Dec. 11, 2018

To APV Sponsors and Ambassadors

From: Donna Gunn

I have just returned from almost three weeks in Tanzania and I can’t wait to share the great news from our Tanzanian project! First, the school! We have six buildings up and roofed. The buildings include the administration building, a classroom building housing levels 1-3, a large dining hall, student restrooms and teacher housing. The anticipated completion date is late December of 2018. School opens January 4th assuming that the Tanzania government has completed their inspections and the school has been granted formal registration.

A dedication ceremony was held on the 3rd of November with Father Albert presiding. It was attended by a large number of government officials including member of the Ministry of Education, the District Commissioners office, a member of the Ministry of Parliament, local village officials and many others. There were more than 300 Maasai villagers who attended and the singing, chanting, dancing and jumping was simply extraordinary! Joseph Harold, our CFO, did an amazing job of organizing the event. We had white tents, 200 chairs, a head table for dignitaries and even music and a mike. Well done Joseph! Check our website for a large volume of pictures and video of the event which will be on U tube within a short time.

Our children at Scholastica and Mariado are flourishing. We are waiting for results from national exams in November before we can report academic results for our four high school students that are taking the exam and with one possible exception, we expect all our older students to be successful. The standards at Scholastica are among the highest, if not the highest, in the country so our students should be well prepared.

The four younger girls at Scholastica are all doing beautifully. They are A students in most subjects and one of our youngest girls receives all A+ marks. It continues to amaze me to see what these children are capable of considering their early start in life. Kadogoo, who is in level 4, has taken the national exam and we know she will make us all proud. Results of the exams as well as the schools standing nationally should be available in late December.

Our children at Mariado are also flourishing. However, we will be moving 7 of the children to our new school in December when the school break begins. We will be moving Gabriel from Mariado to Scholastics in January. During our first year of operation we will only educate children in levels 1,2, and 3 and Gabriel is more advanced, hence the move to Scholastica.

The teachers at Promise Primary School all hold college degrees, speak excellent English, and most importantly, were born and raised in remote Maasai villages just like Lanjani. We think this will help to recruit and retain teachers who are happy and comfortable in our remote location. The ability to recruit the teachers is dependent upon the teacher housing being completed and furnished so we are eagerly seeking donors to help with that challenge.

In June of 2019 the coach of the LA Chargers and perhaps even some of the team members are scheduled to visit the school along with members of Common Threadz and Rotary Club members from both the US and Tanzania. If all goes as expected, donations will be made and funds will be available to add an English Medium Secondary School to the complex. That would mean that the children in the area could attend school from 3 years old through high school. That is quite an undertaking but with the help of all of our sponsors and our many supportive ambassadors we believe that goal is achievable.

As we near the end of another successful year of educational support for orphans and vulnerable children, here are the highlights of our year:

* Successfully supported 17 children in boarding school, thanks to all of you
* Registered our organization in Tanzania as an NGO operating as Africa Children’s Education Foundation, making it easier to apply for grants
* Begun the registration/inspection process for the formal recognition of the school
* Completed a fund-raising event at the Thrash Ranch outside of Austin
* Participated as a speaker at the Common Threadz fund raising event in June in Austin
* Received a substantial donation from artists who are a part of the Bunkhouse Gang of artists
* Received a substantial donation from the Steel Magnolia’s Gift Shop
* Received donations of multiple items for teacher housing from Lakeway Ladies of Charity
* Our president, Sharon Rogers created an entire Tanzania curriculum that meets and exceeds all Tanzanian education standards, puts creative and engaging materials in the hands of teachers and their students and resulted in one of the best, if not the best, equipped schools in Tanzania
* Shipped a 40-foot container of curriculum materials, supplies, white boards, black boards, shelving and much more to Tanzania for the school
* Local artist Linda Wells, assisted by Lily Wong Davis and Kevin Oliver, hung beautiful murals at the new school, painted charming animals in the pediatric wing of the local clinic and freshened up drawings on the walls of the preschool in Emboreet where the parish is located
* Kevin designed an irrigation system for the garden which we will install as funds become available
* Music historian KR Wood sang at the dedication of the school and played guitar for the preschool children at the Emboret parish.
* We hope to start the construction of the poultry house immediately after Thanksgiving
* **Authored and was funded for a Rotary Global Grant in the amount of $116,000 to assist the Divine Word Missionaries in their effort to open a high school serving 180 girls per year**
* Received a substantial donation from Denise Nemanich and her husband from a large Catholic Church in Chicago. The donation will help with the purchase of socks and shoes for children in school as required by the government.
* Received a gift of 20 baby blankets sewn by Denise and delivered to Sister Benedict for use with new borne babies at the clinic
* Received a pledge of a donation from Pam Hucht and her siblings to purchase the range and deep freeze for the new dining hall kitchen
* Kevin Oliver, our resident water expert, started a quick campaign called No Shoes, No School and raised $570 dollars for shoes for the children, we will continue that campaign soon.
* Had ½ Acre plowed for the school garden. It will be disked then planted during the rains beginning this month.
* Acquired a large greenhouse which will be planted with spinach, tomatoes, and other vegetables for use in the food program at the school

These are just a few of the many accomplishments that APV has achieved this year and as always, much remains to be done.

**Needed:** Additional sponsors for children in boarding school--$1600 per year for those in Scholastica and $1200 for children in school at Promise Primary School. If you, your family, or an organization you belong to could help, we would be grateful for any amount of sponsorship you could offer. There are six individual children that need a sponsor. Sponsor s receive quarterly school reports and pictures. Prospective sponsors may choose a child based upon the story of each child or may make a donation to our general fund in support of the school.

**Needed**: tables and chairs for the lunch room. Each chair costs $25.00 and each table seating two students cost $50.00. We need 25 tables and 50 chairs. If you can donate a chair or a table, please send a check directly to Donna Gunn, Africa’s Promise Village, 15 Monarch Oaks Lane, Austin, Texas 78738. Mark the lower left- hand area of the check as dining hall furniture so our accountant knows which fund to place the money in.

**An Incubator**: The incubator we hope to purchase costs $1800 and provides for 300 eggs and allows us to develop our own healthy chicks. Our laying hens also provide food for our children. Our goal is an egg a day for our kids with eggs left over to sell at the market as a revenue stream for the school. We hope that the combination of eggs, chicken meat and fresh vegetables from our garden will reduce the number of children who are growth stunted.

BEST NEWS EVER! Joseph, our CEO and our go to guy for everything has assisted us with the care of our youngest amputee. Baby Nishook had her deformed leg amputated three weeks ago and is already in a temporary limb and is walking. She is one happy little girl. Joe tells me she says “Momma, take me out, I want to go walk! She laughs and laughs when she walks and Joe and the momma both cry to see her thriving. Thanks to all of you for your donations and to our Lakeway/Lake Travis Rotary Club for changing this little girls’ life. Go to Steel Magnolia Gift shop during December and purchase your Christmas items. Ten percent of the profit goes to the Rotary 3 D Limb project!

one of you to travel with us and experience the trip of a life time. There will be a major Maasai celebration with traditional Maasai singing, dancing, jumping and drumming. The choirs are simply amazing and you will never regret being a part of such a joyous occasion. If you think you might enjojy traveling to East Africa with us, call Donna, at 512-350-5880, for details.

Happy Holidays from APV to you from Sharon, Donna and our board.