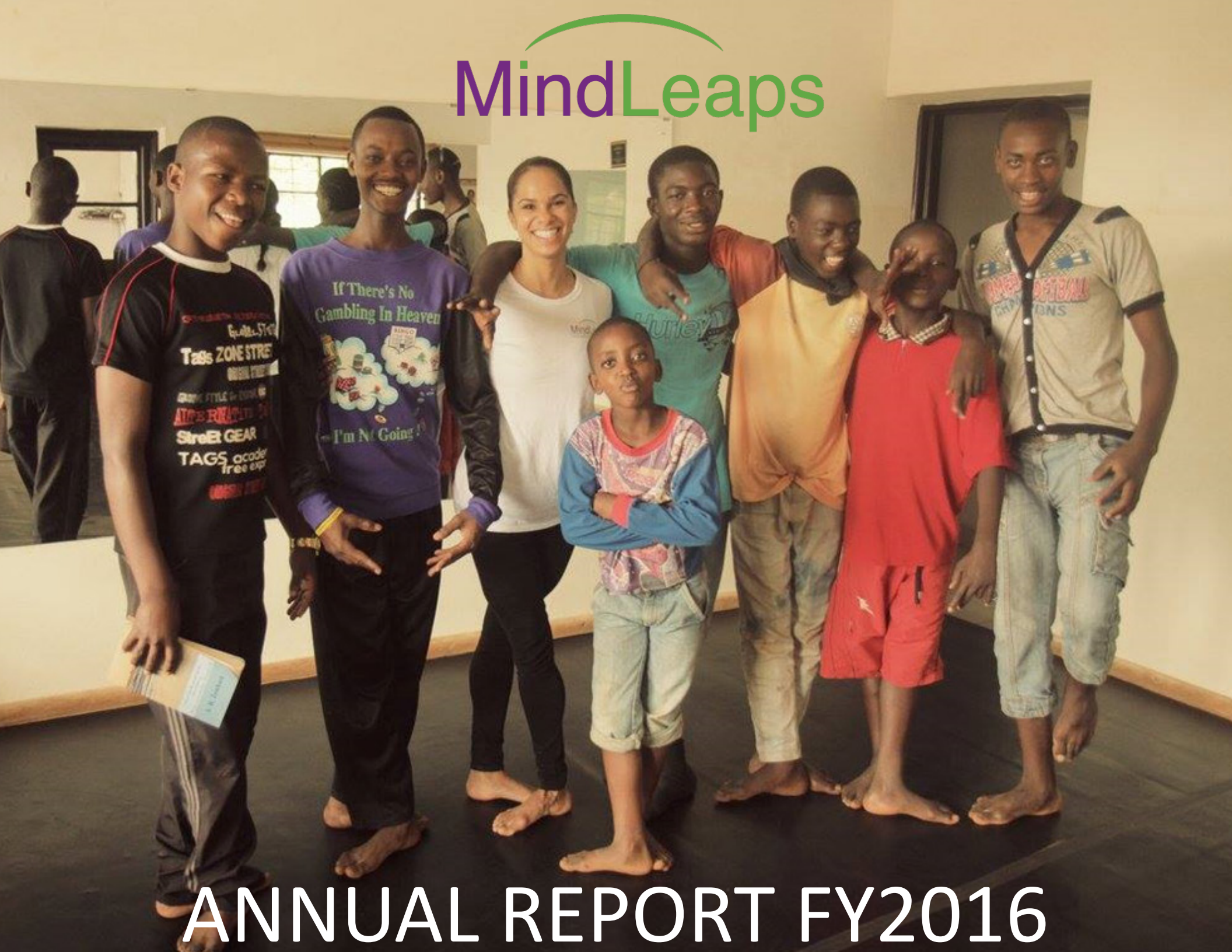




MindLeaps



ANNUAL REPORT FY2016



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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we share another year of successes with you. MindLeaps served 100 more children than last year. Our budget increased by over 65%. We welcomed celebrities and artists to Rwanda through our International Artists' Fund. And, most importantly, we saw more children permanently exit street life and return to school than ever before in our organization's history.

