

World Possible
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March 6, 2016

From Proof-of-Concept, to Proof-of-Impact

Dear Friends,

Last year, we set out on a mission to demonstrate proof-of-concept for our social entrepreneur program and our RACHEL technology.

Led by the efforts of Israel Quic in Guatemala, Bonface Masaviru in Kenya, the Samuels K. and M. in Sierra Leone, and recently Esra Kavetu in Namibia, we've begun to formalize a social-entrepreneur program that promotes local ownership, sustainability, and the effective use of digital tools in the world's remote regions. Supporting our entrepreneurs is our growing network of U.S. based volunteers, in-country expats, and U.S. staff. *The symbiotic relationship has worked to deliver locally relevant content to over 500,000 individuals in 41 countries around the world.*

In Guatemala, we welcomed Juan Reanda (formally) and Diego (informally) to Israel's growing team. Together they installed RACHEL in 65 schools, serving over 14,000 students, with teacher trainings given to 743 teachers. After having this work featured in numerous local publications and on local network television, Israel and his new staff, presented to Guatemalan Vice President Dr. Jafeth Cabrera and his Minister of Education, Oscar Lopez. The well-received pitch has led to further conversations as we have shown that with effective and repetitive training, we can use technology to enhance educational opportunity and lower expenses vs traditional print-based education.

In Kenya, Bonface Masaviru has nurtured an unparalleled individual network of partner organizations to deploy our technology. These relationships have helped source a half-dozen locally relevant content modules (largely in Swahili), and laid the ground work for institutional funding to support distribution of our growing East African package. Here we've come to appreciate the flexibility of RACHEL and the demands of a more rigid school system. By aligning existing content to standardized exams and showing how various resources can be a supplement to increasing test scores, we're able to better secure commitments for teacher and student time on computers and RACHEL.

In Sierra Leone, our long-time friend Samuel Kamara was formally hired by CAUSE Canada to lead a RACHEL program focused on early literacy and math training. The onboarding of Samuel Kamara and Samuel Momoh was a wonderful outcome during a trying time in Sierra Leone, and we're proud of the partnership developed between Kabala staff, CAUSE Canada, and ourselves. CAUSE Canada, with support from 60 million girls, through McGill University, will lead an evaluation and research project to precisely measure the impact and repercussions of self-directed learning in a rural environment. Supporting this program will be a key World Possible goal, as we move from **Proof of Concept** in 2015, to **Proof of Impact** in 2016.

"The kids are in the classroom, the teacher is there, no one is learning."

All too often we're reminded of this reality. Worldwide, and here at home, there's the unfortunate reality that there are places where youth aren't given the resources they need to learn. For many, the internet has become a small equalizing force, but for more, that equalizer does not exist. In 2017, we're going to test RACHEL against as many different use cases as we can. We'll be formalizing our own testing through our social entrepreneurs, and intimately supporting a narrower group of other organizations from the Oregon Youth Authority in Juvenile corrections to Ambassador Enterprises in Liberia to the aforementioned Sierra Leone study, to measure **Proof of Impact**.

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As we move into this phase, the one piece that just cannot be an issue any longer, is the technology. With a nod to Intel for the new Content Access Point ("RACHEL-Plus") and a sincere thank you to the dedicated volunteer efforts led by Sam Kinch (Hackers for Charity), and supported by Leon Amstutz (Ambassador Enterprises), Rich Segal and Manny Ackerman (Power Potential), Frank Martin (OYA), Gary Westoby and his Geek Squad (OYA – Tillamook), Jonathan Field and Ed Resor (World Possible), we're building a platform and solution to last. Services we once dreamed of, such as remote connectivity (Weaved), student tracking (KA-Lite), and in-house developed usage data, are now becoming a reality. Reliability we've always longed for, is taking shape.

The long-term culmination of this growing base of volunteer support will be reflected in new branding, that better demonstrates the collaborative effort around RACHEL. RACHELoffline.org will host this collaborative community effort, while World Possible remains focused on the field work and entrepreneur programs to effectively deploy the technology.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our donors, who share our vision and contribute the financial resources to make it a reality. We are so thrilled to formally announce the receipt of a three-year, \$250,000 per year, \$2 to \$1 matching program. It's an incredible opportunity for us to build sustainability for the long-term. The commitment however, is all-or-nothing, requiring us to raise \$125,000 in outside funds per year, to receive the additional \$250,000. If you're interested in more information, please reach out to me directly.


This contribution has the potential to lay the ground work for a World Possible, and global chapters, to exist in perpetuity. I vividly remember and appreciate all the people who have taken a chance on us to get us here. It's impossible to list you all, but I feel compelled to note a couple milestone individuals.

Some unique thank-yous:

- John Walker and Mary Altier – Our earliest supporters in this phase of World Possible's history, sponsoring lunches and health insurance while providing continual guidance and labor. Thank you!
- Joan Fuetsch, Rich Strock, and The Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley, CA – Sponsors of our first chapter program in Guatemala and limitless support for our organizational foundations. Thank you!
- Ed and Anne Marie Resor, John Brown, the Raspberry Pi Foundation, and Endless Philanthropy – You have launched us towards an exciting new phase of growth and sustainability. Our long-term viability is thanks to you all taking an outsized burden of involvement, financial support, and vision. Thank you!

I'm especially proud how many of you have stuck with us, through successes and the many learning opportunities we've had. There are also so many more of you who share in this vision and support our work in so many ways, thank you. We're looking forward to continuing to work with you to provide the most effective digital learning tools to the individuals most in need in 2016.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Schwartz
Executive Director
World Possible