

Nurturing Minds NEWS

Change Our World,
Educate A Girl

Nurturing Minds Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 3, Mar. 2010




A Letter from Polly

The happy sounds of learning are now ever-present at the Segá Girls School! I am thrilled to announce that as of eight weeks ago, the 28 day students who had been receiving remedial classes in our non-formal program, officially took residence in our beautiful new facility and are on their way to receiving secondary education (8th through 13th grade). This is an amazing feat considering that only 20% of Tanzanians continue to secondary school and that this statistic is even lower for girls.



The dreaded Standard VII exam (a Tanzanian requirement to enter secondary school) is behind us and the year has started with renewed promise and hope. Over the past six months, our students' understanding of the English language has improved dramatically, thanks to the work of our Dutch VSO volunteer, Sandra. And our gardens are flourishing, due to the loving guidance of Lindsey, a permaculture volunteer from Vermont, and Frank, our security guard/gardener, who work daily with our students teaching them invaluable horticultural skills.



As we embark on our first year at secondary level, we want to thank you for your continued involvement and backing of Nurturing Minds and the Segá Girls School. We could not do it without your support and we are extremely grateful. Tunashukuru sana! 

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Contact Information

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Students Perform Far Above Average

The results from last year's Standard VII national exam are official. Ninety-seven percent of our students passed the test (compared to less than 50% nationally), and 17 Segá students landed in the top 30% overall. This is a phenomenal accomplishment since most of our students were drop outs a little over 18 months ago. It also demonstrates the importance of small class sizes, food, transportation and books in student performance.

New Remedial Students

On February 15th, 30 new day students joined our remedial program and are working diligently to "catch up" so that they can enter Segá's formal program in 2011. We had 60 applicants and conducted 43 home visits to fill 30 spaces. The students were selected based on personal motivation, vulnerability (poverty/being orphaned), and the capacity to thrive in the program and continue to secondary school. 



Join Us On Facebook & Twitter!

Follow what we are up to on Facebook and Twitter. We regularly update our activities on these sites and strongly encourage all of our supporters to join our on-line groups and help us expand our social networking efforts.



Sikudhani Fikiri



Sikudhani left school when she was 15 because she couldn't pay the state exam fees. The government took her father's land away and he now has no farm to grow crops. There are four children in the family and Sikudhani is the youngest. The family lives in a very small shack where she is allowed to eat, but not sleep, because there's not enough room for her. She sleeps at a neighbor's house. When she grows up, she wants to be a nurse and help others get out of poverty.

New Kitchen

Since our last newsletter, we have added a kitchen to our outdoor dining banda, complete with a lockable storage area, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the students and faculty at Louisville Middle School in Louisville, CO. This innovative school hosted a Soup Supper in November that included 347 people from the community coming together to purchase uniquely designed African-themed bowls (made by their students) and sample various soup dishes.



The effort raised over \$4,000 for Nurturing Minds and was a remarkable community event celebrating education around the world.

Student Sponsorship Program

The student sponsorship program is a terrific opportunity for groups/families desiring to have a direct, global connection with a young Tanzanian girl. Our 30 new remedial students, including Sikudhani, highlighted above, all need sponsors. For \$720 a year, a Nurturing Minds Sponsorship provides a safe classroom, quality teachers, transportation, books and recreational equipment. If you are interested in participating in this vital program for us, please contact Christine Hammarskjold at crh@usscseating.com All donations are tax-deductible.

Recent Grants & Donations



Suntech donated 22 solar panels, 140W each for a total value of \$10,000.

Mary Lynn Richardson Foundation donated \$3,000 towards Segas's Agricultural Program Expansion.

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church donated \$5,000 towards Segas's Non-Formal Education Day Program and HIV Training.



The afro-pop music was a hit at the African Dance Party fundraiser held in Brighton, MA in Jan.



Nurturing Minds Board 2010

Did You Know?

Did you know that more than 90% of every dollar Nurturing Minds raises goes directly to the Segas Girls School? We are doing everything we can to keep our expenses low so that your donations go directly into the school.

Want to Get More Involved?

If you are interested in getting more involved in Nurturing Minds and its activities in the US, please contact us! It's a terrific way to be part of an international organization on a very personal, grassroots level. We currently have chapters in the Boston and Boulder areas, and are forming chapters in Connecticut and New York later this year. To get involved, contact Tracey Dolan at traceydolan@aol.com.

Nurturing Minds is a US-based (501) (c) (3) non-profit organization. EIN # 20-8870624

All donations to Nurturing Minds are tax deductible.

The official registration and financial information of Nurturing Minds may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1(800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.