DEAR SBS FRIENDS,

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the world virtually overnight, and none of us have continued life as usual. It is times like these that show us what we are made of. I’m fiercely proud and humbled by Street Business School’s (SBS) response to the greatest challenge in our lifetimes. Here are two examples of the everyday heroes among us:

• Within days of moving our operations 100 percent remote, our intrepid staff was working around the clock to make sure in the time of greatest need, SBS was able to be a bold and reliable partner. Our team in Uganda provided health information and coaching over the phone to hundreds of women. Our training team worked furiously to identify and share key resources with our network of NGO partners in 21 countries.

The SBS team members weren’t thinking about themselves during this time, but about how we could continue to provide essential support to our partners. This culminated with us providing more than 1,200 cash grants to alumnae in Uganda and creating a brand new SBS module: Get Back On Your Feet, to help entrepreneurs re-open their business as soon as they safely could.

How lucky am I to work with some of the finest people on the planet?

• YOU, our community, have also rallied around us in ways that take my breath away. The economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19 is profound, and 85 percent of nonprofits have seen their budget shrink or remain static. Despite this uncertainty, we knew that in this moment of crisis, we must double down on our commitment to our partners rather than stepping back. We made a decision that even without knowing where the financial resources were coming from, we would be bold and expansive in our work.

When we shared our commitment with you, the outpouring of support, love, and gifts was simply overwhelming. With your help, we raised $166,000 and unlocked the Fred and Linda Milanovich challenge match of $150,00! You have supported us in this time of great need, not only financially, but through the belief in us that empower us to renew the fight each and every day. Because of your generosity, SBS will bring training to far more people this year.

How lucky am I to have your partnership, and your belief in our work?!

We know this race is a marathon, not a sprint. The International Monetary Fund estimates that 100 million people will be pushed back into extreme poverty because of COVID-19, erasing years of progress. SBS is uniquely prepared to meet this challenge by helping people start small businesses so they can survive and thrive by creating their own jobs. We will launch new online tools and a virtual training program this fall, and create partnerships with large NGOs to reach more people in the coming months and years.

We are committed to a bold and ongoing response that will address the great suffering caused by this pandemic, and create a brighter future. Thank you for being an authentic partner during this time. This is how we change the world...together!

Devin

SBS Founder and CEO
Victoria Achola is an inspirational leader in her community. In 2018, she was introduced to Street Business School while earning the equivalent of $2 per day and was inspired by the idea that she could learn new skills and become more empowered. Victoria always knew that education and learning new skills was more valuable than receiving handouts, so she took the leap and attended an SBS workshop.

Like many others, Victoria has felt the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on her income, so she works harder than ever to meet her family’s basic needs. With multiple businesses to manage, Victoria wakes up at 5 a.m. to make chapatti, a traditional Ugandan flatbread. By 6:30 a.m. she is working in her garden, tending to the vegetables she sells at the vegetable stall she launched in January, which has recently become her most successful business. Her third business, selling secondhand bedsheets and bedcovers, has helped her increase her income to $6 per day!

Victoria cites her SBS training where she learned new business skills and the importance of saving. When her pit latrine collapsed recently, she was able to use the $95 she had saved to begin reconstructing the latrine. Without that savings, finding the money for the project would have been very difficult.

Since 2018, Victoria and her success has mobilized 100 women in her community to join SBS. Her dedication is especially inspiring to the younger women in her community.
Ginny Jordan is the Co-Founder of BeadforLife (BFL) and a long-time vision maker for BFL and SBS. She served as the first Chair of the BFL Board of Directors where she led the hallmark vision-setting and strategic planning that has defined SBS’ impact.

It was also Ginny who provided the initial seed capital to launch BFL in 2004 where it eventually became a thriving social enterprise. Ginny’s generosity stepped forward again when she so bravely became the Anchor Funder of the SBS expansion pilot in 2015 -2017. This pilot achieved great success, in large part, due to her willingness to invest, to champion SBS to others, and to offer kindness and encouragement.

Ginny doesn’t shy away from risk, rather she leans into opportunities that promise to create hope and elevate dignity in others. Her history of Board leadership, Wildfire level giving, and compassion for the staff and the women we serve define the character of SBS today.

As of June 30, 2020, Ginny resigned as an SBS Board member and transitioned to Board Emeritus Vision Keeper - a title most becoming to this guardian of dreams. SBS is so grateful to this philanthropic giant. She is a treasure to SBS’ past and promising future.
milestones & opportunities

MILESTONES
• Creation and launch of “Get on Your Feet” Training module and delivery of a Scenario Planning Webinar by the SBS Program team.
• CEO Devin Hibbard becomes a board member at InterAction.
• Held our most successful public appeal in SBS’ history raising a total of $316,000.
• Gave 1,200 emergency cash grants to support our community.
• Said a lovely farewell to our sister organization, BeadforLife.
• Adapted operations to be a fully remote workforce.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAAME AFON ABA YELBERT-SAI
SBS Advisory Committee member, Maame Afon Aba Yelbert-Sai, was listed in “100 Impactful Women in Development” by the Donors of Africa Foundation. This list celebrates African women who are making a difference in their communities through sustainable development. Thank you for your leadership, Maame! You are an inspiration to all.

OPPORTUNITIES

Thought Leadership
• SBS hosted multiple webinars with the SBS Global Catalyst Partner community to share updates on our response to COVID-19.
• Intentional Media hosted a webinar featuring CEO Devin Hibbard, Program Manager Phoebe Aringo and BeadforLife Executive Director Amy Yanda-Lee on “How to Collaborate and Fuel Resilience During COVID Times”
• Devin and Director of Philanthropy Tiffany Boyles participated in a podcast for Philanthropy 212 with Penny Cowden.

Immersion Workshops
Our Immersion Workshops offer a proven economic empowerment program for organizations working in many different sectors. Learn more and see 2020 dates at www.streetbusinessschool.org/immersion-workshops

FEBRUARY 2021 IN UGANDA

NEW 2020/2021 WORKSHOP DATES
ANNOUNCED FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT
The Circle of Sisterhood Foundation funds organizations working to remove educational barriers for girls and women facing poverty and oppression. We renewed our support of Street Business School in 2020 due to the program’s innovative approach, proven track record, and multi-generational impact. We’re proud to support SBS on its bold quest to reach 1 million women by 2027.

Ginny Carroll, Circle of Sisterhood Executive Director/Founder

In its ongoing mission to find market-based solutions to alleviate global poverty, CapCon is drawn to organizations that adhere to the ‘hand up, not a handout’ philosophy. Street Business School is just such an organization and we are proud to support their ongoing initiative to empower female entrepreneurs in economically challenged communities worldwide.

Erika Luitjens, CapCon Foundation Executive Director

In May and June, we held a special effort to raise funds to overcome COVID-19 obstacles and help us end our fiscal year strong. We are excited to share the final results of our “Standing Strong Together Campaign!” With your help, we raised $166,000 and unlocked the Fred and Linda Milanovich challenge match of $150,000 to raise a total of $316,000!

These funds are helping SBS adapt to COVID-19 and continue to bring SBS to women and communities where it is most needed. Special thanks to Fred and Linda, whose generosity is an inspiration. And, thank you all for the outpouring of support from our 161 donors who participated. You proved that when we stand strong together, we can make a big difference.
WAYS TO ENGAGE

MONTHLY GIVING

BECOME A GLOBAL AMBASSADOR

JOIN SPARK SOCIETY

GET SOCIAL

REFER A GLOBAL CATALYST PARTNER