The Children’s Radio Foundation was incorporated in the US in 2006 as a 501(c)(3), registered as a charity with the UK Charity Commission in 2010, and listed as a non-profit organization in South Africa in 2012.

Photography: Sydelle Willow Smith & Makhulu
A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

In the midst of an ecological crisis, young people have become the most visible and vocal agents for climate action. The Children’s Radio Foundation’s youth reporters, over 700-strong across five African countries, are leaders among them – broadcasting information-rich radio programming on a range of climate issues, from food security to waste management. Their conversations are infused with the complexities of coming of age on the African continent, where the effects of climate change are being felt first-hand. They use radio to communicate their call to action, and host events to activate their communities – determined to let us know we are all part of the problem and responsible for the solution.

Our network of youth reporters in South Africa is tackling one of the country’s most pressing topics: access to education and the transition to employment. The 15 to 24 year old population is the most vulnerable in the labor market, with a 55.2% unemployment rate. Through a partnership with the DG Murray Trust, our youth reporters create radio shows that help shape public perceptions of who youth really are and what they need. Youth are keenly aware that many well-meaning educational and employment interventions are blind to their daily realities. They gather and share stories from their peers, family members and neighbors about the obstacles that make it impossible to complete school or get a job. The power of radio in the hands of young reporters with growing social capital creates the possibility for youth to influence decisions that affect their well-being and development.

2019 has been a year of growth, achievement, and challenge for all of us, and we are happy to report that we have not stopped dreaming. We want to amplify the inspiring stories and voices of young Africans that our reporters capture so well. So, we are going to launch a podcasting arm to our work. With a ten-year track record of producing quality radio journalism in Africa, along with 71 radio partners on the continent, the Children’s Radio Foundation is well positioned to create and to share powerful podcast content, both within Africa and with a global audience.

Stay tuned and stay with us - none of it would be possible without you.

With gratitude and much enthusiasm for shaping the future,
OUR MISSION AND VISION

A simple idea inspires the Children’s Radio Foundation: if young people are given the tools and skills to express their ideas and share their stories, they will be able to access a world of wider opportunities. The Children’s Radio Foundation uses radio to create opportunities for youth-led dialogue, participation, leadership, and active citizenship in communities across Africa. Our work is guided by a vision of young people shaping their own futures and strengthening themselves, their families, and their communities.

Since its founding by Elizabeth Sachs in 2006, the Children’s Radio Foundation has created a network of more than 2,400 trained youth radio reporters across five countries in Africa, who broadcast on local and national radio stations and via social media.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY OUR REPORTERS

adolescent health / climate change and the environment
hiv and aids / human rights / inequality and opportunity
lgbti+ rights / migration and xenophobia / violence and safety

CHILDREN’S RADIO FOUNDATION IN 2019

5 countries with project sites
748 trained youth reporters
9.7 m weekly listeners
21 broadcast languages

RADIO EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES
144 lessons broadcast across Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo

IVORY COAST
159 youth reporters | 83 shows produced | 10 radio stations

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
125 youth reporters | 218 shows produced | 7 radio stations | 2 schools

TANZANIA
141 youth reporters | 258 shows produced | 3 radio stations

SOUTH AFRICA
245 youth reporters | 590 shows produced | 16 radio stations | 3 clinics | 1 school

ZAMBIA
105 youth reporters | 143 shows produced | 5 radio stations | 8 clinics | 7 schools
WHY RADIO?

RADIO IS AFRICA’S FIRST CHOICE
Even with the growth of digital media, radio is still by far the most common source of news and information across Africa.

RADIO IS EASY TO LEARN
With ongoing mentoring, young people are able to learn production and broadcasting skills quickly.

RADIO SKILLS ARE LIFE SKILLS
Learning how to interview, research and produce a radio show empowers youth, and builds their confidence, communication skills and critical thinking.

RADIO IS PORTABLE
Radio can follow you from place to place – wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

RADIO REACHES THE HARD-TO-REACH
Radio is the only form of media in many remote, isolated places. It broadcasts where newspapers and television signals do not reach.

RADIO BUILDS COMMUNITY
Radio reflects the concerns of the day and speaks to local realities. It is a dialogue starter and an information hub.

