

# Elimu Africa

## Education for Kids



## Announcing the birth of Elimu Africa

We are making it official. Our group of volunteers has been supporting the Second Chance Education Center (SCEC) in Tanzania. Now we have decided to further our mission to help African kids receive an education. We are in the process of forming our own non-profit organization which is called **Elimu Africa** and hope to have it official sometime this year. In the meantime, we will continue to work with Tanzania Life Project as a means to collect and distribute

funds and we will be working to develop our web site and continue support of SCEC.

Our small organization was formed by four volunteers from the US who had never previously met. These people, who by luck, fate, serendipity, faith, karma or whatever you want to call it, found each other and discovered a shared passion; simply helping people in Africa achieve a better life.

In 2005, Kristy Blick, an exercise physiologist from Minnesota went on an eight week volunteer trip to Tanzania, worked at SCEC and fell in love with Mama Lucy and the stu-

dents. Ironically, even though they live just minutes apart, Toni Dachis, an artist also from Minnesota had to go all the way over to Tanzania to meet Kristy. They were roommates with Cross Cultural Solutions and volunteered together for three weeks. When they returned home, they decided to work together to support the school. In the fall of 2005, Toni and Kristy conducted an email fundraising campaign and raised over \$6,000.00 for SCEC.

Dick McMorrow is a high school teacher and girl's soccer coach and is also from Minnesota. Dick was searching web links for possi-

## Elimu Africa

Elimu ni msingi wa maisha -  
education is life

Elimu Africa is a Non-profit organization dedicated to helping support disadvantaged students in Africa by facilitating their pursuit of education, which is vital to combating the cycle of poverty, disease and abuse. "Elimu" means "education" in Swahili, the national language of Tanzania.

ble volunteer opportunities in Africa and found Kristy's email address. After a couple of introductory emails, Dick and Kristy learned that they were not only both from Minnesota, but lived only 45 minutes apart! Dick, who teaches a high school class on Global Issues, is planning a trip to Tanzania in June, 2007 to work at SCEC. Not only is this a volunteer trip for him, but a mission to scout the area and plan a trip for himself and his students in the future.

Joelle Rosser is a college student from San Diego and is also a former Cross Cultural Solutions Volunteer. She found Kristy's email address on a web link and contacted her to collaborate on a project to raise funds for books and a pen pal program. As discussions continued, Joelle decided to get more involved in the SCEC project. She recently returned from a three week trip to Tanzania where she worked at SCEC and on a school project. Joelle is graduating from UCSD as a science major this spring. She hopes to return to Tanzania and work at SCEC for a year after graduation.

**Elimu Africa** a small group of volunteers whose mission is to support education in Africa, most specifically SCEC. This is done by facilitating donations, aiding volunteers in traveling to Tanzania and obtaining equipment donations for the school.

It is amazing that the world is so vast, but at the same time so small. It is even more amazing that this group of complete strangers who live in close proximity, across the continent or across the globe could have found one another and formed this special partnership in **Elimu Africa**. This just goes to show that just about anything can happen in life if you just allow yourself to keep your heart and eyes open.

## Thank you to all who contributed in the fall campaign.

In 2006, \$13,700.00 was raised through a letter writing campaign by four of our volunteers. How amazing is that? Asante sana to those generous donors whose hearts went out to these deserving students.

### 2006 donations were used for:

- Uniforms
- Lunch program
- Books and materials
- Desks
- Salaries
- Registration of SCEC as a Tanzanian Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

## SCEC Founder Mama Lucy Renju



SCEC was founded in early February, 2005 by an amazing Tanzanian woman named Lucy Renju. Mama Lucy grew up in very difficult circumstances much like those of her students. But despite that, she is a very intelligent, educated woman who speaks impeccable English and possesses a wonderful sense of humor.