Misty Copeland, the first African-American Principal Dancer of American Ballet Theatre, visited MindLeaps Rwanda in November and launched our Girls Program. She spent one week in Rwanda learning about the lives and challenges of our students, observing dance classes at the center, and providing the Misty Copeland Scholarship to sponsor a student to attend boarding school. To learn more about her trip, Misty recorded four video logs about her experience, which you can view on our [YouTube channel](#).

Our program in Kindia, Guinea, relaunched following the end of the Ebola crisis that claimed over 11,000 lives in West Africa. Given the increased need for services, we expanded to include a program in Guinea's capital, Conakry, in partnership with the local NGO Hope of Guinea. Students took part in a STEAM camp where MindLeaps provided the dance instruction and Peace Corps volunteers provided English classes.

New research confirmed outcomes of student transformation in the MindLeaps program. Students undergo statistically significant changes in seven cognitive and non-cognitive skills during the first three months of MindLeaps dance curriculum and then again through month six. Additional research on boarding school outcomes, selectivity bias, and participatory action research was also conducted and will be published next year. MindLeaps business operations also grew in this fiscal year. Our donations increased by over 50%, and we established our New York City headquarters.

As always, we are so grateful to our Board of Trustees & Advisors, donors, partners, staff, volunteers and friends for making this such an exciting and growth-filled year. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,



Rebecca Davis
Founder and Executive Director



2016 HIGHLIGHTS



MindLeaps' new Girls Program launches in Rwanda in November 2015.



Guinea programs relaunch post-Ebola.



Seven professional dancers gather in NYC to learn MindLeaps curriculum and then depart for Rwanda for the "Train the Trainers" program. The dancers hail from prestigious companies, including Rambert, Lar Lubovitch, Metropolitan Opera as well as Howard University.

MindLeaps students perform at the Ubumuntu Arts Festival, an annual arts festival in Kigali. In 2016, the festival brought together artists from 18 different countries to perform over four nights in front of an audience of 5,000.



FY16 By the Numbers

355 students served

1,898 Hours of Dance

1,109 Hours of English

1,075 Hours of IT

26,300 meals served

52.26% Increase in Donations from FY15

69.59% Growth in Operating Budget from FY15

November

March

June

July

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MINDLEAPS STUDENT



Ali is an adorable kid. He is quiet and attentive with a hard working spirit and a deep desire to learn. However, the opportunity to learn had not been available to him throughout most of his life.

Ali's mother passed away and his father went missing when Ali was very young. Due to extreme poverty, Ali had to drop out of school soon after starting primary school. He didn't even finish the first term, which meant that he couldn't even write his own name.

Before MindLeaps, Ali spent his days searching for charcoal to sell and then purchase food. At night, he slept in a sewer.



MindLeaps teachers first met Ali in 2013 and invited him to join the dance program. He started coming to the classes, but he never seemed happy.

Over time, Ali began changing. His spirits picked up, and he was motivated to attend and work hard in all of his classes. MindLeaps teachers provided positive encouragement and support for all his hard work in the dance classes. He also saw that dance steps that he hadn't been able to do at first were now coming easily to him. He understood more English and discovered a love for computer classes. He saw that his hard work was both appreciated and was making him a better dancer and student. Ali loved and succeeded in all his dance, English and IT classes at MindLeaps. Not long after, Ali became one of MindLeaps' best students. He was ready to go to school, and all he needed was a sponsor for his boarding school scholarship.

Ali's Schedule

EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY

10:00 AM-12:00 PM-- DANCE CLASS
The two-hour dance class involves a rigorous 45-60 minute warm up, floor exercises, intricate combinations, and group work.



12:00 PM – 2:00 PM-- LUNCH
A lunch meal is provided every day by MindLeaps. These meals alternate between porridge, rice with fish, and rice with meat. For many students, this is their only meal of the day.

EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM-- ENGLISH CLASS
In English language class, Ali and the other students learn both spoken and written English and practice the alphabet and basic phrases.

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM-- LUNCH
Ali receives his daily lunch of porridge, rice with fish, or rice with meat. During breaks from class, Ali also completes the daily sanitation program, where he washes his clothes, showers, and brushes his teeth.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM -- IT CLASS
In IT class, students begin by learning the basics of computer components and functionality. Next they learn typing, windows applications, and how to conduct internet searches. Then they move on to connect with the outside world through email, Skype, and Twitter.

