



Dear Friends,

Helen Keller's quote, "A bend in the road is not the end of the road...unless you fail to make the turn," resonates this year more than ever.

Like many individuals and organizations, OMPACO began 2020 with ambitious aspirations. Plans were in the works to sponsor our 9th in-person training in Tanzania. Excitement was building to fund our first in-person training in Pakistan. Data collected from trainings was accepted and would be presented at conferences. OMPACO was proudly putting the donations received from individuals such as you directly towards our efforts to raise healthy children by partnering with low and middle-income communities outside of the United States to advance access to quality medical and psychological services. Unfortunately, COVID-19 put a quick halt to our in-person training plans.

Although we had to make a turn to stay on the road, let me share with you what our organization has accomplished:

- In January, Dr. Nilofer Naqvi traveled to Karachi, Pakistan for a family trip. While she was there, she met with teachers from the Garage School, an educational institution that supports children from low-income areas of Karachi. Dr. Naqvi presented information about autism to a group of six teachers using training material created by OMPACO. Dr. Naqvi also visited two facilities that support children with autism and their families, the Pakistan Centre for Autism and I Kare, a newly established ABA intervention center in Karachi. Based on Dr. Naqvi's experience, OMPACO decided to move forward planning a formal training. OMPACO's goal is to continue to pursue future collaboration with educators in Pakistan.
- Dr. Naqvi presented OMPACO's work virtually in June at the Eastern Psychological Association.
- In October, a scholarship was granted to underwrite the tuition for the Nursing Director at Dareda Hospital to fund her second year certification course. The Nursing School at Dareda Hospital is a crucial infrastructure component supplying qualified nurses to a wide area in northern Tanzania, and support of that institution is vital to maintaining that pipeline of clinicians.
- We updated our website! Please check it out at www.ompaco.org.



This past year has no doubt been challenging. Rather than frown upon the challenges, I try to keep my expectations fluid and manage the things I can influence. I can promise you, regardless of the amount, supporting OMPACO again this year will directly affect the capacity of the communities we collaborate with to enhance children's lives.

Making a tax-deductible donation is easy:

- Send a check to 14 Curve Street Lexington MA 02420.
- Visit our website (www.ompaco.org) and make a secure donation online through Pay Pal.
- Use Amazon Smile for your purchases - select OMPACO as your organization to support, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to us!
- Use Good Search as your search engine - go to <https://www.goodsearch.com/> and select OMPACO under the "Choose a Cause" section.

I, and the Board, wish you and your family a safe holiday season.

Take care,

Amanda A Martinage OTR/L, M.Ed
President OMPACO