YOUTH RADIO PROJECTS ARE INEXPENSIVE
Radio reaches an audience of millions in a cost-effective way.
SOUTH AFRICA

The Children’s Radio Foundation hosts MMX19

YOUTH REPORTERS TAKE THE STAGE AT SOUTH AFRICA’S LEADING JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

Nokuthula Mabuza is from Emalahleni, an industrial town in South Africa where life revolves around the coal mines that are the backbone of the local community. Despite producing so much of the nation’s coal that is used to power electric plants, many residents of Emalahleni live without electricity. Nokuthula knows firsthand the effect of mining on the health of her friends and family, and sees her neighbors cut down trees just to bring some warmth into their homes. As a mentor of youth reporters in Emalahleni, she uses her voice to call attention to these issues on local radio, and to get listeners thinking about climate change solutions and collective action. In September, she travelled to Cape Town to tell the attendees of the MMX19 conference her community’s story, and to show them the critical role that young voices play in journalism in South Africa.

In 2019, the Children’s Radio Foundation assumed leadership of the Menell Media Exchange (MMX) conference called “News for the Next Generation.” It was organized in partnership with the South Africa Media Innovation Program. Founded by and supported through the patronage of Mary Menell Zients and Jeff Zients, MMX provides an opportunity for exchange among those working in the broader media landscape in South Africa, including media owners and managers, non-profits, journalists, tech developers, scholars, and students. MMX offers practical ways for journalists to improve their work, creates programming to build the media community, fosters networking, and advocates for press freedoms to enrich the practice of journalism in South Africa.

At MMX19, our youth reporters attended workshops, hosted a pop-up radio station, delivered speeches, and joined panel discussions on specific topics of interest. One of the most inspirational moments of the day was Nokuthula’s speech during which she implored media stakeholders not to leave out local communities when reporting on the “big elephant” that impacts everyone – climate change.

“...I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY ADULTS WHO HAD THE RIGHT TO SPEAK, BUT NOW I KNOW THAT OUR WORDS HAVE VALUE AND MATTER TO PEOPLE...”

YOUNG LISTENER

OLIVE, WILFRIED, INÈS, AND ANGE
ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST

IVORY COAST

Bringing Youth Voices to the Public Debate

YOUNG REPORTERS ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE WITH LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT

Twelve-year-old reporter, Yoh Grace Prunelle from Man, Ivory Coast was shocked to discover how prevalent child labor is in her country. She and her fellow youth reporters were inspired to share the often-painful stories of these working children on their radio broadcasts, and they got community members to understand what it meant for their future. They realized that by using their field recorders to capture the stories of some of these children, they could get an immediate response from decision-makers. On World Radio Day, Yoh Grace brought youth voices from their community to Parliament to advocate for these children’s rights. Members of parliament were moved by their call to action, and committed to putting in place policies that protect the nation’s youngest. This response made the youth reporters aware of the power of radio and the impact of their reporting. On World Children’s Day, following the well-publicized death of a premature baby at the General Hospital in Soubre, the youth rallied in front of their provincial health department for better maternal and newborn care. As a first step in response, the hospital installed an incubator.

In partnership with UNICEF since 2015, 150 youth in 10 communities across Ivory Coast reach an audience of more than one million listeners with stories that cut across issues of health, violence against youth, access to education, and climate change. The broadcasts that matter to young girls like Yoh Grace, including early marriage and pregnancy, help to dismantle the gender stereotypes that are prevalent in Ivorian media and focus on portraying young girls and women as powerful agents of change. Becoming community leaders themselves, our youth reporters are forging stronger relationships with change-makers and developing networks to influence policies, programs, and decisions affecting adolescent health and well-being.

“I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY ADULTS WHO HAD THE RIGHT TO SPEAK, BUT NOW I KNOW THAT OUR WORDS HAVE VALUE AND MATTER TO PEOPLE...”

YOUNG LISTENER

SOLBIÉ, IVORY COAST
Protecting Indigenous Rights in DRC

YOUNG BANTU AND BATWA WORK TOGETHER TO END INTER-ETHNIC CONFLICT

Mbandaka, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is situated on the Congo River, a few kilometers from the Equator. Since 2014, our radio work in this city of 1.2 million people has reflected the ever-changing dynamics of the region, and the ways young lives are impacted. Mbandaka has been the site of regular Ebola outbreaks, which have placed huge strain on health systems and exacerbated widespread poverty. 93.6% of the population lives on less than $1 a day, and only 2% have access to drinkable water.

In this extreme environment, there is a further crisis of ethnic conflict between the indigenous Batwa minority and Bantu majority; the Batwa people face systemic discrimination at every possible level. Too often, tensions erupt into violence, causing widespread displacement. While also sharing information about Ebola and other pressing social issues, our youth reporters tackle indigenous rights in their reporting and actively work to break down the barriers of access for all Batwa people.

