

## Oliver 'Felix' Wissenbach

## 100 SCHOOLS PROJECT





23<sup>rd</sup> August 1994 - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019. **9150 days on Earth.** 

10th September 2022

It's hard to believe that it's now three years to the day since we lost our wonderful Oli. That's 1095 days. In that time, so much has happened but in so many ways, today especially, life has stood still.

For us, today is a time to stop the world spinning. It's one of quiet reflection that's naturally filled with enormous sadness, but one that's also filled with pride, warm memories and gratitude. Pride, warmth and gratitude for the joy that Oli bought us every day – and still brings to us. Gratitude for having him in our lives, or in his words "the world better because I was here".

With your support, as you will see from this update, we have already created a lasting and meaningful legacy in Oli's honour. As we take stock of the last three years and think of all that's happened since that fateful day in Menorca, we'd like to express our profound gratitude to you, our community, family, friends and supporters, without whom so much of what we've achieved would not have been possible.

Since our last update COVID has now relinquished its grip on our freedom and life seems to have returned to 'normal'. We've finally been able to complete The Coeur Blanc challenge in Meribel – COVID merely delayed us, it certainly didn't stop us! As you read on further, you will find out what a significant impact this one event alone has made on our quest to build 100 schools in Oli's memory.

The ability to travel more freely has also meant that Stefan has been able to resume his public speaking. Oli now features in the keynote - with some very relevant messages for the audience about the importance of both Vision and Purpose. The Magic Future Foundation and its 100 Schools project (of which you are a part) has a really clearly defined Vision and Purpose.

### **Our Vision:**

100 Schools built, providing education for generations to come.

## Our Purpose:

The World better because...

A number of attendees at Stefan's speaking events have asked if they can build a school as a family or as a business. The answer is of course, yes! We did so as a family in 2013. We created memories that are more precious to us now than we could ever have imagined. As a business, we are also planning to have one or two teams of colleagues travelling together to build a school together. Can you imagine the sense of connection and teamwork that will result from that experience? If you'd like to know more from a personal or business perspective, please let us know and we'd be delighted to share more information.

As you read the updates on the following pages, just like us, we hope you do so with a few moments of quiet reflection, pride, warmth and gratitude. Please never forget that every action you take to support us, even something as simple as sharing this newsletter with friends, makes a contribution to 'the world better because' Oli was here, living our purpose and achieving our vision. Your role is important and we are forever grateful.

Love Stefan, Diana, Alex & Max

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#### **FAMILY UPDATE**

As a family this year we have found the loss of Oli in some ways doesn't get easier. As more birthdays and milestones pass we are acutely aware of his absence.

We continue to find comfort in the Magic Future Foundation growing and are in awe of the efforts and passion of people joining us to build 100 schools.

To celebrate Oli's 28th birthday on the 23rd August this year we all enjoyed a few days in The Cotswolds with lovely walks and delicious food. We also went to 'Gin School' and learnt how to make gin at The Woods Brothers distillery! We hope to be able to have a 100 Schools Project gin available to purchase soon, so please keep an eye on the site for more news.



Alex and Max continue to thrive in London, both having received recent promotions and both moving to new flats this year. Alex is now flat sharing with one of Oli's closest friends, who has become like a big brother to her over the years.

Diana and I will start our own new adventure in the not too distant future when our family home is sold and we begin a new chapter. Oli always embraced new chapters and adventures, and we are doing the same



## What an amazing achievement, something we can all be immensely proud of.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped us with our journey so far. We are now at an amazing 35 out of 100 schools funded. 17 of those schools are already built, or in build and 6 more will be built over the next few months.

With three ground breaks already commenced in late August, we can not wait to see 10 more schools built in the next few months impacting 1,000's of peoples lives for generations to come. Check out a full groundbreak report and get to know the community from the Malawi Build later on in the newsletter.

The sustainability and success of the schools is due to a unique, proven approach and partnership between buildOn, local government and the community. Equal numbers of girls and boys are educated, and many schools operate adult education programs. Our schools break the cycle of poverty, illiteracy and low expectations, transforming the lives of the attendees and communities they live in.

Oli loved to travel and was passionate about education. It warms our hearts to know that little part of him is at every school we build. As many of you are aware, we scatter some of Oli's ashes at the groundbreak to honour his dedication to making the world a better place. Oli would be so proud of how far we have all come.





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August Groundbreak Complete!

**Burkina Faso, Bodyr School:** 

August Groundbreak Complete!

**Burkina Faso School, Burkina Faso:** 

August Groundbreak Complete!