Mama Lucy's husband, Dr. Peter Renju has a PhD in linguistics and has worked as a Biblical translator internationally. Dr. Renju has also put time and effort into developing SCEC despite a very busy work

schedule. The Renjus own and operate a lodge called the Honey Badger which is located next to the school grounds and provides comfortable lodging for international tourists and volunteers.

Mama Lucy is a busy family and business woman and believes strongly that the best way to help Africa is to encourage education and set an example of giving back to community. Her contributions include distributing bug nets, getting computers donated to schools and facilitating a support group for women with HIV/AIDS. Mama Lucy is a leader in her community and a true renaissance woman. When asked why she has spent personal funds and so much time on this project Mama Lucy replied, "Because nobody else will look after the children there at Second Chance. Growing up without education leaves children hopeless in society because they don't know their rights. In their ignorance, they will be the ones that spread HIV/AIDS and allow people to abuse them and to take advantage of them. That's why we offer them a second chance. It's about education that will carry these kids through a healthy and more just life."

## Volunteer Spotlight Joelle Rosser/San Diego, CA

Joelle Rosser, one of the founders of Elimu Africa returned to Tanzania for three weeks in December 2006. During that time, she met Mama Lucy and students, learned about current projects and had a little fun as well. Below, Joelle paints a picture of her experience there.

Brightly painted walls, furnished with new desks, a closet stacked with maize, computers, a new blackboard and standing in the middle of it all is the Tanzanian



flag. Everything is growing at Rau Secondary School where I taught two years ago. But two years ago, Rau Secondary looked much different. One gloomy grey building, students squished three to a desk, and no books from which to teach.



Wait, aren't I supposed to be talking about my recent trip to the Second Chance Education Center? Why am I taking about Rau Secondary? That's because right now, SCEC looks a lot like Rau Secondary did in 2005. During my time there I saw two scenes. First I saw the lack of resources; the unfinished stone-grey classroom, the faulty restrooms, the struggle to find money to purchase text books or desks. But the second thing I saw was the energetic activity; students arriving punctually for the start of the day, workers finishing up the construction of the classroom and Mama Lucy working to acquire materials for the start of the new school year. SCEC may not look like much now, but....

What I want to convey is a sense of energy and hope at SCEC. It may look like the 2005 version of Rau Secondary, but with the continued support of people who believe in the importance of giving these students their second chance,

it can grow into a beautiful and effective place to learn.

A few images from my trip: Singing and dancing with 150 orphans on Christmas Day, eating "mapemba za mbuzi" (goat testicles), mixing cement with the SCEC students and their parents to put up the new school sign and making friends at the market by being the klutzy mzungu (white person). And I will always remember saying good-bye to the students at SCEC and Mama Lucy who works tirelessly to take care of the underprivileged children in her village - and who took care of me. I can't wait to return.

## Wish List

### Urgent financial needs for the school:

- Lunch program @ \$1.00/day/student.....\$11,000.00
- Desks .....\$3100.00
- Books and materials.....\$2100.00
- Blackboard .....\$250.00
- Uniforms .....\$1,200.00
- Water meter.....\$300.00
- Toilet renovation - is required for government approval.....\$500.00
- Teacher and staff salaries .....\$20,400.00
- National Exam fees.....\$400.00

If you would like to earmark a special donation for any of these items, please specify this when you send your donation. A special photo will be sent to you with the final result of your generosity.

## Other ways to help

### Volunteer:

Make a trip to Tanzania and teach, do program development, construction, computer training or administrative/support work at SCEC. We will help you get a vol-

unteer placement and aid you with ideas for lodging and trip planning.

### Do your own fundraiser

Plan an event, do an email or letter campaign, plan a fundraiser at your children's school or church group.

### Matching Programs

Find out if your company has a donation program

### Grants

Let us know of any grants available for programs like SCEC.

## How to make a tax deductible donation

Write a check to Tanzania Life Project, write SCEC in the memo section of the check.

Mail to:

Kristy Blick:

6480 Balsam Ln No,  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

## To Contact Elimu Africa:

Email Kristy Blick  
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### Founders:

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