Youth reporter, Simplice, admits he held many prejudices against Batwa people. He did not want to interact with them when roaming the streets of the city where he spent most of his time before becoming a youth reporter. As he began working with peers and interviewing community members from different ethnic backgrounds, his thinking began to change. Eventually, he forged a close friendship with Mpia, a Batwa youth. This relationship inspired him to create Mujade, a youth association that brings together Batwa and Bantu communities.

Long held beliefs can be difficult to change, and bringing together young people from these two communities is challenging. They are often reminded that their friendships do not obey local customs. Nevertheless, Simplice and his friends are determined to be the pioneers of a new generation in which Bantu and Batwa respect one another and work together for the development of their communities.
LEVERAGING THE POWER OF PODCASTING TO ADVANCE LGBTI+ RIGHTS

Mohammed, who is a 22 year-old LGBTI+ activist, struggles to live freely as a young Muslim who also identifies as pansexual. Though Mohammed grew up in the culturally diverse university town of Pietermaritzburg in South Africa, many people in his community abide by the strict belief that homosexuality is forbidden within the practice of Islam. He often feels judged by his family and friends and, at times, has considered taking his own life. Yet, Mohammed knew that he was not the only one being shamed and ostracized for their gender identity or sexual orientation. He wanted to help build a platform for more people to speak out. When the chance arose for him to join our podcast training program with the Gay and Lesbian Network in his home town, Mohammed seized the opportunity.

Our LGBTI+ podcast training program partners with activists who have an interest in radio and audio storytelling, and who are seeking to harness the medium for their advocacy work. We have trained 37 young LGBTI+ activists in South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo through audio storytelling workshops. A critical piece of the training involves sensitization to the dangers of stereotyping, which perpetuates LGBTI+ discrimination and violence. We focus on teaching LGBTI+ terminology and encouraging young journalists to think about the complexity of gender identities and the diversity of sexual orientations as they create their broadcasts.

The first of two complementary workshops is geared toward producing audio that brings out stories of the LGBTI+ community, while the second focuses on communication around rights-based issues within a local context. Putting the learnings from both workshops into practice, Mohammed and the other LGBTI+ activists created The Queer Platform, which is a combination of mini-podcasts shared via Whatsapp as alerts, short story-bytes and audio diaries that compel old and new audiences to take greater interest in their work.

“MY FAMILY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND HOMOSEXUALITY, AND MY FRIENDS BECAME MORE SUPPORTIVE. MORE SO, MOST OF MY FRIENDS ACTUALLY DISCOVERED THAT THEY WEREN’T AS STRAIGHT AS THEY CLAIMED TO BE. I WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BE MORE OPEN ABOUT WHO THEY ARE AND THEIR SEXUALITY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEIR RELIGION SAYS.”

MOHAMMED & BULELANI PIETERMARITZBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

MOHAMMED LGBTI+ PODCAST TRAINING PARTICIPANT

SOUTH AFRICA
Storytelling for Advocacy

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF PODCASTING TO ADVANCE LGBTI+ RIGHTS

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MOHAMMED & BULELANI PIETERMARITZBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

MOHAMMED LGBTI+ PODCAST TRAINING PARTICIPANT
Creating Pathways to the Future of Work

Samukelisiwe just graduated from high school in Emalahleni, South Africa. She did well in school and is proud of her achievements. Her dream is to study medicine at the University of Cape Town, but her family cannot afford it. Upon graduating, she did not know anyone who could help her apply for college, and it felt like an overwhelming task to take on by herself. Then Samukelisiwe and her mom were invited to an event at her school, where they heard Siya Mokoena and his fellow youth reporters speak about planning for higher education and careers. Samukelisiwe learned about scholarships that she is eligible for and Siya suggested that she tune into their radio programs for more tips and support. Samukelisiwe says her goal to become a doctor now feels more within reach.

In South Africa, youth unemployment is not only a result of limited available jobs, but is a complex issue linked to inequalities in education, a lack of access to support, and the mental health challenges young people face across South Africa. We launched a program for radio training, broadcast, and outreach in five communities across South Africa to get youth and communities mobilized to help learners make it through school, and to ensure that every young South African has the skills and support to land their first decent job. Our radio project is helping to establish a national network of young people who are ready to use the data generated through the campaigns as the evidence they need to push for a collective agenda. The youth radio broadcasts also share information on local job-skills building and income-generating opportunities, as well as resources for psychosocial support. Our youth are creating a hub of information sharing and opportunity on the local level.

