



2020  
**SUMMARY  
REPORT**



**TOTONGA BOMOI**

Handcrafted to serve • Created to inspire

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# LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

The year started with a global pandemic, and it will end with one. What took place in between was fraught with school closures, work from home policies, event cancellations, and more. It was a year that tested many of us, including our partners in Congo. The border closure with Uganda prompted a rise in the price of basic necessities and, for the families we serve who live so close to the border, access to health clinics was cut off. It was a difficult year for many of us.

My personal light at the end of this tunnel was going to be the birth of my daughter, Imogen, in December. I planned everything; preparing far in advance my staff at Catholic Social Services as well as communicating with our partners in Congo, and working on this very report — all so that I could have uninterrupted time with Ryan and Imogen.

But life does not always go as planned. Imogen Rose was stillborn on November 7th.

A couple of weeks after her death, I purchased an ornament (pictured above). It captures the unimaginable pain of her loss, and the peace I often struggle to find and hold onto that she is, in fact, living gloriously in eternity with her Creator. I share this personal story with you because all of us struggle and suffer in different ways. If you remember last year when I wrote about my friend Esther in Congo, whose life was shattered when her husband died unexpectedly. Totonga Bomoï was there to console her through friendship and teaching opportunities. Over time, Esther regained her strength, to the very moment that she has been able to be there for me these past few weeks. Every day she sends me Bible verses and words of encouragement. She asks how I am, and how my family is doing. And she isn't the only one. So many of you have reached out to comfort me, to console me, to say you love me, and to remind me that we are all in this together. Thank you.



Katie Patrick  
Founder

*Katie Patrick*



2019 business-training graduates

# OUR STORY

Totonga Bomoi, which means *Build Our Future* in the local, Congolese language of Lingala, began in 2014 as an artisan cooperative in the village of Aru. Since then, Totonga Bomoi has grown and evolved to better meet the needs of our Congolese artisans and entrepreneurs, including partnering with Alternativ Global Entrepreneurs to provide business-training workshops, launching our Apprenticeship Program in the villages of Aru and Watsa, where we teach women how to sew, and by providing startup capital to entrepreneurs across the Congo.



In 2018, Totonga Bomoi officially became a nonprofit organization, as well as a verified Fair Trade Federation Member.



# OUR MISSION

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## HANDCRAFTED TO SERVE

All of our products are made by artisans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## ENTREPRENEUR EMPOWERMENT

We educate and invest in artisans and entrepreneurs so that they can create and manage successful businesses of their own.



## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Congolese artisans strengthen their creative talents by working together in local cooperatives.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

We value and engage in economic principles that respect the dignity of our artisans.



## CREATED TO INSPIRE

Your donation impacts sustainable growth and development in Congo.

# MEET THE ARTISANS

## 2019 Participant Profile:



**22** Women  
**2** Men

**18 - 56**

Average age: 31



**42%**  
Single, never married

**\$19.23 USD**

Average monthly reported income per artisan



**6-8**  
Median household size

**9.9**

Average years of schooling



**83%**  
Speak Lingala in the home

## Business Training

In 2019, twenty-four Congolese men and women realized their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs. The trainees spent one week together in Auzi, Congo, where they learned about business basics, ethics and leadership, record keeping, and much more!

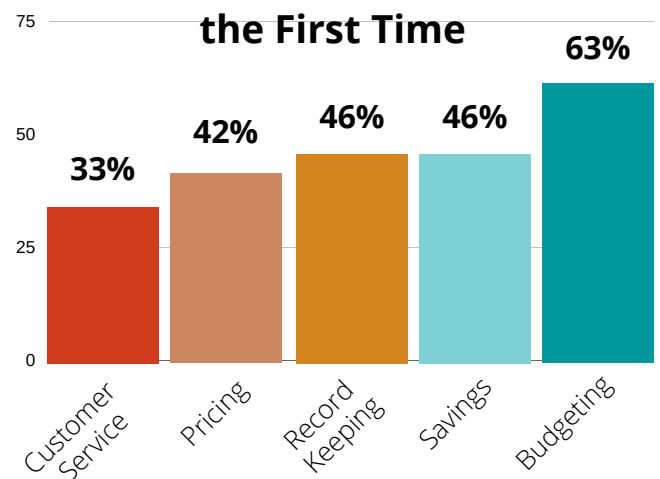
**75%**

Support a household of 6+ on only

**\$86.11**

Average monthly household income

## Percentage of Trainees Reporting Learning a Concept for the First Time





# ARTISAN SPOTLIGHT

## **Grace, 23 years old Aru, Congo**

“ I am from Butembo, a Musienene village in the Congo. My dad (deceased since 2017) was a truck driver, but my mom is still alive. We were 10 children in our family and 4 children (including the eldest) died. I am the eldest of our family now. I was desperate for lack of financial means for my survival because our family was really poor and there was no one to help us. So I didn't want to live because I was really unhappy. I looked everywhere for work but no one gave it to me. And since I would have to do everything to get money for food, I fell in love with a man and he made me pregnant. And it was the beginning of my ordeal. This gentleman abused me until to find food I would have to ask my friend. One day my friend explained to me about the sewing training at Totonga Bomoi and she even decided to pay the participation fee for me. I started the practice with my baby in hand. After 3 months of training, I was able to sew some clothes and I was already starting to earn some money. Here I am today, thanks to Totonga Bomoi. I am in good health. I never fail to eat and I have started to help my mom and also brothers. Thank you, Totonga Bomoi! ”



