

sparkventures

FOUNDERS REPORT

Summer 2020

JULIE TAFEL KLAUS
NEW Vice Chair

MICHAEL CAMPBELL
NEW Board Chair



STRONG LEADERSHIP HELPS PUSH US FORWARD

A note from Kristin Schrepferman, Spark Ventures' Executive Director

I hope this report finds you, your family, and your friends safe and healthy. Our partners in Zambia, Nicaragua and Mexico continue to confront the COVID pandemic with a profound dedication to protecting their communities. Support from the Spark Ventures family has been instrumental in getting them resources for protective and preventive supplies, augmenting their meal programs to ensure children and the most vulnerable families are fed despite closures, and much more. With the pandemic and the immense economic challenges it's created, we are committed to standing alongside them through the duration - however long that may be.

Here at our virtual "Spark HQ" we have made some exciting updates and additions to our Board of Directors by inaugurating a new Board Chair and Vice Chair. We also welcomed a new Director to our Board - our second in the Kansas City metro area. Our KC contingent also grew this quarter with the relocation of Spark's Marketing & Events Manager, Gwyn Thomas. We're excited about our growing network in KC, please be sure to read more about this blossoming Spark community on the back page of this report.

Please enjoy the updates here, and thank you for your continued support of our partners around the world.

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

New Board Leadership

Join us in welcoming 3 passionate and dedicated leaders to their new roles on Spark Ventures' Board of Directors

Zambia Then and Now

A photo essay highlighting the dramatic impact your support has had on our Zambian community partners

Save the Date - Fall Virtual Gala

Our Fall Gala will be virtual, but the impact of your support will be real

AND MORE...

GETTING TO KNOW SPARK'S NEWEST LEADERS

We recently inducted a new Board Chair and Vice Chair, and welcomed a new member to Spark Ventures' Board of Directors. Here's a glimpse of three passionate and dedicated individuals who are working behind the scenes to ensure Spark Ventures maximizes the impact of your donations to do the most good for our partners around the world.



Daredevil Mike, overlooking Victoria Falls from the "Devil's Pool" on a 2019 trip to Zambia.

Michael Campbell // NEW Board Chair

Michael Campbell joined Spark's Board of Directors in 2018. He has over 30 years of experience in enterprise technology, currently as the CEO of Fusion Risk Management, the leader in Business Continuity and Risk Management solutions. He is a strong leader and brings a unique global perspective along with strategic insight to Spark's Board. Michael is a proud father of three beautiful and intelligent daughters and currently lives in Chicago. Michael's experience, skills, and dedication to Spark's mission make him a valuable asset to our Board...not to mention his sense of humor! We're grateful for his commitment to this important role.



Julie (right) sits with Spark Ventures' Executive Director, Kristin to learn about the crafts made in the Women's Entrepreneur Program at our partner in Mexico.

Julie Tafel Klaus // NEW Vice Chair

Julie Tafel Klaus and one of her daughters first traveled with Spark to Nicaragua in 2016. Then shortly after returning home, Julie joined our Board. She has since visited our partners in Mexico and Zambia multiple times. Julie has spent the past 15 years focused on philanthropic efforts - serving on several non-profit Boards and chairing numerous fundraising events for a variety of organizations. Julie's experience in the non-profit sector along with her compassion, creativity, and collaborative approach to leadership makes her an excellent Vice Chairperson. We are so fortunate to have Julie in such an important leadership role.



Vicki (right) along with fellow KC area Board member, Sue Bernstein with Hope Community School's co-founder from Zambia, Margaret Mumba in Kansas City after the 2019 Fall Gala.

Vicki Kraft // NEW Board Member

We had the pleasure of interviewing our newest Board member for a recent Spark Ventures blog post. Find the full interview at sparkventures.org/blog.

Welcome, Vicki! Tell us about your first encounter with Spark & what made you want to become more involved?

