

Elimu Africa News Update, August, 2007



"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own." Ben Sweetland

In the development of Elimu Africa from its baby inception in 2005 as a tiny little fundraiser organized by two volunteers from Minnesota to the present time, there have been many moments of brightness. It is amazing the connections we are making all over the world with people who have the compassion to hold that torch. This has been a most heart warming and inspiring journey. We credit everyone who has contributed personal energy, funds or encouragement to be a part of this momentum of hope.

Fall 2007 Fundraising Campaign:

We will be sending our **fall fundraising letters in September** to friends, family and business connections. This is our only major fundraiser for the year and we are hoping to raise \$20,000.00! This will allow us to help the Second Chance Education Center (SCEC) improve facilities and staff to get government approval as an official educational center. This will make them eligible for government funds.

Of course we accept donations year around as well. If you want to make a donation, please go to our web site www.elimuafrica.org and click on the "How You Can Help" icon.

Achievements and news for 2007

Elimu Africa has applied for non-profit status and we are hoping the IRS will grant us 501c3 status by the end of 2007. In the meantime, we have developed a web site, an awesome board and a strategic plan for going forward to help support education for our partner, SCEC. In the meantime, our sister organization, Tanzania Life Project, founded by a group of dedicated Minnesota volunteers has graciously agreed to help us by allowing our funds to go through their established non-profit organization. This is offered at no cost to us. Many thanks to TLP for their help. For more information on the extensive work they are doing in the areas of water, electricity, and women's empowerment, go to www.tanzanialifeproject.org.

SCEC Update

SCEC Students Enjoy Success in National Exams: The first group of SCEC students took national exams to go forward into the government school system. Six students passed the exam which represented a 26% pass rate for SCEC as compared with the unfortunate regional Tanzanian pass rate of only 7%. This shows us that the students and teachers are enjoying a much higher success rate than their peers. And congratulations to those six students!!!!

Progress at SCEC: Things are moving along very well for the Second Chance Education Center. They now have 50 students. They are planning once again to send their higher level students to take national exams in October so they can re-join the government school system or go on to vocational training.

The Inter Community School Zurich (ICSZ) made a trip to SCEC in June 2007 to build a new classroom. ICSZ built one classroom last year as well. We are grateful to them for raising funds and helping with additions of much needed classrooms for the growing school.

Asante sana to the students, staff and volunteers from Zurich for their hard work and generosity.

Volunteer news

Elimu Co-founder Dick McMorro and his mother in law, Karen Keirzek traveled to Tanzania in June 2007 for four weeks. They spent their time working at the Second Chance Education Center. They stayed at the Honey Badger Lodge which is next door to the school and owned by SCEC founder, Mama Lucy Renju.

Dick worked very hard at the school and as Mama Lucy put it “*I fear your Mr. McMorrow is what you would call a workaholic.*” Fortunately Dick and Karen also made time to travel to beautiful Zanzibar and take a walking safari in scenic Arusha National Park where they got up close and personal with a giraffe. During his time at the school Dick:

- Purchased and installed three computers.
- Completed profiles on all 50 students at SCEC.
- Assessed the financial needs for the school so we can thoughtfully target our funds.
- Scouted projects and lodging for his trip next spring, 2008 with a group of his high school students.
- Made a beautiful video of the students at SCEC which can be viewed on our website.

Other Elimu Africa Volunteers Making a Safari to Tanzania:

Our **Vice Chair and co-founder, Joelle Rosser** will return to Tanzania in early October, 2007 for approximately a year. Joelle has graduated from San Diego State University and is taking at least a year off before pursuing further studies or a career. Joelle will be a huge help to us by facilitating communication, administration and continuing to assess the progress at SCEC.

International Elimu Africa Volunteers

A group of **college students from the UK**, led by Ms Puffin O’Hanlon, found our web site and after many emails between Puffin and Kristy, EA Chair, they made the decision to volunteer at SCEC. The five of them; Puffin, Jess, Steve, Alice and Helen raised over \$2000.00 in funds to donate to the school. They departed on August 12th for a 4 week volunteer trip.

They report they have fallen in love with the students at the school – like all of us who have gone before them. They are using their funds to complete the roof on the new classroom. Some are tutoring students and Mr. Steve Morris is developing a much needed web site for SCEC.

“Miss Africa” is traveling to Tanzania:

Kristy Blick, EA Chair wrote a song dedicated to the beautiful girls and women of Africa called “Miss Africa.” Kristy and several of her talented friends from Minnesota recorded the song. Now, Jim Vanderheyden of Tanzania Life Project is bringing the “Miss Africa” CD to Tanzania in September. TLP has a large women’s empowerment group in the villages and they are already learning to sing “Miss Africa”. We hope this will inspire them learn their rights, further their education or career success if they wish. We are looking forward to having the CD go to work to help promote gender equity. To hear a clip of Miss Africa or order a copy, go to our web site www.elimuafrica.org and click on the “Miss Africa” icon.

That is all our big news for now. There will be much more to report as we use our resources to help upgrade the facilities and staff at SCEC. We’ll be sure to keep you posted!

For now, *tas* (ta ta for now) and *salama* (peace and safety),

The Elimu Africa board, Mama Lucy Renju and students at SCEC.

For additional news and information, go to our website www.elimuafrica.org