History

The Learning Foundation was founded as a U.S. non profit organization in the State of Maine in 1979.

Frances Richards, who devoted over 25 years of her life to cancer research and caring for cancer patients, provided the funding to start the Foundation.

She died in 1982 and this 20 year historical account is dedicated to her memory and the example she set in her life of always wanting to learn.

The purpose of the Learning Foundation is to challenge the way people think.

The first programs started in 1979 were partnerships with the Maine State Commission for the Arts and many schools in Maine to encourage teachers to use technology to expand the way their students learned. Twenty years later the use of computers and video programming is as common in American Schools as the blackboard was at the turn of the Century.

The Foundation began its first global project in 1983 in Africa. The three year project involved research and the production of a film for television about how Kenya had evolved since its independence. The film entitled **Tarzan Doesn't Live Here Anymore** was aired on public broadcasting stations in the U.S.

During those three years in Africa the staff of the Foundation continued the successful practice of coordinating with other NGO organizations so as to increase the reach and overall success of projects. While filming, the crew also assisted two German projects: the planting of acacia trees in eroded areas of Mt Kenya, and a research and demonstration project to control the tape worm cycle that caused severe illness among the nomadic Turkhana tribe in the Northwest corner of Kenya and the Eastern part of the Sudan.

A forest regeneration project in Robbinston, Maine was begun after the Kenyan project was completed. It was funded in part from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service on the 25-acre Learning Foundation site on the Coast of Maine and has been on