

Nurturing Minds NEWS

Change Our World,
Educate A Girl

Nurturing Minds Newsletter
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A Letter from Polly

Dear Friends,

This has been a tough year for many Tanzanians. The rains have failed and much of the country is in drought. This affects not only farmers, but also towns such as Morogoro as the nation's hydropower has been unable to meet electricity demands. With power shortages in some areas up to 12 hours for 3-5 days in a row, factories are shutting down, and productivity at all levels of society has almost slowed to a halt. Thank goodness for Solar Power! Never has our status as a totally solar-operated school been more appropriate or made us happier. As long as the sun continues to shine, the Segga School continues to get electricity. The 22 panels donated by Suntech in 2010, and Deka batteries from East Penn Mfg, power our water pump, lights, and 7 new energy efficient computers donated by For Girls Sake. Our students learn about solar energy in physics class and have their own school as the living example of what being energy efficient means. Thank you Suntech, Deka/ East Penn Mfg & For Girls Sake!



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Academic Success

80% of Segga's non formal students passed the Tanzanian mandated Standard VII national exam in 2010, compared with 50% nationally! This year, our Form II students will be sitting for the Form II national exam, a big milestone for all of them and for Segga. We insist they turn out the lights at 10pm each night, as they are so driven that they try to stay up all night preparing for their exams!

Student Highlight - Vaselista Njozi



I am 14 years old living at the Mission to the Homeless Children. There are more than 32 kids living there. I was living with my parents in Songea but then they both passed away. I was taken to live with my grandparents who later also passed away. My brother took me in but his finances were bad so he took me to an orphanage where they introduced me to Segga. Not everyone gets a chance like me and I promise to study hard to reach my goals. I like the environment at Segga because there are gardens and trees and enough books and desks for each student.

My favorite sport is netball. My goal is to become a teacher because most people become poor due to lack of education. I want to help vulnerable children who need support to make their life better through education.

Interested in Visiting Segga?

We would love to see you at the Segga School! If traveling to Tanzania is in your plans and you'd like to get a first-hand glimpse of what's going on at the school, please contact us to make the necessary arrangements. By the end of the year, we will have a handful of beds available to accommodate short-term visitors and volunteers. If you are interested in participating in our Service Learning Program, please contact Nikki Shearman at nikkishearman@hotmail.com to have an application emailed to you.

Amazon



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You our NM supporters, raised a magnificent \$270.46, just by shopping at Amazon.com - Thank you! Amazon.com will give up to 15% of the value of your order to Nurturing Minds; just go to www.nurturingmindsinafrica.org and click on the Amazon.com logo located at the bottom of the main page, and then make your purchase in the usual way.

Meet Our New Counselor Pauline Rusisye

We are excited to announce that we were finally able to hire a counselor and life skills teacher at the Segá School. Pauline Rusisye is 29 years old and holds a degree in counseling from Tumaini University, with prior experience in refugee camps and orphanages. She has a warm, confident, outgoing personality and has been readily embraced by our students. She is teaming up with Fran Bruty, our 2-year VSO Volunteer, to teach critical leadership and life skills lessons.



Student Sponsorship Program

This is a terrific program for groups/families wanting to have a direct and global connection with a young girl. We still have students that need sponsorship, including Vasilista Njozi highlighted previously. For \$720 a year, Nurturing Minds Sponsorship provides a safe classroom, teachers, transportation, books and recreational equipment. Sponsors receive quarterly correspondence/updates from their student. If you are interested in participating in this very vital program, please contact Christine Hammarskjold, Sponsorship Coordinator, at crh@usscseating.com or 610.960.3968.

USA School Exchanges



Sega Girls Holding Valentine's from Coal Creek Elementary School Students

Sega students received valentines from Coal Creek Elementary in Colorado; scrapbooks, DVDs and letters from Louisville Middle School in Colorado; a scrapbook "All About Me" and two bags of art supplies from "Global Girls Unite" in Connecticut; and Agnes Irwin School in Pennsylvania created classroom posters of Segá Core Values that now decorate the school. The Segá

girls were thrilled with all of this communication and are having fun replying to their new US friends!

Special thanks to the many students and schools across the country helping to spread awareness and raise funds for the Segá Girls School:

- The Agnes Irwin School, Rosemont, PA
- Brownie Troop 40326, Oak Ridge, NC
- Coal Creek Elementary School, Louisville, CO
- Lawrenceville School, Princeton, New Jersey
- Louisville Middle School, Louisville, CO
- Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School, Plymouth Meeting, PA
- Radford University, Radford, VA
- Springside School, Philadelphia, PA
- V.I. Montessori School & International Academy, St Thomas, USVI

To get your school involved, contact Nikki Shearman
nikkishearman@hotmail.com

Teacher Training

Foundation for Tomorrow will conduct teacher training at Segá, along with our VSO Volunteer, Fran Bruty. Teachers' performance and progress in areas such as classroom management, teaching style, instructional techniques, and ability to engage students in critical thinking will be tracked over the coming year as we improve skills in each of these areas.



Service learning students Elena Hemler and Camilla Shearman with the Segá Students.

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.