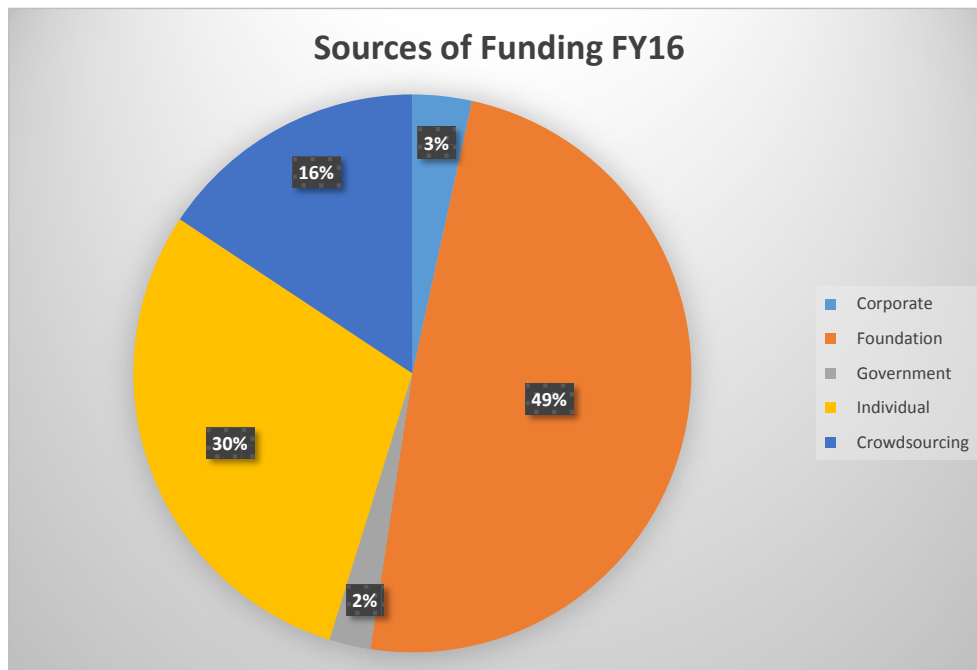
In November 2015, Ali received a **scholarship from Misty Copeland** to attend boarding school. Misty Copeland is the first African-American Principal Dancer of American Ballet Theatre. Ali was selected because he was one of MindLeaps' top performing students in all classes, and the data on his cognitive and behavioral skill development showed that he had reached a level where he could be successful in a formal school environment. Ali was excited to visit Orp Care Boarding School with Misty Copeland and thrilled to restart his education. He started his schooling in 2016 and scored an incredible 85% in his first term, making him the top student in his class.



2016 FINANCIALS

FUNDING

MindLeaps funding comes from diverse sources, including:



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

Revenue	
Corporate	\$9,025
Foundation	\$128,534
Government	\$6,300
Individual	\$80,004
Crowdsourcing	\$41,173
Total Revenue	\$265,035
Expenditures	
Programs	
Rwanda	\$122,554
Guinea	\$16,308
Bosnia-Herzegovina*	\$1,050
Foreign Teacher Training	\$29,061
Research and Program Development	\$5,001
Fundraising	
Fundraising Outreach and Activities	\$12,759
G&A	
Salaries	\$29,073
New York Office Rent	\$12,289
Marketing, IT Costs, and other G&A	\$18,298
Total Expenditures	\$246,392
Net Revenue	\$18,643

*This is an annual program primarily run by volunteers.

MindLeaps thanks its generous donors and partners for making FY2016 a record fundraising year.

RWANDA

MindLeaps Center in Kigali, Rwanda

MindLeaps' permanent Rwandan staff worked daily with 90 street youth and out-of-school youth who have never had the chance to go to school and become literate. The program provided:

- **Dance** training to improve behavioral patterns and increase cognition.
- **IT** classes to introduce children to technology and the outside world.
- **English** Language training to provide skills valuable to the job market.
- **HIV testing** & treatment via AIDS Healthcare Foundation.
- **Health & Sanitation** program to teach basic health practices.
- **Boarding school** sponsorship to fully re-integrate children back into civil society.



