

**THE AMAZING
J'DEN COX**

**TRAINING
SUPERDOCS**

**THE LAUREATE
ALIKI BARNSTONE**

**VISIONARY
DORIS EAGLE**

**THE INFLUENCER
KENDALL MALKIN**

**CHARITABLE
MARK MCANDREW**

**THE INCLUDER
KEVIN MCDONALD**

MIZZOU'S

SUPER

TIGERS

MIZZOU
MAGAZINE

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MICHAEL BYERS

WE KNOW TIGERS DO **WELL**. MEMBERS OF THE MIZZOU FAMILY WIN BIG AWARDS, LAND GREAT JOBS AND RAKE IN MAJOR GRANTS. BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE **GOOD** THEY DO? MEET JUST A FEW OF THE THOUSANDS OF TIGERS WHOSE EVERYDAY LIVES ENTAIL MAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES A LITTLE BETTER.

**SUPER
TIGERS**



DO-IT-YOURSELF CHARITY

Longtime donor and philanthropist Mark McAndrew has a new mission in developing countries: Help young people become healthy, educated, spiritually grounded, self-sufficient citizens in three years. Story by Erik Potter



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Mark McAndrew, BS BA '75, went to Rwanda to make sure the charity he was supporting there was doing what it promised with his donations. He found his answer in a roofless shack.

Rwanda is a beautiful country. Nestled in a mountainous region of central Africa, the country is lush, sitting near the equator, yet temperate because of its elevation. Its economy is fast-growing but small. The per-person share of the economic pie (per capita gross domestic product) is only \$1,800; it's more than \$53,000 in the U.S. There are millions of young people living at the margins.

One of them was named Mary.

McAndrew, former CEO of the insurance company Torchmark, met Mary on that first trip to Rwanda in 2009. He was there with the international charity ZOE, a Christian organization that educates and trains orphans to be self-sufficient. They operate in five African countries, as well as India and Guatemala.

Mary, about 15, lived in a shack with her younger sister, who was about 10, and a baby. She had just started the ZOE program. She welcomed the group to her house and told them her story. "Her parents had died, and she was taking care of her younger sister," McAndrew remembers. "She'd gotten a job as a housekeeper and had been raped. That's where the baby came from. She'd also contracted HIV. This girl was just — she wouldn't look at you. She just looked so sad."

In the ZOE program, Mary was placed in a group with 75 other orphans in their early teens who would become each other's family. ZOE does not give the children food and shelter. Instead, it gives them a plot of land, seed and tools they can use to support themselves. It helped them build their own housing. It taught them food safety



↑ Mark McAndrew, BS BA '75, is a giver. The retired Torchmark CEO has endowed an MU Clark County Flagship Scholarship with a \$1.4 million gift and an MU School of Medicine chair in oncology and cancer research with a \$2.4 million gift. He has also put 5,000 orphaned children through ZOE, a charitable program that trains young people to be economically self-sufficient. He is pictured here at a ZOE site in Rwanda.

and how to protect against malaria and HIV. It also teaches them about the Bible and encourages them to attend a local church.

When McAndrew visited Rwanda again two years later, he saw a transformation. As soon as his group pulled up, Mary ran out, grabbed McAndrew's hand and started singing and dancing with him.

She'd learned how to cut and style hair and was supporting her sister and baby with her hair-dressing business. "She was healthy and getting the medication she needed," McAndrew says. "She was happy. She would not stop hugging me."

Mary was in the first group of 75 students McAndrew funded through ZOE. He has since sponsored nearly 5,000 students and sits on the organization's board of directors.

"I grew up in Kahoka, Missouri," says McAndrew, who serves on the *Mizzou: Our Time to Lead* fundraising campaign. "The whole county had 8,000 people. I never dreamed I'd be able to do what I'm able to do."

"I've always believed that part of my success was that I gave back. That is, to me, what you're supposed to do." **M**

← Kenya is home to 2.6 million orphaned children and is one of five countries in Africa where ZOE operates. The skills ZOE teaches vary by region. In Kenya, the organization teaches children to carve wood and make clothes and furniture.