# OUR IMPACT

**\$3,600**

Total funds distributed in micro-grants & start-up capital

## Our Reach

**61**

Apprentices graduated since 2015

**38**

Entrepreneurs trained in 2019 and 2020

**428**

Total family members supported

## ALL graduates surveyed:

1. Plan to share what they learned with family or friends
2. Would gladly participate in future advanced training

**906**

Customers served by our cooperative in Congo during 2019

**85%**

2019 trainees reported using a budget one year after business training

**92%**

2019 trainees reported gaining significantly more customers one year after business training

*"The business training has changed my life. Now, I can better organize and plan for my future in my business and for my family."*





# A LOOK AHEAD

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR TOTONGA BOMOI IN 2021

In February 2020, we provided business training for twenty-three artisans like never before. Through a new partnership with our curriculum supplier, Alternativ, we were able to train five teachers in Congo to administer our business training.

In 2021, we will continue to follow this new leadership structure by empowering our instructors in Congo to train the next set of twenty-five entrepreneurs.

We are thrilled at the continual transfer of leadership roles within our nonprofit, as more and more of the decision-making and long-term goal-setting lies solely with our partners in Congo.

### New Initiatives in 2020



Twenty-three entrepreneurs received business training.



Our cooperative in Aru purchased an embroidery machine, button machine, and generator.



Plans have been finalized to launch a second artisan cooperative in the village of Watsa.

# FINANCIALS

REVENUE	
Charitable donations	\$31,872.28
Grants	\$1,000.00
Product sales	\$3,663.50
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$36,535.78</b>

EXPENSES	
DRC Programs 2019	28%
DRC Programs 2020	43%
Turbine Flats	10%
Marketing	10%
Stipends	6%
Fees	3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>100%</b>

For every \$1 donated  
**\$0.81**  
 went directly to supporting our programs in the DRC

**\$180**  
 Total cost of providing business education to one entrepreneur

**Cost Breakdown of Business Training**  
*60% Retreat Center*  
*20% Travel*  
*15% Instructor Salary*  
*5% Materials*



# DONORS | 2014-2020

*Thank you for making Totonga Bomoï's work possible!*

## \$5000+

Bill & Elaine Biggs

## \$1000 - 4999

Susan Ahlquist  
Barakat Ali  
Randy & Jan Bretz  
John & Norene D'Onofrio  
Karen D'Onofrio  
Ann Francis  
Michael & Marie Gilmartin  
Dan & Deb Hile  
Ann Howard  
Anne Johnson  
Jackie Kehl  
Jerry & Valerie Knapp  
Anne Koehler  
Barbara Marchbank  
Marian Sisters  
Shari McCright  
Dick Moronni  
Jack & Judy Pottle  
Mike Rerucha  
Albin Rerucha  
Sylvia Smith  
Malgorzata Topolinska  
Ross Trausch  
Tom & Makayla Venzor

## \$500 - 999

David Buck Beliles  
Connie Block  
Bailey Breems  
Ron & Sharon Hile  
David & Rory Hoipkemier

Maria Iske  
Patricia Krantz  
Lisa Lee  
Lincoln Community  
Foundation  
Larry & Penny Middendorf  
Grant & Kaia Nesbitt  
Therese O'Brien  
Jerry Ogren  
Katie Parizek  
Nadine Rerucha  
Peter & Christy Ruhl  
Scalpone Family  
Brian & Susan Schanning  
Sue Shives  
Terra Skoglund  
Anne Sobansky  
Peter Stemp  
Elizabeth Wisniewski

## \$100 - 499

Brittany Anderson  
Lane & Steph Barnason  
Chuck & Sandy Breckheimer  
Ryan Broker  
Andrea Brooks  
Jack & Eileen Brozna  
Monica Buscher  
Veronica Cardenas  
Doc Chaves  
Stefano Cherubini  
Emily Clement  
Gale & Lori Clement  
Suzi Coleman  
George & Anna Cunningham  
Timothy D'Onofrio  
Robin Dunkin

Jackie Egan  
Steve Flanagan  
Kerry & Diane Fry  
Mike George  
Grafton & Associates  
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David & Regina Hanis  
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Kambura Kathee  
Paul & Susan Kirkwold  
Nicole Knapp  
Knit-Paper-Scissors  
James & Deb Kula  
Mark & Janet Kurtenbach  
John Lane  
David & Sarah LeBlanc  
Ben & Kathy Logsdon  
Terry & Becky Lowe  
Joe Mara  
Justin Maresh  
Jeff & Tricia McWhorter  
Jason & Julie Meyers  
Asbi Mizer  
Abigail Nelson  
Wes & Anne Newton  
Aubrey Novotny  
Robin Pack  
Nathan Pickerill  
Patricia Pipkin  
Pat Polly  
Mary Prater  
Clara Quadri  
Faheem Rashidi  
Sarah Ray  
Stephen & Theresa Ray  
Laura Reese

