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2007 Safi School Project Annual Report

Dear Friends of Safi School Project/Safi Foundation,

Safi Foundation has now been in existence for two years. We have made a good beginning on our first school project at Ngateu Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania.

In 2006, we asked Seth Laiser, the headmaster, and his staff for their ideas as to what the needs were at Ngateu. As a result, the first project we participated in was the building of a retaining wall to prevent the rains from flooding the school (as had happened in previous years). Our project manager, David Mtui of Arusha, supervised the building of the wall and the adding of swales on the hillside above the wall to catch water as it came down the hillside.



The swales were a new idea to many of the staff and villagers and David met with resistance but after all was finished, and the plan worked, others in the village thought they would try swales, also.

Private Secondary education is funded totally by the fees the students pay. Ngateu is in a very poor area, therefore many of the parents are unable to pay the fees. Consequently, in the past, teachers were not paid on time, nor paid at all in some months. This made it very difficult to attract or keep qualified teachers. Safi School Project agreed last year to pay the school fees for 21 Form 1 students. These students were selected from the primary school across the road and were the top 21 students in the class. This has had the desired affect of raising the academic standards for this class and also for the class ahead of them. **The test scores for the Form 2 students were the highest they have been at Ngateu and the teachers are now paid on time, every month.** We continue to sponsor these 21 students and have agreed to sponsor 20 new top students - at least half of them girls - for this new year. The sponsorship costs \$400, which includes school fees, lunch exam fees and additional expenses. We are seeking a few more sponsors to meet our goal.



The roofs are now painted!

Clean water is another priority for Safi and for Ngateu. A well is not an option, so a water harvesting plan has been devised. The roofs have been cleaned and painted. One water storage tank has been purchased and next will be gutters, downspouts, more storage tanks (some underground) and a purifying system. Lacey, WA and Arusha, Tanzania Rotary clubs have partnered with Rotary International and Safi School Project to provide clean water for the school.

Another need identified, was a lunch program. Students had to leave school in the early afternoon since they did not have food provided. This, obviously, cut down on the time the students spent learning. So, a lunch program has been instituted. The cost to feed one

student lunch for the entire year is approximately \$60. Not all the students are able to assume these costs. This is a major concern to all of us. We are working on this problem and would be happy to have anyone join in this campaign. ***We do not find it acceptable that some students eat and some students watch them eat.*** (It would cost \$12,000 to feed all of the students for a year. Safi is providing the funds for the 41 sponsored students, several other organizations and individuals have provided help also. But the school needs approximately \$8000 for lunch costs in 2008.)

We now have a computer lab manager, Lembris, who was sent to computer school by Safi. The school bursar (treasurer) was sent to the same school and she now sends a monthly report of income and expenditures!

Our hope is that Ngateu, our pilot school, will become our model school for future projects. There are many things yet to be done.

1. A sanitation system has to be completed.
2. We would like more of the sponsorships to go to girls.
3. A solar power plan for the school is in the talking, dreaming stage.
4. The school now has books for a library, but needs shelves, etc.
5. Teacher housing is needed and, therefore, land.
6. Volunteers are interested in teaching at Ngateu - housing is needed.
7. We'd like to get the community more involved in the school.

A group of people is going to Tanzania in October. We will work at the school, go on a short safari, work more at the school and visit other projects. We plan to provide some classes in subjects that are not included in the Tanzania curriculum - whatever people in the group feel inspired to teach. We'll paint, build shelves, have an auction for the community and whatever else we can fit in that is important to the Ngateu community.

It's exciting to be a part of this Safi School Project! We hope our "one school at a time" approach will make a difference in the lives of the Ngateu community, the Arusha community and Tanzania. (We know it makes a difference in our lives,)

Salama,

Mary Nelson
Executive Director, Safi School Project

Although it may not be possible to help everyone, it is vital that we help someone.

What We Have Done So Far

Supplied Financial Aid to Ngateu Secondary School
 2006 Safi built a \$5000 retaining wall
 ✓ Safi contributed \$6,650 in 2006
 2007 Endowed 21 students with full school support
 Assured that Teachers were paid
 Designed and began working on a water project
 ✓ Safi contributed \$18,810 in 2007

Category	2008 Budget
Student Support	\$ 14,760
Water Project	10,000
Lunches	10,800
Project & Computer Managers	3,300
Operation Costs	6,100
Earned Income	(1,000)
Donations Needed	43,960

*In TZ, all school costs are funded from student fees

Questions? Contact info@safischoolproject.com