**Malawi School Number Two:** 

September Groundbreak

**Guatemala School Number One:** 

September / October Groundbreak

**Guatemala School Number Two:** 

September / October Groundbreak

**Nepal School:** 

October Groundbreak

Mali School Number One:

Groundbreak Date to be confirmed

Mali School Number Two:

Groundbreak Date to be confirmed

## BUILT

Mali - Fadie + Boundio + Neguela + Tienko

+ Bladie Zana + Diamou

Nicaragua - El Guayabo

Burkina - Kouri + Koubounga

Malawi - Mphowe + Kayereka + Kadifula

+ Kasambankhole

Nepal - Piplasaini

## IN BUILD OR TO BE BUILT IN 2022



**Two Schools** in Malawi

Two Schools in Burkina Faso

**Two Schools** in Guatemala

**Two Schools** in Mali

**One School** in Nepal





#### GROUND BREAK REPORT FROM BUILDON

# Magic Future Found that we are breaking school you funded.

Magic Future Foundation, we're excited to announce that we are breaking ground on the new buildOn school you funded in Mphongole, Malawi. Thank you!

#### How will the school build work?

Building a school is truly a team effort that often begins weeks or even months before the new school breaks ground. Your support is essential to this process, along with that of the community members, local government, and buildOn staff on the ground. **Watch this video**, featuring buildOn staff around the world, to learn more about our global methodology and school building process.



#### Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa with a diverse landscape, several substantial lakes, and a mostly tropical climate. More than 7 million Malawians over the age of 15 are illiterate, and over 70 percent of the population lives below the poverty line of \$1.90 a day. Nearly half of all primary school-age children dropout before advancing to secondary school.

About 80 percent of Malawi's population lives in rural areas, and the economy is heavily reliant on its agricultural industry which accounts for one-third of GDP and 80 percent of export revenues.

The village of Mphongole is a rural community located in the Kasungu region with a population of about 600 people. Most community members are subsistence farmers who rear livestock and grow tobacco, groundnuts, beans, soya, and corn.

Mphonegole by the numbers

482
Students

242

8

Grades

7 Teachers



## Old School in Mphongole

Now entering their second buildOn-sponsored collaboration, the community of Mphongle is in the midst of experiencing what educational growth can occur when students feel comfortable in their learning environment

Prior to 2021, Mphongole Primary School was operating out of four permanent and two temporary classrooms. As an educational institution that works to educate all eight levels of primary school, this format left at least half of the school's population learning in provisional classrooms or under one of the community's majestically looming trees. While learning in the fresh air can seem picturesque, the reality of such an exposed setting is quite frustrating for teachers and for students, who were perpetually exposed to loud noises, passer-byers, and a plethora of other distractions. To further their issues, when their region would be plagued with inclement weather, like extreme winds or rains, classes would have to be canceled. This abrupt interruption would often disrupt the year's curriculum, leaving students with the responsibility to catch up on their own.

Many students would be excited to enter into grade levels that were being educated in classrooms, however, these spaces also encountered their slew of environmental issues. Many of these classrooms were inherited from the colonial period or have been severely worn down over time., Although students are learning in an enclosed space, all of these spaces have leaking roofs, cracking walls, little ventilation, and an insufficient number of student desks. As a result, these spaces have also not been able to protect their classroom populations from the elements, exposing their students to various learning distractions.

Today Mphongole Primary School has six permanent structures at its disposal, and through this partnership, will be able to rid the school of its provisional classrooms.

With the next nearest proper school a 4 km walk over dry terrain, the community members of Mphongole were left with few options for their children. Through your partnership, buildOn will be able to provide the village of Mphongole with a proper school block and latrines. Community leaders and buildOn staff members will also be working together closely to increase the number of students enrolled in this school.





## Tryness

Twelve-year-old Tryness is a passionate sixth grade student and one of 482 children in Mphongole who can't wait to have a new school to learn in.



## Nelis

Like many parents in Mphongole, Nelis hopes for a better future for her three children so that they can help to lift themselves and their family out of poverty.



## Mr. Mataya

#### **Teacher**

As one of seven teachers in Mphongole, Mr. Mataya dreams of the day when his students can finally learn in adequate, spacious classrooms.

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MAKING an impact

We are pleased to report that the current number of students attending the 10 Magic Future Foundation schools built in 2020 is: 3,469. That number includes 1,893 girls - meaning that currently an outstanding 55% of students

## an outstanding 55% of students at MFF schools are female!

Since the construction of those schools, our build partner BuildOn has been working to enrol children that were previously out-of-school or dropped out because of issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the total of 3,469 students within the Magic Future Schools are 276 previously out-of-school children. The reasons that students dropout of school range from economic reasons (their family couldn't afford school supplies or a uniform) to education issues (parents not valuing the education of girls or education period).

BuildOn and Magic Future Foundation then help provide school supplies for children in need, income generating opportunities for families to help give them long-term sustainable options for supporting their children's education, and education for parents about the importance of sending their children, especially girls to school.