# DONORS | 2014-2020

*Thank you for making Totonga Bomoï's work possible!*

## \$100 - 499

Jim & Anna Rerucha  
Evan Roth  
Gene Ruhl  
Marco Sacchi  
Christine Sarnow  
Rebekah Shapiro  
Bobby & Lydia Shyleyko  
Oscar & Stacie Sinclair  
St. Anthony's PCCW  
Ernest Stara  
Valana Stevens  
Christopher Stokes  
Tara Stone  
Gayla Stowe  
Heather Strait  
Ellen Paparozzi & Walter  
Stroup  
Andrea Turner  
Drew & Lila Vamosi  
Shiv Vansadia  
Terry & Dorothy Vavrina  
Matthew Wegener  
Amy & Austin Williams  
Kelly Wright  
Angela Zettler de Lozano  
Berrien & Nancy Zettler  
Duane & Judy Zieg  
Stacey Zynen

Kim Broker  
Rod Broker  
Anne Clement  
Michelle Cotton  
Renee Cox  
Rhonda Cronan  
Lauren DeSutter  
Rita Dorcely  
Graham Foral  
Britt Foster  
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Clint & Megan Haynes  
Harry & Karen Heafer  
Greg & Leslieanne Heibel  
Jean Helms  
Rosie Herold  
Wendy Hestermann  
Caleb Hile  
Leah Hile  
Landan Hile  
Kelly & Angie Hoffschneider  
Kelly Honke  
Jean Claude Hounou  
Carol Jensen  
Linda Kistler  
Matt Kohrell  
Lee Kreimer  
Lincoln Diocesan Council  
of Catholic Women  
Liz Loes  
Isaac Logsdon  
Larry & Marci Logsdon  
Paul & Kay Maize  
Joey & Hannah McCright  
Kelly McCurdy

Pauline Meert  
Network for Good  
Teresa Nguyen  
Clarence Novacek  
Seth & Mary Odgaard  
Irene Ortega  
Mark & Mary Oswald  
Nicole Owens  
Ryan Patrick  
Emanuel Pini  
Kelly & Mary Pohlen  
Mary Pat Reese Waite  
Craig Reier  
Alessandra Riccadonna  
Tyrell Ross  
Aiden Sartori  
Sartori Family  
Regina Schaefer  
Carla Schneider  
Bennie Shobe  
Diana Shum  
Josh Sims  
Ron & Elaine Snyder  
Mary Sommermeyer  
Mattea Sportel  
Colton Steer  
Erika Stewart-Finkenstaedt  
Audrey Svane  
Amanda Teckman  
Tyler & Katie Thompson  
Elizabeth Tronsor  
Andrew Whaley  
Ben Wheeler  
Michael & Susan Wilkins  
Sara Wilson Wittgren  
Ken Wong  
Drew Zeigler

## \$1 - 99

Allen Beermann  
Mitch & Maria Benes  
Lea Brandi  
Dan & Elizabeth Broich

**Katie Patrick**  
Founder



**Kelly Ross**  
Former Program  
Director of Totonga  
Bomoi and Founder  
of ECHO Collective



**Boniface Tatsima**  
Program Manager



# OUR TEAM



**Peter Ruhl**  
Board Treasurer



**Dr. Randy Bretz**  
Board President



**Tabitha Sindani**  
Board Officer





## HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Totonga Bomoï undertook an exciting mentorship opportunity in 2020 by helping former Program Director, Kelly Ross, launch a nonprofit serving local refugee and immigrant women in Lincoln, Nebraska.

ECHO Collective, founded in September, empowers communities through her opportunities; and the flagship program, The Refinery, provides refugee and immigrant women the opportunity to achieve economic independence and social capital through business education and professional mentorships.

In December, The Refinery graduated its first cohort of six entrepreneurs, who spent ten weeks learning about everything from dreaming big to marketing to budgeting—all with a focus on meeting their needs as English Language Learners. Their business education was supported by a community-driven curriculum that invited fifteen local businesswomen to speak to their expertise in a classroom environment. They also paired the entrepreneurs with an industry-specific mentor for at least six hours of one-on-one coaching.

To learn more about The Refinery and how to shop with our graduates, visit [www.therefinerylnk.com](http://www.therefinerylnk.com) or contact Kelly Ross at [kelly@therefinerylnk.com](mailto:kelly@therefinerylnk.com).

*To many, a dollar is just a drop in the bucket. But enough drops can become a tidal wave with the power to break down barriers. This is what we do.*

*We provide the drops that help the families of Totonga Bomoï become a tidal wave.*

For more information, visit us online at

**[totongabomoi.com](http://totongabomoi.com)**

or follow us on social media!

**@totongabomoi**



