



Reinvesting in TDS: A Report to Our Stakeholders

Dear Kurt, "Are you still looking for donations?"

You bet! This brief email exchange with a friend and colleague at another university just brightened my day. So was finding a generous donation in the mailbox from a new donor whose only note was on the check, "donation." Of all the notes in the mail, though, I got the biggest lift from a returning donor who sent a check with a note: "I know the last few weeks the general public's attention is directed to Haiti, but that doesn't make your cause any less important."

I hope many people have responded to the tragedy in Haiti with contributions to help. There are many children who have lost families and homes, schools and churches.

On the other side of the world, in Nyegina, Tanzania, the tragedy is different, but no less important to remedy. Boys and girls go to schools without books, science equipment, or computers to link them to the 21st century. Tanzania Development Support is dedicating our resources—your gifts—to helping the faculty, staff, students, and parents at Nyegina Secondary School develop their school into a modern high school, one where the girls and boys who graduate can become teachers for other children, or attend university and become the doctors and nurses and engineers that Tanzania so desperately needs.

This newsletter highlights our new partnership with the Engineers Without Borders chapter at NIU. What an exciting project! We look forward to completing the dormitory project so we can install solar panels on it.

Looking back on 2009, it is hard to believe we have come so far. Looking ahead to 2010 and 2011, it takes conviction and humble confidence to believe that we are going to achieve our strategic goals as an organization.

Purposeful Acts of Kindness, Part 1

Asante sana (Thank you very much) for the two laboratory microscopes that were donated to the Nyegina School. One of the microscopes came from Doctor Peter Ronner who works in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department at the Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia. The other microscope came from the private Obstetrics and Gynecology practice of Doctor Wanda Ronner. The donations were made through the efforts of Ursula Gosnay who works at the Thomas Jefferson Hospital and is married to our board member Don Gosnay.

The microscopes were transported in the luggage of volunteers who traveled to Tanzania in June and December 2009. Nyegina students are already using them in classrooms. They soon will have a home in laboratories for Chemistry and Physics in the new science building that will be constructed by the Dutch nonprofit Terres des Hommes.



Acting headmaster Emmanuel Sonda (front left) and biology teacher Eliab Bwatere (front right) receive the first telescope in June 2009 from Don Gosnay (back left) and Kaitlin Gosnay (back right). TDS President Kurt Thurmaier joins the presentation (back center).

Status Report: TDS Matching Gift

Amidst the chorus of pleas for donations to good causes around the world, TDS is working hard to achieve our goal of raising \$100,000 to complete the dormitory for girls and move toward building a library for the school. The fund drive was kicked off by an anonymous challenge gift of \$10,000. For every \$2 we raise, we are eligible for \$1 in matching funds from this gift. To gain the full \$10,000, we must raise \$20,000 by March 31.

As of February 10, 2010, we have raised \$5,942 dollars, qualifying us for \$2,971 of the matching gift. That gives us \$8,913 toward our 2010 goal of \$100,000. While we have a long way to go, we are pleased with the demographics of our donors.



Of the \$5942, 18 new donors have contributed \$2,700. That is great news as we continue to expand our donor base. Another \$3,242 has come from 15 repeat donors.

Many of our donors gave generously in 2009, and over 91% of their donations went directly to funding construction on the dormitory. We hope that you are ready to reinvest in TDS and its projects for the boys and girls of Nyegina, Tanzania by making a 2010 contribution to make sure that we gain the full matching gift of \$10,000.

Please give today. You can now donate online through our website, send a check, or donate stock by contacting Kurt Thurmaier for details.

Youth Group Update

The youth group at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb, Illinois has set the bar even higher as the members reach out to the students at the Nyegina Secondary School. After raising nearly \$1,000 by raking leaves for local homeowners, the group opted to raise an additional \$1,000 to provide a full 4-year scholarship for one girl.

The projects currently being considered for future fund-raising include a bake sale and a spring clean-up in March or April for people who want outside work done on their homes or in their yards.

The youths in the group have also begun corresponding as pen pals with their Tanzanian counterparts. Letters they had written were hand delivered by volunteers who traveled to Nyegina in December. They look forward to receiving letters from their pen pals the next time someone travels from there to DeKalb.

The members of the youth group invite youth groups from other local churches and organizations to join this effort. They want to share the opportunity to change the lives of people their own age who live on the other side of the globe. If you know of groups that may be interested, contact Nina Mounts at nmounts8@yahoo.com or (815) 787-6700 for more information.



Birth Announcement

We are very pleased to report that Ogeta Bagaka, son of Dr. Obuya Bagaka and (wife) Lister Onsonga, arrived in the world on Thursday, December 31, 2009 just in time to give his mom and dad a nice tax deduction for 2009! Ogeta was born 8 pounds, 14 ounces, with a length of 23 inches.