Three new elements were added to our program in Rwanda in 2016:

ICDL Computer Literacy Certification

MindLeaps partnered with International Computer Driving License (ICDL) to bring the ICDL curriculum to our top computer students. ICDL is an internationally-recognized computer skills certification program. After studying the courses and passing four exams, our students are given a certificate that is well recognized in the East African region. They will have the opportunity to compete for employment with these certificates in hand.

Launch of Girls Program

Misty Copeland launched the Girls Program in Rwanda during her visit, and as of January 1st, 30 of the 90 children that come to the MindLeaps Center each day are girls. The girls receive the same dance, English, and IT program as the boys to develop their cognitive and behavioral skills.

Social Work & Counseling

Kellen Mbabazi is a social worker who joined the team in Rwanda. At the time of her joining, her role was to assist our students in the new Girls Program. She now assists both the boys and girls in the program, helping them to transform their lives. Kellen conducts home visits to evaluate and provide support for home situations, facilitates group sessions at the Center, and carries out one-on-one sessions with each student.

RWANDA

Rugerero, Rwanda

A team of MindLeaps teachers traveled to Rugerero, a survivor village near the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Working with 150 poor, rural boys and girls, the MindLeaps staff led dance classes followed by health lessons to address community issues, such as water conservation and HIV/AIDS. At the conclusion of the program, the children performed a dance-theater piece with the lessons learned via dance, drama and song. In this way, the children became educators for the wider community.



Spotlight on Donor: LEVEL8 Projects

Formed in 2009, Level8 is a local charity based in Carnoustie, Scotland. Level8 aims to raise funds for small to medium projects anywhere in the world, focusing on the relief of poverty and the promotion of education.



In 2015, Rebecca Davis visited Level8 in Scotland to raise awareness and support for MindLeaps. She visited several primary and high schools to speak about Rwanda, reconciliation and the 1994 Tutsi Genocide, poverty alleviation, and MindLeaps' work with street children. In August 2016, Scottish high school students joined a group from Level8 to visit the MindLeaps Center in Rwanda. A contingent also came from the Angus Centre for Performing Arts led by Director Fiona Forbes. They observed (and participated in) the dance, English, and IT classes. They saw firsthand the impact of their sponsorship by viewing the infrastructure in the center as well as the tailoring program, which was specifically sponsored by the Angus Centre. They also exposed MindLeaps' students to Irish dancing, which was new for all of them!



GUINEA



After being suspended due to the Ebola crisis, MindLeaps relaunched its program in Guinea in March. MindLeaps programs took place at our original location, Kindia, and started new programs in the capital of Guinea, Conakry.

Kindia Program

Working in collaboration with the local partner Fitini Guinea, the program took place from March through October 2016 to serve youth:

- **112 hours of dance** training to improve cognitive skills
- **112 hours of English** classes for academic and vocational school readiness
- **5,600 meals provided**

The program in Guinea is managed by 3 local staff members, and led by Country Director Ansoumane Conde (see staff highlight on the following page).



The final presentation showcasing the accomplishments of the youth can be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/02kpwUSPJZ8>

GUINEA



STEAM Camp in Conakry

MindLeaps partnered with Hope of Guinea to launch a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) camp in the summer. Fifty students ranging in age from 9 to 15 participated in a three-week program where the students took part in scientific experiments, daily dance classes, educational excursions, and discussions with different local business leaders.

MindLeaps Staff Highlight - Ansoumane Conde

Ansoumane joined MindLeaps in 2012 and assumed the role of Country Director in 2014. He received his Baccalaureate Degree in Science & Mathematics from Kamsar College (2004). In 2007, he obtained a license in Commercial Financial Management from the International University of Mercure. In 2009, he graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Finance & Banking from the same university. Ansoumane served as an Administrator for The Carter Center's Election Observation Mission in 2010. A year later, he became the Chief Controller for GEP (Guinea Petrol Equipment). In addition to his role with MindLeaps, he is an active member of the International Youth Chamber of Guinea.

Right: Ansoumane Conde meeting with parents of the children participating in MindLeaps programs



BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Summer Program in Travnik

MindLeaps ran a summer program in Bosnia-Herzegovina, focusing on integrating youth of diverse ethnic backgrounds. Eco-Youth Camp was organized by the NGO “Otaharin” Bijeljina (focused on education of Roma) with the support of several other partners, including: Volunteer Service Bijeljina, Youth Foundation Schüler Helfen Leben, and Portikus Foundation. These organizations work to create conditions for a successful future for young people in Bosnia-Herzegovina by developing their capacity to become socially engaged and actively involved in decision-making in their communities.