One income generating opportunity that we help with is supplying goats to families to help supplement their incomes and get their children back in school. The families can breed and sell the goats to support themselves; however, when the goats first reproduce the parents also have to donate one offspring to another community member so that everyone has a chance to benefit. In Mphowe a total of 102 out-of-school children (54 girls) were enrolled back in classes via this scheme!

When the children can return back to school; to help get the children caught up on the education they have missed, we provide accelerated learning courses during



their school breaks. When these courses are complete the students then return to their mainstream education.

Our sustainable school systems help break the poverty cycle one school at a time. The sustainability and success of the schools is due to a unique proven approach and partnership between buildOn, local government and the community. Equal numbers of girls and boys are educated, and many schools operate adult education programs. We are so proud that we do not just build a school and then hope for the best. Working with BuildOn we are able to continue to help the schools and students thrive for



years to come!

#### COEUR BLANC CHALLENGE



## READY, SET, SNOW

On Saturday 19th March 2022, over 80 people took part in the annual Coeur Blanc Challenge resulting in a staggering £315,000 being raised, funding 10 schools!

This year's Coeur Blanc Challenge was ably led by Pierre Taylor, a dear friend of Oli's grandparents. The event tests skiing abilities of participants and raise substantial funds for charities. Founded in 2008, the challenge takes place in the Les Trois Vallées in the Alps and more specifically, Meribel which is home to 52 ski lifts. To complete the challenge the teams must complete a full journey on all 52 lifts within the valley during the course of a single day. This works out at one lift every nine minutes! Teams can choose their own routes, but whichever route is selected requires skiing the descent and ascent of over 15,000 metres - or two Mount Everests!

We began the challenge with a ceremony on Friday evening where all teams and supporters met at Arpasson Restaurant which is located picturesquely on top of one of the mountains in Meribel. Here Stefan gave a short talk about the cause and reminded

everyone about the WHY behind the event. The atmosphere in the room was one of togetherness and emotion. With tears in our eyes a final 'cheers' was given before preparing for the torchlight descent down the mountain.



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#### COEUR BLANC CHALLENGE



If you have never seen or been a part of a torchlight ski, we can highly recommend it - it was beautiful. Imagine, 80 people skiing down the mountain in unison, with the only light being from the fire on the torches and the moonlight. There couldn't have been a better way to start the challenge.

On Saturday 19th, the day of the challenge, at 8:30am the first lift opened especially for the event and the challenge began! The teams embarked on their 52 ski lift journey which had to be completed by 5:30pm on the same day. We were very lucky and were blessed with fantastic conditions and glorious sun. Oli was definitely with us.

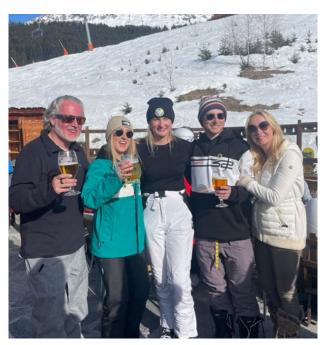
Alex and Max were taking part in the challenge as 'Oli's Olympians', they were competing as the first team to ever do it on snowboards! Max rode the challenge on Oli's snowboard.

Not even stopping for lunch, all teams powered through and completed the challenge - some even in record times! Oli's Olympians were the fourth team over the finish line and were delighted with their achievement.

We are deeply grateful for everyone's support and how the team came together for this year's Coeur Blanc Challenge. Funding another 10 schools is a monumental achievement. The 10 Coeur Blanc Schools will all be built by mid 2023. We cannot wait to show you the progress of the schools in build...

Want to be involved in our next big event? Keep your eyes out for an announcement soon...









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## Brick by Brick

100 is a big number of schools to build, but together with the School Brick Challenge we can do it.

Thank you to everyone who has raised money with us this year and have started their Brick Challenge. We would like to say a special thank you to Jack Hazel who has embarked on a journey to complete three gruelling challenges to raise donations. Jack completed his first challenge: 'The David Goggins Challenge', in March with Callum Ainsworth raising over £1,000. The challenge consisted of running a testing 4 miles every 4 hours for 48 hours. That's just shy of two marathons! Jack and Callums university friends supported them throughout the two days cheering them on!