Dr. Obuya Bagaka is a former doctoral student at the NIU School of Public Administration and was co-leader of the summer 2009 TDS study abroad trip. As a native of Kenya he is familiar with the culture and language of East Africa.

We have arranged a work group reunion in April 2010 when Obuya will be back in the US to present a paper in Chicago at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting. The party will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, 24th at Lucy Carter Smith's home in Naperville. Details to follow.

Please mark the date and you can meet the baby and Lister (and see Obuya too!) All will return to Kenya after

Lister graduates with Masters in Nursing at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in May.

Engineers Without Borders Rally 'Round TDS

In previous newsletters we mentioned the relationship we were developing with the NIU chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB). We are pleased to inform you that the EWB student chapter has made a 5-year commitment to design and install the equipment required to provide a reliable source of energy to the Nyegina Secondary School.

In December 2009 three students from NIU's College of Engineering, Emily DeBisschop, Graham Bogda and Alan Hurt, guided by their student advisor Doctor Andrew Otieno, traveled to Nyegina. The purpose of their trip was to do an assessment and feasibility study for the design and installation of solar panels on the school. The panels will use technology designed specifically for the community, in order to reduce overall costs, maintenance, and environmental impact.

Installation of the solar panels is the first phase of EWB project and the plan is to install 10 panels in June 2010. Future projects will address the requirements for electricity, heat, lighting and water supply.

We will provide updates of

EWB's progress in future issues of our newsletter.

Purposeful Acts of Kindness, Part 2

The McCafferty family has very generously provided two-year subscriptions to National Geographic Magazine to Nyegina Secondary School to the public library in Musoma, Tanzania. Their son, Shawn, a TDS 2009 volunteer describes the visit that inspired this unique contribution.

"I didn't have to visit the library in Musoma. I could have made one more run to the internet cafe in town. But after the disappointment at realizing that Nyegina's school library was not currently in operation, I wanted to. Growing up through my school years, libraries have always been a safe and exciting place....and I wanted to see how they translated in Northern Tanzania.

Once Kaitlin and I (we were the only two students who went on the tour) got over the shock of how small the library was (for the only public library in the entire 1.4 million strong Mara region) what excited me was how familiar it seemed. The rows of books, and the tables w/ a few patrons reading or doing homework. Given it's size, Kaitlin and I compared the Musoma Public Library favorably to a good size primary or secondary school library in the United States.

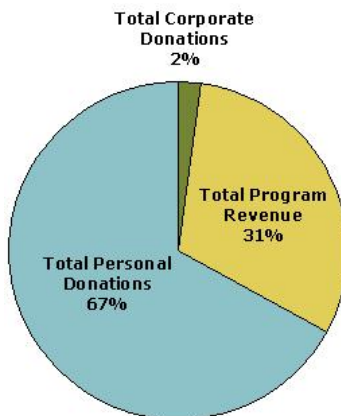
Before we left I couldn't help but notice that the library

didn't currently have any periodical/magazine subscriptions for patrons to enjoy...so in addition to the National Geographic subscription my family wanted to help deliver to the Nyegina School (on the suggestion of Dr. Thurmaier), I decided that I would like to contribute a subscription to the Musoma Public Library as well."

Thank you Shawn and your family for your wonderful gift.

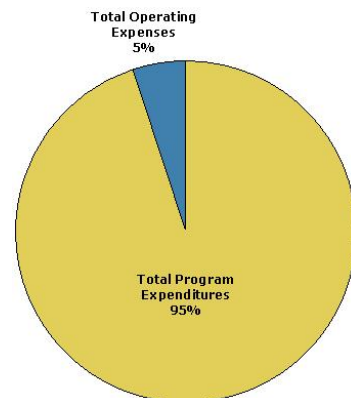
Annual Report Coming Soon

The first TDS Annual Report will be available by the end of February. Here are some vital statistics from 2009.



Total revenues for TDS in 2009 were \$54,591. Of this, 67% came from donations from individuals and 2% came from a corporate stock donation. The remaining

37% came from money our volunteers paid for their



travel, lodging, and food expenses in Tanzania.

Total expenditures for 2009 totaled \$57,515. Operating expenses only account for 5% of this total, most of which went to pay our intern, Tracey Swanson. The remaining 95% was incurred for construction and care of our volunteers in Tanzania.

Since our volunteers pay TDS for their own expenses in Tanzania, a full 91% of all donations made to TDS in 2009 was spent for actual construction costs of the new dormitory at Nyegina Secondary School.

31 volunteers contributed their time, sweat, and passion to making 2009 a year of great progress for TDS. They cannot be thanked enough.

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