



# Somali Hope Foundation

[www.somalihopefoundation.ca](http://www.somalihopefoundation.ca)

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## **OUR MISSION**

- Help children develop a passion for learning
- Identify and overcome barriers to education
- Build schools and facilities for a successful learning environment
- Reach out to poor and destitute children in Somalia and offer free education
- Reduce the illiteracy rate in Somalia, and assist children in breaking the cycle of poverty
- Deliver high quality 21st century educational models to achieve high standards
- Support sustainability through a community led approach

## **OUR VISION**

We envision a world in which all Somali children can pursue a quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and contribute to their community and the world.

## **Our History**

Somali Hope Academy's development was a dream of Mahamud Elmi, an Ottawa resident who fled the civil war in Somalia. In the early 2000s, Mahamud Elmi became a member of the Ottawa Police Service. As a Somali-Canadian, he worked tirelessly within the Canadian context to build relationships and make a difference in the community he serves. However, in undertaking this professional journey, he continued to yearn to make a difference in the country of his birth, a country that has continually suffered immeasurably over the past 30 years. His dream was to contribute to a brighter future for the children of Somalia, and education was a key part of his plan. He envisioned a world in which all Somali children, boys and girls, can pursue a quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and contribute to their community and the world. It is this vision that guides the mission and values of Somali Hope Academy.

Somali Hope Academy is dedicated to providing access to education to underprivileged children. Education empowers individuals to transform their lives and the societies in which they live. It also makes people aware of their rights and opportunities. As such, the vision of Somali Hope Academy also follows the principles set out by the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

In 2008, with the support of the Ottawa Police Service and the Ottawa Police Association, fundraising efforts began in support of building our school. Through various fundraising events, and the generous support of Mr. Steve Lerner and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, a parcel of land was purchased in Bursalah, a small town in Puntland, Somalia. School plans were developed and in 2012, the Somali Hope Academy was officially opened. Today, in excess of 500 underprivileged boys and girls receive free education at the academy. The academy consists of a Board of Directors based in Ottawa and employs a headmaster and teachers to deliver the program. The academy also works in partnership with the local Education Ministry in developing and delivering the school curriculum. The academy further provides fresh water to locals and offers adult education programs to parents from the local village. The generous support of the Ottawa Police Service and the Ottawa School Board allowed us to provide laptops and other necessary equipment to assist in delivering our program.

Fundraising efforts allowed us to raise over \$150,000 to purchase the land, hire contractors and build the school. However, the annual operating costs of the school from administration to teacher's salaries, amounting to \$73,000 CAD remain outstanding each year.

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**SECTION 1****AN OVERVIEW OF SOMALI HOPE  
FOUNDATION****ABOUT US**

Somali Hope Foundation is a multi-faceted charity that is not only education focused. In addition to education, we focus on:

- Vocational training (first-aid and CPR);
- Nutrition (breakfast and lunch programs for students);
- Healthcare (hygiene and clean facilities for students);
- Disaster relief (famine support);
- Girls (early marriage symposiums, participant in “Let Girls Learn” campaign); and
- Children with disabilities.

As a result, the Foundation persistently seeks to undertake actions that promote gender equality and we are constantly seeking to ensure the barriers to education are not only identified, but also removed.

At the forefront, we chose to target education because we believe education is fundamental for the progress of all humanity in general and war weary Somalia in particular. The conflict in Somalia has been on-going for almost two decades with a lack of a public education system. Only those who can afford schooling for their children have the option for private, thus effectively isolating a large number of children with a pool of potential and talent. We realized that it is about time to reach out to the marginalized and the poor, so that they too will have a chance to overcome poverty and neglect.

## OUR PEOPLE

### Board of Directors Ottawa, Canada

Name	Position
Michael Stanford	President
Debra Frazer	Vice-President
Nasser Ali	Chair
Abdirizak Abdi	Treasurer
Olivia Genders	Charity Administrator
Joan McKenna	Member at Large
Goldie Ghamari	Member at Large
Mahamud Elmi	Founder & Executive Director <i>*not a standing board member</i>

### Employees and Volunteers Somali Hope Academy School Bursalah, Somalia

Employees
1 School Headmaster
15 Teachers (Early Childhood Development to High School)
2 Security Staff
1 Janitor

Volunteers
1 Social Worker
1 School Counsellor

## OUR SUPPORTERS

### Platinum



### Gold



### Silver



**Bronze**









## STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT

Somali Hope Foundation is a registered Canadian charity (No. 84819 1060 RR0001).