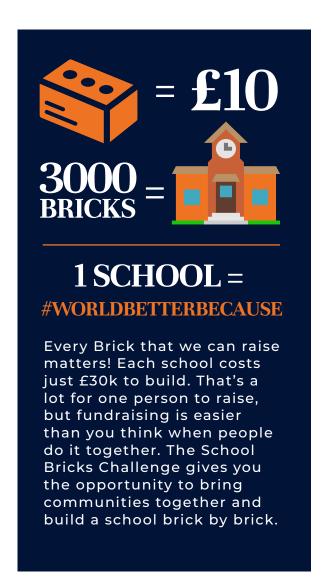


Jack and Callum were then planning to take part in an Olympic Triathlon and the Three Peaks Challenge in August. However, due to Jack completing the amazing achievement of getting into the Royal Marine's as an Officer, he now has to follow their strict fitness regime for the next few months and postpone the challenges. We want to say a special thank you and congratulations to Jack, especially as he is 1 of only 60 out of 15,000 who applied to be a Marine Officer that got in - what an achievement!

We would also like to say a special thank you to Zoe Taylor of RBC BlueBay: Creating a positive social impact in the communities in which we live and work is core to RBC BlueBay's culture. To support this, RBC BlueBay has a grant process that provides an additional budget for employees to request charity donations for fundraising events that matter to them. Zoe kindly suggested to RBC BlueBay that The 100 School Project should be honoured with this donation. RBC Blue Bay's donation has made such a difference to the Magic Future Foundation cause. Thank you!

Do you want to help build schools as well?

Well you can always start your own School Bricks Fundraising Challenge - it is probably easier than you think!



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E SCHOOL BRICKS CHALLENGE

## How to get invo with The Schoo



## Step 1.

Fundraise as a team, on your own, as a business OR as a school - the choice is yours!

## Step 2.

#### Choose your fundraiser!

Will you climb Mount Everest Base Camp? How about an adventurous Skydive? Or a couch to 5k? The possibilities are endless...

## Step 3.

### Decide on a number of 'virtual bricks' you want to raise.

Set yourself a goal - is it 200 bricks? 500 bricks? or even a full school at 3,000 bricks?!

## Step 4.

#### Download your fundraising pack!

Head to www.oliverwissenbach.com/schoolbricks to download your fundraising pack!

## Step 5.

#### Start raising funds!

Post on social media, print off your posters and put them in your office, tell your friends and family....tell the milkman! And watch as you sell your bricks and start to build your school.

## Step 6.

#### **BUILD YOUR SCHOOL!**

Every 200 bricks you sell, gives one person in your team the opportunity to book a place to travel and attend the build ceremony and meet the community who's lives will be changed forever for the better. Truly a life changing experience for you, your family or your friends.

## Step 7.

#### Present your school with their 'Poster of Purpose'. Everyone who buys a brick gets to 'virtually' attach a name to their brick.

Each name is added to a "Poster of Purpose" which is presented to the village to display within their new school. Inspiring the students each and every day to fulfil their potential and believe in themselves, because of all the fundraisers who believed in them too.

If you would like to get involved, please contact carol@magicfuturefoundation.org

It's that simple!!





## spread the word and some extra words

Use your social media and everyday conversations to connect as many people as possible to what we're doing. Oli's army is marching on - but the more troops we have on our side, the faster we will win!

If you'd like a copy of our social media kit, please contact **carol@magicfuturefoundation.org** 

### **Final words**

Firstly, we hope you've enjoyed our update – and look forward to sharing many more stories of success and the smiling faces of the children and adults who now have hope, education and opportunity as a result of your support of the 100 schools project.

Over the coming months, we will be sharing more good news stories and plans for future fund-raising events. However, as a wonderful community filled with engagement energy, we hope it goes without saying that any ideas you have would be very gratefully received. You inspire us.

We started this update by talking about quiet reflection. So, this is where we will end. As many of you will know, Oli was something of a whisky connoisseur. We will be raising a glass to him today. Whatever your favourite tipple, we hope you will do the same.

Warmly Stefan, Diana, Alex & Max



Oliver 'Felix'
Wissenbach

100 SCHOOLS
PROJECT

## **GET INVOLVED**

How to get involved to make the world a better place.

There are many ways to get involved and join our community.

#### ONE // Donate

Every penny makes a difference. Visit **www.oliverwissenbach.com** to make a donation.

#### TWO // Promote and sell Oli's Collection

Visit www.oliverwissenbach.com and buy a book, tshirt, canvas, hoodie or phone case....every item you buy gets us one step closer to another school - and all are great conversation starters!

#### THREE // Become a fundraising leader

Would you like to lead a fundraising campaign all focused on raising money to build a school?

Just visit **www.oliverwissenbach.com** to register and find out more.

#### FOUR // Build a school

Would you like to build a school with your family, friends or colleagues? Email carol@magicfuturefoundation.org

for more information.

#### FIVE // Spread the word

#### Lets get the word out!

Please follow us on instagram and facebook and share our news far and wide.

instagram: the100schoolsproject facebook: the100schoolsproject twitter: @100schools

#worldbetterberause