During the camp, 35 youth went through a variety of educational workshops based on topics such as activism, tolerance, and non-violent communication. The youth also participated in forum-theater and daily dance classes on the subjects of marginalization, inclusion, and friendship. The youth came from Bijeljina, Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Zenica with different social and ethnic backgrounds.

International Artists' Fund - Misty Copeland

Misty Copeland visited Rwanda through MindLeaps' International Artists' Fund (IAF) in which world-renowned performers bring awareness to the needs of vulnerable youth in post-conflict and developing countries.



Misty Copeland is the first African American principal dancer in American Ballet Theatre's 75-year history. Copeland was considered a prodigy who rose to stardom despite not starting ballet until the age of 13. By age 15, Copeland was already an award-winning dancer and fielding professional offers. In addition to her dance career, Copeland is a public speaker, Broadway performer, and was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time, appearing on its cover. ("Misty Copeland," wikipedia.com)

In November 2015, Misty Copeland visited Rwanda through MindLeaps' International Artists' Fund. IAF dancers visit our programs to see in practice how dance is being used to attract youth off the streets and channel them back into education. They also learn about the country's history and culture and see first-hand the impact of investing in Rwandan children. Misty's visit also had two additional special elements: the launch of MindLeaps' new Girls Program, and awarding the "Misty Copeland Scholarship" to a top-performing student at MindLeaps.

On her first day in Rwanda, Misty launched MindLeaps new Girls Program (page 7). Misty saw the girls' official initiation into the MindLeaps program as they received a personal kit containing a t-shirt, towel, flip flops, pants, water bottle, and

toiletries. She observed and taught dance classes and demonstrated ballet choreography. She also spoke with the students about her life and career as well as their lives and challenges. Misty remarked, *"To see the dedication and commitment of these young girls, it's so beautiful It's such an honor and a privilege to witness something that I know is changing their lives, maybe in ways they are not even aware of yet."*



Later Misty met **Ali Sibomana**, the student recipient of the new “**Misty Copeland Scholarship**”. Towards the end of her visit, she accompanied Ali to see his new boarding school and to award him the scholarship. Ali and Misty were both thrilled and she said, “I can’t wait to see his growth in a year.”

Misty recorded her experience of her first visit to Africa and her time getting to know the students in four video logs, which you can view online here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-QZDruymEZxlrWIJMjKn_bfbTgj76rIE.



“These kids’ lives are changing, and they have definitely changed mine.”

-Misty Copeland



U.S. Embassy in Rwanda

U.S. Embassy Hosts MindLeaps

US Ambassador Barks-Ruggles hosted a reception at her residence in Kigali, Rwanda, to recognize the work of MindLeaps – including a performance by MindLeaps' students. The students performed for the attendees of ambassadors, MindLeaps staff, Misty Copeland, LaMar Baylor, and members of the diplomatic and NGO community.



Umuganda

Public Works Service Day

Later in the year, MindLeaps hosted the Ambassador and Special Envoy at MindLeaps for a day of volunteering where they painted the center. As part of the National Day of Service, Ambassador Barks-Ruggles, Special Envoy Thomas Perriello, and MindLeaps staff, students, and volunteers all joined together in a fun day of collaboration and service.



Train the Trainers

In the summer, seven prestigious dancers from around the world participated in MindLeaps' annual training program. This week-long intensive introduces professional dancers to MindLeaps foundational movement curriculum, teaching methodology, and grading system for measuring cognitive and behavioral skill changes in the students. This year's participants were:

Gregory Brown, Metropolitan Opera

Mark Caserta, Complexions Contemporary Ballet

Caitlyn Casson, Ariel Rivka Dance

Nicole Corea, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company

Cassidy Giordano, University of the Arts

Dane Hurst, Rambert & Wayne McGregor

Royce Zackery, Dance Professor at Howard University



On June 9, 2016, the dancers met with various supporters and friends of MindLeaps to discuss their experiences. The event began with a presentation by Rebecca Davis, MindLeaps' Executive Director, followed by a panel discussion with the dancers. The dancers discussed their experiences over the week in the training and what they hope to accomplish and gain from their upcoming visits to the field.