In his radio broadcasts, Siya is a voice of encouragement for his peers. He tells them not to fall into despair and what he calls the “trap” of self-defeating thoughts, but rather to focus on the next immediate steps they can take toward their goals.
IN MEMORIAM

JEAN LOUIS MENDE

In 2019, we lost Jean Louis Mende, a youth reporter from Mbandaka in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was brutally beaten and killed by an unknown attacker on his way home from school. His body was found by the roadside near the village of Bikoro. Jean Louis served his community as a youth reporter from 2017-2019, and his contributions will not be forgotten.

The shocking news of his death speaks to our ongoing commitment to use radio to create safe spaces and opportunities for young people to speak out about issues of discrimination, violence, and threats to human rights that have devastating consequences in people’s lives.
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK IN 2019

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS
Anne Levy Charitable Trust
Comic Relief
DG Murray Trust
Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation
European Union
Fossil Foundation
Gun-Free South Africa
Indigo Trust
King Foundation
M.A.C AIDS Fund
Mastercard Foundation
Médécins Sans Frontières
Media Development Investment Fund
Médecins Sans Frontières UN South Africa
Save the Children
Scholars and Josephina Lurie Memorial Foundation
Shin Chew Trust
Southampton Row Trust
Steven Nance Foundation
The 11th Hour Project
The Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust
The 11th Hour Project

ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORTED OUR WORK IN 2019

CHILDREN’S RADIO FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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The Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust
The 11th Hour Project

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SOUTH AFRICA SENIOR EXECUTIVE STAFF
Dr. Michal Rahfeldt, Executive Director
Nina Caldeghan, Associate Director
Thando Ntsi, Director of Finance
Arona Ngombe, Program Director
Clémence Pelt-Peirt, Innovations Director

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

Methapalo Michelsen, Senior Programs Manager
Ashley Ellis, Fundraising and Development Associate
US STAFF
Genevieve Dalton Parker, Research and Advocacy Associate
## Financial Summary 2019

### Revenue ($)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SA 2019</th>
<th>USA 2019</th>
<th>UK 2019</th>
<th>Consolidation adjustments</th>
<th>Combined 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donation Income</td>
<td>746,630</td>
<td>1,118,584</td>
<td>78,621</td>
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<td>1,943,835</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>1,118,819</td>
<td>78,621</td>
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### Expenses ($)

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<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<td>803,731</td>
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<td>61,452</td>
<td>9,735</td>
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### Change in Net Assets

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<td></td>
<td>-41,760</td>
<td>253,636</td>
<td>66,886</td>
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<td>280,762</td>
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### Assets ($)

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<th>USA 2019</th>
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<th>Consolidation adjustments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>10,949</td>
<td>176</td>
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<td>108,180</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>27,753</td>
<td>308,721</td>
<td>108,180</td>
<td></td>
<td>444,654</td>
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### Equity & Liabilities ($)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SA 2019</th>
<th>USA 2019</th>
<th>UK 2019</th>
<th>Consolidation adjustments</th>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td>308,721</td>
<td>108,180</td>
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<td>444,654</td>
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</table>

*Note: Led by certified accounting firms in their respective countries, South Africa has completed its audit, and the US finances are currently undergoing their own. United Kingdom numbers have undergone an independent examination compliant with UK Charity Commission requirements.*

### Our Efficiency

- **12%** Administrative Expenses
- **88%** Program Expenses

*In 2019 we surpassed our target operating ratio of 80:20 program to administrative expenses.*

---

*How guns links with...*  
*89% of rap perpetrators of women are...*  
*Influences...*  
*Peer pressure...*  
*Movies they...*  
*Buying them...at a young age...*  
*The impression that makes I believe that...*
“I joined the Children’s Radio Foundation in 2014 as a youth reporter at Alex FM, and in 2017, I became a Local Facilitator. Today, I am a Junior Project Associate working at the main office. I am proud of myself and how far I have come. Being a member of this team has not only impacted me, but also family, friends, and everyone who has witnessed my journey. It inspires and motivates a lot of people, including the youth reporters who I work with in South Africa. That alone is a big milestone with a heavy responsibility, but it keeps me moving forward.”

GABRIEL ITUMELENG TSHEOLA
JUNIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE,
CHILDREN’S RADIO FOUNDATION