



Safi School Project Is Dedicated To Improve & Support Secondary Education In Tanzania, East Africa, One School At A Time.

www.safischoolproject.org

PO Box 8275, Lacey, WA 98509



We understand that there is really only one chance that these students have to get an education.

Safi School Project wants to make that happen. We are compelled to act. We can do something. Come, join our efforts. Support these students.

Safi School Project Newsletter

info@safischoolproject.org

December 2010

Jambo!

I hope all of you are well and enjoying the change of seasons and related celebrations. Safi School Project's Fall Auction was a great success raising \$19,000 through raffles and auctions. This is our only large fundraising event for the year. All other funding comes from individual donations. We really are a people to people organization.

The new school year begins in JANUARY 2011! Yes, that is just next month. It is always a jolt to remember that with Tanzania lying south of the equator, it is summer now, and school starts in January. ☺

Safi School Project is committed to find new sponsors for 20 incoming 2011, Form 1 students. If you are interested please contact us at info@safischoolproject.org or by mail at: Safi School Project, PO Box 8275, Lacey, WA 98509. For those of you who are continuing your current student sponsorship as your students move through Forms 2-4, THANK YOU.

Back in 2006, we saw that only some of the students had food at lunchtime. This disrupted education as students would go home for lunch and then not return for the second half of the school day. Safi committed to bring a lunch program to the school so the students would not be

hungry and they would stay for the full day. The lunch program began with a make shift kitchen and plans for a kitchen with a modern stove were drawn up.

Kitchen update – The kitchen is now built with new cook stoves. We thank all of you who supported the building of the kitchen. We also thank those who continue to support the daily lunches for our students. (It costs \$60 to buy lunch for one student for one year.)

As Safi members went to Ngateu Secondary School and spent time in the community, we began to understand how their water and sanitation were inadequate for daily health. Teachers and students were often missing school due to personal or other family member water and sanitation related illnesses. We discussed this at length and determined that clean water and sanitation are necessary ingredients of a successful school. We decided that Safi should try to change the situation and began our Water project.

Water and Sanitation update – The new latrines are built. They include a proper septic drainage system and sinks for hand washing. We are arranging for the well drilling to commence. This has been a complicated and long project for us and we thank all involved for their help and patience. HUGE thanks to Ken and Rotary for keeping the faith that our idea of pursuing a grant at this time was not an undoable one. Safi has now received a Rotary grant to defray part of the costs. The process was arduous for many reasons. After all, we are based in Washington while working in Tanzania. Rotary is monitoring the release of funds to the drilling company, funds include both Rotary grant and Safi member donated funds. Thanks to everyone who has helped. Special thanks to Harrison and Dorree for their support. Dorree is from Tanzania and understands how important this project is from a personal level. She now lives in Massachusetts. Harrison is her friend. Together they have set up information booths to tell people the Ngateu story and invite them to help. Harrison donated all of his Bar Mitzvah gifts to bring clean water to the students. Here is an excerpt from Harrison's D'var Torah:

“A young girl who attends my school was adopted by a local couple two years ago from a village in Tanzania. She lived in a mud hut with ten other people. The women in the village have to walk almost 8 miles *every day* to get water that isn't even clean enough to drink. When my friend shared her story, I had to act upon it, and so, along with a foundation called the Safi School Project, have been raising money to dig and build a well. This will be an on-going project which might take a long time to complete. But I have made a commitment and have to live by my word, which is part of my own Holiness Code. And, like the Israeli farmer who left grain for the poor and the stranger, I hope to help leave water for those less fortunate than I.”

We're always stuck that it is the individual heart reaching out that makes the biggest impact. Thank you Harrison and Dorree, for sharing your heart and so much more. ~ The Safi Foundation Board

January 2011, Purposeful Travel – A group of 14 Safi members leave on January 28th and will be in Tanzania for three weeks. Among the group this year we have a Girl Scout who will use the trip to earn her Gold Award! Quite exciting. Things we will do when there are focused on

the school but also include learning the local culture, visiting other projects and going on safari:

- ✓ Work at Ngateu Secondary School (most week days) – we conduct ‘serendipitous teaching’ sessions (Engaging the students in many active ways to learn English is one of our goals each time we go to Ngateu - and it is fun.); we’ll again buy a ton of books that need to be taped, labeled and shelved in the library; attend a School Board Meeting; dedicate the new latrines; move the well project along; and more.
- ✓ Visit Mwangaza Center where teachers and administrators get additional training to improve classroom results.
- ✓ Host an Auction to benefit the community.
- ✓ Visit the Plaster House (a place where children who suffer from too much fluoride and softened bones receive medical attention)
- ✓ Attend a session of the United Nations Rwandan War Crimes Tribunal (this has been going on for a dozen years and the really big offenders are being tried)
- ✓ Visit Sister Sheila’s Mental Health Clinic
- ✓ Visit the Orphan Project in Usa River.
- ✓ Safari to Ngorogoro Crater and Serengeti National Park, including a stop at Oldupai Gorge
- ✓ Dining and shopping (especially at places that support local crafters)

Many of you have helped to send over school bags and supplies. We are pretty set with those items (especially click pens). We carry items over in our luggage when we go and have found that with recent limits, purchasing school supplies in Tanzania works best. There are some items that we can make room in our luggage that we know are needed now. If you wish to donate them or donate cash to purchase them, please do so before January 9, 2011.

- Solar scientific calculators
- Kids clothes (new or gently used)
- Hacky Sacks
- Material – 4 yds, zipper, buttons, thread
- Reading glasses (x1, x1.5, x2, x2.5)
- Alexander McCall Smith Books (*The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* series)
- Greg Mortenson’s children’s/youth version of *Three Cups of Tea*
- African story books appropriate for grades 2-3 (Form 1 students read English at this level so the books should not be too childish in theme.)



Upcoming

January 28, 2011 – February 19, 2011- Purposeful Travel trip to Tanzania 14 Safi members will be at Ngateu to share and work at the school. Be sure to follow the blog at <http://www.safischoolproject.org>

March 25-27, 2011 Board Retreat – Shaw Island

March 26, 2011 Board Meeting – 10:00 a.m. PST

April 16th, 2011 - Annual Meeting (open to all members) – Lacey WA - contact info@safischoolproject.org for directions or if you can't come but want information.

October, 2011 –Purposeful Travel Trip - ~ If you want to join the October 2011 trip, \$100 will reserve your spot. It is a trip of a lifetime...and not your normal fall get away trip.

**Haba na haba, hujaza kibaba
(Little by little fills the pot)**

Kristina
Secretary, Safi School Project

P.S. Please feel free to share this newsletter, our e-mail and our web site with others. That is how we grow. Thanks www.safischoolproject.org

What We Have Done So Far

- ✓ 2006 Supplied Financial Aid to Ngateu Secondary School
 - 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 (ongoing)
 - Designed and began working on a water project
 - Safi contributed \$18,810 in 2007
- ✓ 2008 Endowed 47 students with full school support
 - Serving lunch to all students (ongoing)
 - Safi contributed \$35,276 in 2008
- 2009 Endowed 57 students with full school support
 - New Kitchen Project began
- 2010 Endowed 77 students with full school support
 - Supplied curriculum appropriate textbooks