While in the field in Rwanda, the teachers:

- » Trained local staff in the curriculum as well as contemporary and ballet techniques
- » Taught classes to students
- » Followed MindLeaps M&E system to measure changes in cognitive development through dance

Gregory (*top right*) and Royce (*below center*) were in the field in June and August 2016, respectively. In July, Caitlyn, Dane, and Nicole participated in additional teaching and cultural exchange opportunities with the Ubumuntu Arts Festival:

- » The three dancers choreographed and staged a new work for 15 MindLeaps students on the theme of friendship (*below right*)
- » Dane Hurst performed his contemporary choreographic work, *O'Dabo* ('until I return again' in Yoruba), a piece inspired by Nelson Mandela and his experience of solitary confinement (*left*)
- » The three hosted workshops in partnering and contemporary dance for local and international artists



© Agne Denapaite



Students Perform at the Ubumuntu Arts Festival

The Ubumuntu Arts Festival is an annual international festival that brings artists from around the globe together to perform in Kigali, Rwanda. The creator, Hope Azeda, is part of the contemporary Rwandan theatre scene and the founder and artistic director of Mashirika Creative and Performing Arts Group. The festival aims to promote peace building, give a platform for the arts as an appreciated discipline in its own merit, and provide space for artists to network, share, and create. MindLeaps students were chosen to participate and represent Rwanda during the Children's Day Opening Session.

Caitlyn Casson, Nicole Corea, and Dane Hurst worked with 15 MindLeaps students to choreograph and stage a new work that students performed at the festival. In preparation for the festival, the children worked intensively with the three guest professional dancers to create a piece about friendship. Over their multiple rehearsals, the dance teachers reinforced the skills that our students learn throughout the year in our normal curriculum. The students practiced creative and critical thinking by adding their own movements into the choreography. Teamwork was enforced by rehearsing over and over the group sections until they all moved in synchronization. Perhaps most importantly, the students continually grew in self-esteem throughout the rehearsal process until they proudly took to the stage, beaming in confidence.



“Their performance was full of movement, passion, community and love. They are proving to me and the rest of the world that anything is possible. Watching them showcase their efforts and dance their hearts out was one of the proudest moments of my life.”
- Caitlyn Casson

Impact Research

From 2014-16, research was performed by Dr. Patrick McSharry of Carnegie Mellon University and Janelle Junkin, a PhD candidate in the Creative Arts in Therapy program at Drexel University. They have worked with on-the-ground staff in Rwanda analyzing the skills measured by MindLeaps to determine student progress in both cognitive and non-cognitive skills. Ms. Junkin has also completed a full program evaluation that was submitted to the Board of Trustees and is available upon request.

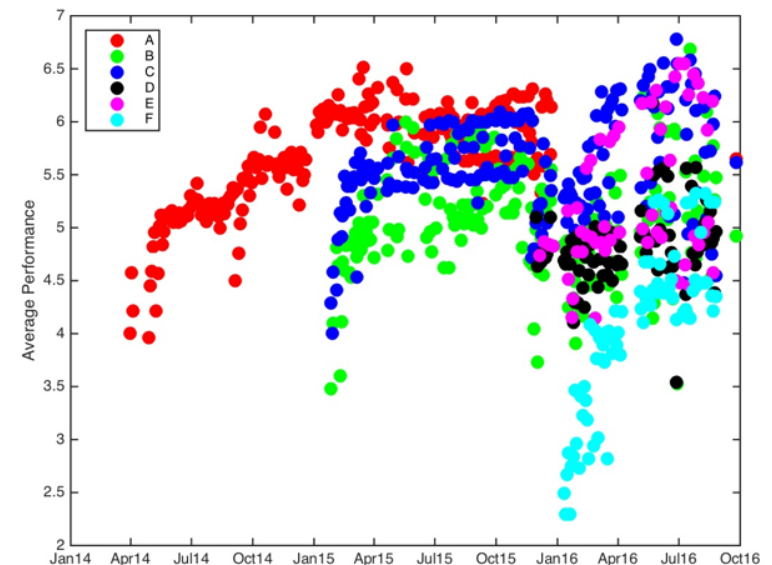
In a collaboration with professors from Oxford University, Temple University, Drexel University, and Carnegie Mellon University, MindLeaps will be publishing several papers in 2017:

- One paper considered selectivity bias in street children in the program. The research identifies the variables that contribute to street children's success in school and their success in the MindLeaps dance program.
- The second paper describes research on a predictability model of street children succeeding in boarding school following participation in the MindLeaps program, comparing their outcomes with other non-MindLeaps students at boarding school.
- A third paper used participatory action research in which four street children were trained to collect data about other street children and obtained 200 completed surveys.

A video demonstrating the research is online [here](#)

Read more about MindLeaps' research at mindleaps.org/research

Skill performance among 6 classes of MindLeaps students: January 2014 through October 2015



Red = Group A (boys group, out of school, began April 2014)

Green = Group B (boys group, out of school, began January 2015)

Blue = Group C (boys group, out of school, began January 2015)

Black = Group D (boys group, out of school, began October 2015)

Purple = Group E (girls group, in school, began September 2015)

Teal = Group F (girls group, out of school, began January 2016)

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Founder & Executive Director, Rebecca Davis



Rebecca Davis leveraged her background in ballet, business and international relations to found MindLeaps. Originally from Vancouver, British Columbia, Rebecca has choreographed and taught in Russia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Scotland, Guinea and the United States. She was classically trained in the Russian Vaganova method of ballet while studying in Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk, Russia. She received a degree in choreography from The Saint Petersburg Conservatory and is a two-time Fulbright scholar. She attended York University's Schulich School of Business and Temple University's Fox School of Business (graduating summa cum laude) and holds a Master's in International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping Studies (American Military University). She is the recipient of the Loran Scholarship, a two-time Leeway Arts & Social Change grantee, a Carl Wilkens Fellow of The Genocide Intervention Network, and the 2015 Fulbright Alumnae in Residence in New York. She has been a guest speaker at Temple University, University of Pennsylvania African Studies Center, the Annual Fulbright Alumni Conference, Princeton University, Marywood University, University of Michigan, Brown University and gave a TEDx talk at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

Board of Trustees & Advisors

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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Neil Kleinman – University of The Arts
Denise Umunyana – Right Seat
Tracy Vogt – Tolbert Yilmaz School of Dance



The Board visited MindLeaps Rwanda in February 2015

Staff

Rwanda:

Eugene Dushime, Country Director
Bashir Karenzi, Assistant Director
Ssali Joseph Eugene, IT/Dance Teacher
Innocent Nkusi, IT/Dance Teacher
Keilah Creedon, English Teacher
Evelyne Mukashyaka, Dance Teacher
Olivier Twagirimana, Dance Teacher
Kellen Mbabazi, Social Worker

Guinea:

Ansoumane Conde, Country Director
Amed Dumbuya, English Teacher
Fode Chouaibou Keita, Children's Coordinator

Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Tanja Raic Tarcuki, Country Director
Armela Junuzovic, Teacher
Miki Powell, Media Coordinator

New York City:

Eleanor Milburn, Special Programs Manager
Caitlyn Casson, Administrative Assistant

MindLeaps' volunteers provide considerable and vital support to its operations in the U.S. and internationally. The many roles they undertake include graphic design assistance, research collection and analysis, teaching English lessons, collecting donated goods, and much more. The Board is grateful to the following for their commitment and wonderful contribution:

Deanna Cormier, Andee Dooley, Amanda Good, Alan Greenfield, Mali Gruber, Nia Hinkson, Maxime Iryumugaba, Anne-Marie Lachance, Jennifer Lee, Michelle Loizeaux, Dan Longfellow, Jorge Losch, Michael Maguire, Innocent Nzayisenga, Steve Organ, Lauren Polansky, Eleonora Saccone, and Nia Williams.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS FROM FY16