The Foundation is structured and managed in the following way:

- **Board of Directors**
  - Based in Ottawa, Canada
  - Comprised of seven members (President, Vice-President, Chair, Treasurer, Charity Administrator, and two Members at Large)
  - The Foundation's Founder / Executive Director also attends the Board of Directors meetings, but is not a standing member of the Board itself
  - The Board meets quarterly to discuss the progress of the Foundation. As a result, the Board closely monitors the progress and activities of the school
    - A monthly report is submitted by the school Headmaster to the Executive Director in Ottawa detailing the school's activities, progress and accomplishments.
    - The Treasurer closely monitors the school's finances and completes financial reports on a quarterly basis
  
- **Community Education Committee**
  - Based in Bursalah, Puntland, Somalia
  - Composed of seven members (three male elders, three female elders and one youth). The youth member is changed each year and alternated between males and females)
  - The Community Education Committee also oversees the school's progress and community engagement
  
- **The School Headmaster**
  - Located at Somali Hope Academy School in Bursalah
  - Responsible for managing the school day-to-day and submitting a monthly report to the Executive Director in Ottawa detailing the school's activities, progress and accomplishments
  
- **The Somali Ministry of Education**
  - Based in Somalia
  - An outside agency that verifies Somali Hope Academy School adheres to the locally set education standards
  - Conduct regular site visits to ensure our provision of quality education

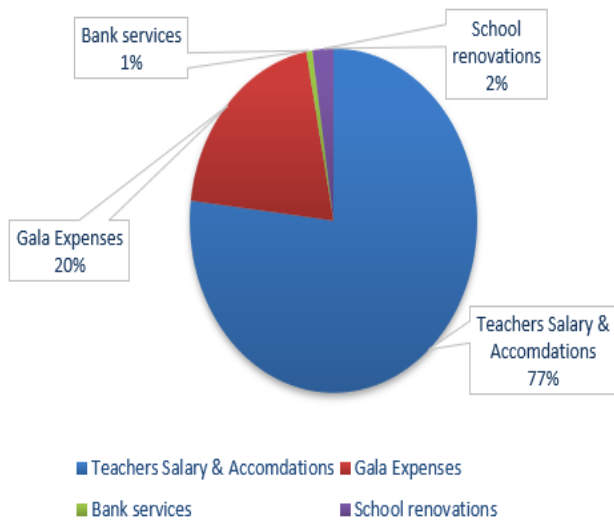
**TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Somali Hope Foundation is focused on ensuring the sustainability of Hope Academy School. We see immense value in our students and never turn a student away. This can be showcased in the fact that our enrolment has increased from 511 students during the last academic year to 688 students for the new academic year. The entire existence of Somali Hope Foundation is to provide free, high-quality education to children. This is why we do not charge students any fees. If students paid fees, it would go against our core values. Moreover, enrolment would likely drop, especially among girls. As a Foundation we never intended to build a school we could not sustain, and this is why we channel all donations to the maintaining the school.

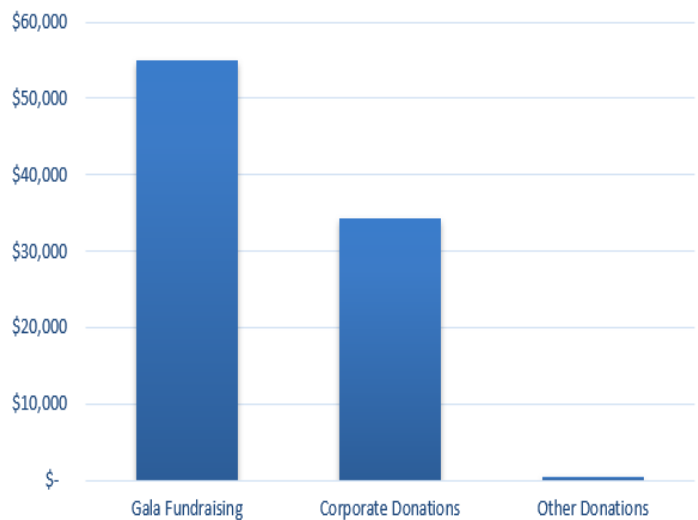
Hope Academy School operates from August to May each year. The Foundation pays the school’s headmaster, teachers, janitor and security guards on a monthly basis. The Foundation’s Executive Director, Charity Administrator, Counsellor, and all active board members provide services to the school as dedicated volunteers. **Somali Hope Foundation operates on zero administration fees, salaries, wages or honorariums.**

All funds raised by Somali Hope Foundation, including your generous donations, go toward the operational and capital spending for Somali Hope Academy School.

