

Nurturing
15 MINDS
YEARS



AFRICA



Fall 2023 Newsletter

YOU'RE INVITED!

We hope you will save the date and join us at one of our events and gatherings this fall.

September

- 20 - Rye, NH House Party
- 21 - Washington, DC Gathering
- 23 - Arlington, VA House Party
- 26 - Sarasota, FL House Party
- 27 - New York, NY Gathering

October

- 4 - Boston 15th Anniversary Event
- 12 - Weston, CT House Party
- 16 - Sebastopol, CA Gathering
- 17 - Mill Valley, CA Happy Hour
- 18 - Hillsborough, CA House Party
- 19 - Mill Valley, CA House Party
- 22 - Philadelphia, PA Brunch

Interested in attending an event or gathering? Email us at info@nurturingmindsinafrica.org for more information.



SEGA Director attends the Obama Foundation's Leaders Convening

Laina Mwandoloma, SEGA's Director, had the tremendous honor and opportunity to attend The Obama Foundation's Leadership Convening in Athens Greece this past June. The Convening united 100+ members from the global networks of the Obama Foundation Leaders and Girls Opportunity Alliance. This gathering enabled in-person sharing of experiences, best practices, and networking to bolster each other's efforts. Speakers covered diverse leadership topics enriching our learning.

The Obama Foundation generously covered airfare, transport, lodging, and most meal expenses in Athens. The trip was a valuable experience, highlighted by Laina's proximity to President Obama (seated next to him!) during a session with 18 Girls Opportunity Alliance members, including SEGA. His insightful responses left her motivated to carry out the challenging work of poverty alleviation and uplifting bright Tanzanian girls through education.

Laina shared, "Unlike typical conferences that inspire but fade, this experience energized me, gave us new strategies to overcome challenges, and expanded our networks with like-minded leaders working on similar issues. When I returned home, I shared insights with my team and am committed to sustained motivation for our educational efforts."

Among the 18 Alliance members, SEGA and Girls Not Brides (Tanzania) connected. The latter expressed interest in collaboration, with its founder keen on visiting SEGA. Another Tanzanian connection, FEMME International, is exploring a partnership to distribute reusable sanitary materials in SEGA's program areas. A post-Convening WhatsApp group maintains lively discussions and information exchange among Alliance members, augmenting on-going opportunities from the Obama Foundation.



Laina (far left) pictured with President Obama and other Girls' Opportunity Alliance members in Greece.

An Exciting Return to Campus for the STEM Adventures at SEGA Program

The 2nd annual STEM Adventures at SEGA program commenced on July 24th, featuring a week-long initiative where the youngest students at SEGA Girls' School immersed themselves in the role of scientists while delving into their surrounding environment! Accompanied by volunteers from different parts of the United States, alongside SEGA graduates pursuing advanced STEM studies, the program entailed a week filled with experiments and engaging activities.

Throughout the week, students observed the expansion of a massive balloon through the power of the sun's heat, successfully operated a solar fan using the sun's light, conducted searches for prokaryotic microorganisms in various water sources using microscopes, and crafted their very own weather barometer to gauge the climatic conditions in their communities. The week unfolded as a continuous sequence of exploration, inquiry, and adventurous experiences – all symbolic traits of the scientific endeavor!

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the STEM program in June 2024, please email us at info@nurturingmindsinafrica.org



Next Steps for SEGA Graduates

We are pleased to announce that 66 girls from SEGA's Class of 2022 have been placed by the Tanzanian government to continue their education thanks to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund!

In this group, 58 students were selected for A-level schools, while 3 students were selected for colleges that offer certificate programs. An additional 5 students are pursuing vocational training.



SEGA Graduates Pursue their Dreams with new Continuing Education Scholarship Fund

Our goal at SEGA is to empower graduates to achieve their educational aspirations and in so doing give them the skills and credentials to get good paying jobs.

In Tanzania, only 3% of men and women attain higher degrees beyond Ordinary-Level Secondary School (O-Levels). 98% of SEGA graduates are now advancing to higher education, pursuing vocational degrees, certificates, diplomas, and university degrees. However, 95% of SEGA graduates need financial aid to continue their education beyond high school.

Nurturing Minds established the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund to address this need. It enables SEGA alumna to achieve their goals in Tanzania, where women face a 12.7% unemployment rate compared to men's 5.8%. Higher education deters child marriage which affects 31% of Tanzanian girls (Girls Not Brides), and those who remain in school are ten times less likely to experience teen pregnancy.

Graduates with certificates and diplomas in teaching, accounting, nursing or records management can earn 6-7x more than those with only a high school diploma and university graduates in Tanzania can earn 12x more income than non-university graduates.

Advanced-Level Secondary Schools act as a stepping stone toward higher education. They allow students to explore many subjects, including Law, Human Resources, Science, Engineering, Architecture, Counseling, Financial Services, Insurance, Clinical Medicine, and beyond. Embracing the opportunity for higher education expands horizons and opens doors to rewarding careers and professions and as mentioned leads to much higher wages.

You can support higher education by donating to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund, ensuring SEGA graduates shape their successful paths by visiting nurturingmindsinfrica.org/donate



Striving for a Climate-Neutral SEGA

Nurturing Minds and SEGA have begun a transformative initiative aimed at becoming a climate-progressive organization.

Acknowledging the interconnectedness of climate change, social justice, gender equality, and education, we're committed to addressing the disproportionate impact of the climate crises on women and girls, especially in regions like Tanzania. Education is a powerful tool in equipping girls to navigate and strengthen their resilience against these challenges. We actively contribute to a more equitable and sustainable future for all by ensuring their access to education and opportunities.

Over the past 15 years, our dedication to reducing our carbon footprint has driven our efforts. Today, we're intensifying this commitment by focusing on curbing carbon emissions associated with visits to the SEGA Visitors House. We've partnered with Carbon Tanzania, a leading force in carbon offsetting and climate solutions, to achieve this. Carbon Tanzania's community-driven conservation projects align seamlessly with our goal of fostering environmentally conscious visitor experiences. The offset of unavoidable carbon emissions gains significance as these gases drive the global climate crisis, posing risks to health, ecosystems, and economies.

Together with Carbon Tanzania, we're embarking on a journey towards carbon neutrality at the SEGA Girls' School. Collaboratively, we're evaluating emissions and crafting strategies like energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and verified carbon credit offsetting, which includes offsetting emissions from international flights to Tanzania since July 2023.

Our partnership signifies environmental responsibility and the preservation of Tanzania's natural habitats.



DONATE

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