- August 24, 2016 [In War-Torn Regions, Dance-Based Education Holds the Key to Children's Futures](#)
Unite 4 Good Magazine | MindLeaps Dance Methodology in Rwanda, Guinea & Bosnia
- July 11, 2016 [MindLeaps et Hope of Guinea lancent un camp d'été pour la jeunesse défavorisée](#)
Mediaguinee.com | Camp d'ete STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering- Arts and Mathematics)
- July 7, 2016 [MindLeaps et Hope of Guinea s'unissent pour une colonie de vacance en Guinée](#)
Guineenouvelle.com | Colonie de vacance STEAM a l'ecole Hamdoulaye
- May 16, 2016 [Temple University BBA Alumna profile of Rebecca Davis](#)
Fox Focus Magazine | Fox School of Business | Humanitarian, Entrepreneur, Dancer
- December 4, 2016 [Misty Copeland gives kids in Rwanda a leg up](#)
Women in the World, New York Times | Pointe with Purpose
- November 25, 2015 [Dancer Misty Copeland Discusses Joining the MindLeaps Mission to Help Street Children In Rwanda](#)
Huffington Post Live | Misty Copeland Is Helping To Bring Dance Lessons To Rwandan Kids
- November 25, 2015 [ABT Principal Dancer Misty Copeland Launches MindLeaps Girls Program and Scholarship for Disadvantaged Young Women in Rwanda](#)
Pointe | Misty Copeland Launches Girls Program, Scholarship in Rwanda

BLACK VOICES 11/25/2015 07:04 pm ET

Misty Copeland Is Helping To Bring Dance Lessons To Rwandan Kids

The dancer just returned from Kigali, Rwanda, where she shared her love of dance with children in the city.

By Rahel Gebreyes



In War-Torn Regions, Dance-Based Education Holds the Key to Children's Futures



The **NewTimes**
Rwanda's Leading English Daily

Travel Far | Stay Close Simple and a rates with MT

HOME NEWS BUSINESS OPINIONS WOMEN TECHNOLOGY SPORTS EDUCATION

Society Entertainment Homes and Gardening Fashion

MindLeaps Rwanda: Giving street kids a new lease of life

By: MOSES OPOBO
PUBLISHED: November 15, 2015 | Society | Print | Email
Facebook Tweet St+1



The children take time off to till their backyard garden. (Moses Opobo)

More in Society

- Not desperate for a man
- Why you don't need a job
- Europeans don't get it

Rene Byiringiro is not your typical definition of street child. Although he loved to spend most of his time with friends on the streets of Nyamirambo, he was lucky to have somewhere he called home – a place to which he could retire at the end of the day.

In other words, he just preferred the company of his peers over that of his doting mother and elder siblings at home.

Because of his preference for a life on the streets, he had long dropped out of school.

Early last year, Byiringiro heard about MindLeaps, a dance and vocational

Accueil > Communiqués > MindLeaps et Hope of Guinea lancent un camp d'été p

MEDIA GUINEE .COM

MindLeaps et Hope of Guinea lancent un camp d'été pour aider les jeunes défavorisés (communiqué)

Mediaguinee © Jul 11, 2016 Communiqués 1

Facebook Twitter

Conakry, Guinée – 7 Juillet, 2016. La colonie d'été STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts and Mathematics) est le fruit d'une collaboration entre Hope of Guinea, MindLeaps et des bénévoles de Peace Corps de retour de Guinée. Le camp d'été aura lieu du 11 au 29 Juillet 2016 à Conakry. L'objectif de cette colonie est de permettre aux enfants vulnérables de se livrer à des expériences scientifiques, participer à des cours quotidiens de danse, des excursions éducatives

FOX FOCUS

Fox School of Business Alumni Magazine FALL 2016 - CURRENT ISSUE

REBECCA DAVIS, BBA '04

By Dave Zeitlin

Posted in Office Hours from the Spring 2016 edition

Humanitarian, Entrepreneur, Dancer



No matter how Rebecca Davis phrased her question, the young boy from Rwanda did not know how to answer it. Over and over again, she asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. But the Rwandan boy was confused, eventually telling Davis that he didn't even think he'd be alive as an

Pointe with purpose

Misty Copeland gives kids in Rwanda a leg up



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 these street children. In 2015, MindLeaps concentrated on developing a rigorous M&E system to evaluate the effectiveness of its program in collaboration with staff from Carnegie Mellon University-Rwanda and Drexel University.

The company currently serves between 250 and 700 children annually depending on the funding climate, political stability and health levels of the focus countries.

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



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