**2019-20 Operating Costs**



**2019-20 Donations**





**Somali Hope Academy Foundation**

3357 McCarthy Rd - Ottawa, ON - K1V 9G5

[Somalihopeacademy1@gmail.com](mailto:Somalihopeacademy1@gmail.com)

**Balance Sheet as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash in Bank	\$21,775	\$15,551
Net Assets	21,775	15,551

**Income Statement for the quarter-ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Donations:</b>		
Gala fundraising	\$54,975	\$36,791
Corporate Donations	34,244	49,566
Other donations	<u>599</u>	<u>515</u>
	89,817	86,873
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Teacher and staff salaries	69,061	71,945
Gala fundraising expenses	18,062	6,265
School renovations	2,110	4,110
Bank service fees	<u>622</u>	<u>2,133</u>
	89,855	84,453
<b>Excess revenues over expenses</b>	<u><b>\$(38)</b></u>	<u><b>\$2,420</b></u>



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

### Grants and Funding

Human Concern International (HCI)

### Members

Michael Sanford, President  
Debra Frazer, Vice-President  
Nasser Ali, Chair  
Abdirizak Abdi, Treasurer  
Olivia Genders, Charity Administrator  
Joan McKenna, Member at Large  
Goldie Ghamari, Member at Large  
Mahamud Elmi, Founder & Executive Director

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Volunteer your time

We are always looking for volunteers to help at our fundraising events. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [info@somalihopefoundation.ca](mailto:info@somalihopefoundation.ca).

### Make a donation

Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a charitable tax receipt. 100% of all donations received go directly to the school. You can donate online by visiting [www.somalihopefoundation.ca](http://www.somalihopefoundation.ca).

### Sponsor a child

You can sponsor a child attending Somali Hope Academy School for an entire year for \$120. This amounts to only \$10 per month. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please send an email to [info@somalihopefoundation.ca](mailto:info@somalihopefoundation.ca).

### Support an event or fundraising activity

Become a sponsor at one of our fundraising events and we will display your business' logo in our event pamphlet and on our website. For more information, please send an email to [info@somalihopefoundation.ca](mailto:info@somalihopefoundation.ca).

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

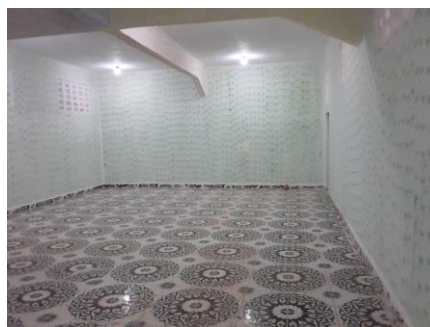
### Making Somali Hope Academy School Self-Sustainable

Moving forward, one of Somali Hope Foundation's goals is to make the school completely self-sustainable. Currently, the operating costs of the school are paid through fundraising completed by the Board of Directors in Ottawa. If we could achieve self-sustainability at the school to cover the school's annual operating cost, the Board of Directors in Ottawa would be able to focus on undertaking other initiatives in Somalia, such as setting up a school bus system, building a cafeteria, and constructing playgrounds and soccer fields.

Therefore, to achieve self-sustainability Somali Hope Foundation is working towards raising enough money to build a water well at the school. A water well would allow the school to sell access to the well to the local community. The water well would not only be beneficial to the school, but the local community would greatly benefit from it. The water well would represent a close and clean water source for themselves and their livestock. Additionally, the water well would allow the students to learn to grow crops. The yield from the crops could further be sold for profit.

### The Somali Hope Assembly Hall

A small assembly hall (200 person capacity) was completed in 2019 for the school. The assembly hall will be used for both school and community events, ranging from parent-teacher interviews to community meetings.



### The Somali Hope High School

The 2016/2017 school year at Somali Hope Academy School saw the graduation of the first Grade 8 class. The success of the students and their desire to continue their education has identified the need for a high school. As a result, the local community has undertaken the initiative to build a high school as an extension of Somali Hope Academy School. The high school was completed in September 2018. The Foundation covers the expenses of the high school including but not limited to, the teachers' salaries, learning materials and daily utility costs. To ensure steady progress, the Foundation is dedicated to adding an additional grade each year so by 2021 a fully complete high school (grades 9 -12) will be present.



## CONTACT US

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Instagram: Somalihopemedia