Several years ago, my dear friend Sue Bernstein invited my husband Jon and me to a dinner program to learn more about Spark. We were so impressed by the mission and dramatic impact the organization has around the world.

Tell us about your travel experience to our partner in Mexico. What was the highlight or most memorable part of your trip?

I loved meeting the wonderful women who lead Entreamigos, and the darling children who enjoy the services and activities at the community center. It is such a beautiful area, and the time we spent at the beach was so enjoyable.

What are you most looking forward to in the coming year as a member of the Spark Ventures Board of Directors?

I will be participating on the Partner's Committee and the Events Committee and I'm so excited about our upcoming plans to strengthen existing programs and develop new programs, including more "virtual" activities, and expanding our presence in the Kansas City, Missouri community.



Vicki and her husband Jon on their trip to meet our partner, Entreamigos in Mexico.

ZAMBIA: THEN AND NOW

In 2006 our 3 co-founders met the visionary leaders at our Zambian partner organization, Hope Ministries. Since then, the support of the Spark Ventures community has allowed Hope to make significant investments in bringing their vision for their community to life. Today, we celebrate the incredible progress that has been made with the below photo essay.



2006 // Hope Community School operated out of a rented facility and students attended school in shifts due to over-capacity. The teachers were volunteers, there were no textbooks and they served roughly 70 students.



A rented home served as an orphanage for a small number of the communities' most at-risk youth.



With no regular meal program or other healthcare offerings, many students came to school hungry and battled preventable medical challenges.



TODAY // Serving over 400 students, Hope Community School now has its own campus, boasting multiple classroom buildings, a clinic, an orphanage, appropriate hygiene facilities, with 17 paid teachers on staff.



A new library facility provides access to quality reading materials and teaching resources.



Bi-annual clinics help to ensure Hope students are healthy and ready to achieve their potential.



With a dedicated orphanage building on Hope's campus, highly vulnerable youth receive a quality education, healthcare, healthy meals, and loving support from their housemothers, social workers, and peers.



The robust daily meal program now includes fresh vegetables from Hope's nearby farm. The vegetables supplement the meal program and are sold at local markets to provide sustainable income for Hope School.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put major strains on Hope, as well as Las Tías (our partners in Nicaragua) and Entreamigos (our partners in Mexico). To contribute to our emergency fund for urgent needs, visit: sparkventures.org/COVID



you're invited to **sparkventures'** annual

Fall Gala

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL FALL GALA

Join us virtually on Thursday, October 22, 2020, 7 PM CST as we celebrate Spark Ventures' work to empower future leaders in Zambia, Nicaragua and Mexico.

Although the event is virtual, the impact of your support is real. The funding raised at this annual event is critically important to our partners, now more than ever during the global health crisis.

Our Wine & Dine event this spring was our first step into the world of virtual events and it resulted in an incredibly vibrant gathering of the Spark Ventures community, squeezed into a Zoom screen and broadcast around the world. At our Fall Gala, we promise more virtual visits to our partner organizations, lively auction bidding and more surprises. We hope you will join us! Register and learn more at: sparkventures.org/fallgala

Featuring our Growing Kansas City Metro Area Spark Ventures Community

Spark Ventures' HQ and the majority of our family of supporters reside in Chicago. But, in recent years, we have been thrilled to see a blossoming community of supporters, travelers, event attendees and Spark advocates in the Kansas City area. We look forward to expanding this new hub of Spark Ventures in the coming year. Here are just a few of the supporters anchoring the KC outpost:

Gwyn Thomas (Spark Ventures' Marketing and Events Manager)

Sue Bernstein (Board Member) + Paul Denzer

Vicki Kraft (Board Member) + Jon Kraft

Carol + Tom Barnett

JJ Janecek

Susan Frazier-Stites + Jim Stites

Sara Dippel + Prairie Elementary School

Tenaya Rhinehart + University Academy

+ many more...

Know someone in KC who might want to learn more? Let Gwyn know - gthomas@sparkventures.org

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View this report online: sparkventures.org/foundersreport