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## Life is Exciting



There is simply not enough space in this newsletter to convey all of the experiences shared by our group of students and volunteers this past summer in Tanzania. I hope you were able to follow the dormitory building project on our website, [www.tdsnfp.org](http://www.tdsnfp.org). Highlights of our group trip include working side by side with faculty, staff, and students of the school and members of the school board and UMABU boards. Passing about 12,000 bricks along a line of volunteers is a lot of hard work, but it was one of those transforming encounters that few have the privilege in life to experience.

Of course, the safari into the Serengeti was thrilling. For some, it was seeing giraffes in the wild, for others that "pinch me" moment was watching five cheetahs silently stalk the zebra line in the great migration, or waking up in a tent as dawn breaks over the Serengeti.

As amazing as these highlights are, there is one to top those. It was due to your financial support that the group could begin building the dormitory. This provided the opportunity for the beginning of friendships between 23 people from across the US and Tanzanian students, faculty, and volunteers to help some of the poorest people in the world. Education is the key to success, and you have provided a key to education. Thank you again for your groundbreaking contribution to Tanzania Development Support.

This newsletter is a brief report on our summer 2009 project, and a preview of what is to come for TDS. We now have our own intern, Tracey Swanson. He was an Master of Public Administration student on the Tanzania trip this summer and is working very hard to get our website in shape, and to provide the legwork for our next fundraising drive. Check out [www.tdsnfp.org](http://www.tdsnfp.org) and stay tuned. Life is exciting!

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## Nyegina Dorm Build Project and Service Trip 2009



TDS, the community-based organization UMABU (Umoja wa Maenbeleo ya Bukawaya), and the Nyegina Secondary School Board are working together to build a new girls' dormitory at Nyegina Secondary School, near Musoma. Thanks to our generous donors, by August 2009, we raised \$38,000 to pay for the design of the building, to buy construction materials, and to pay for mafundi (skilled workers) to mix concrete for the floors and walls and to lay the bricks.

In June 2009, we took a group of 23 volunteers, including students from Northern Illinois University and Elon University, to join with the community in the construction of the dormitory. The group received a joyous welcome from the community in a festival that included a cornerstone laying ceremony with the Bishop of Musoma and a choir competition.

The group worked for two weeks (with a break for an overnight safari in Serengeti National Park) moving stones and a massive pile of about 12,000 bricks and pouring concrete for the floors and walls of the dorm and future computer labs. The group worked side by side with teachers, students, and board members from Nyegina Secondary School; with UMABU members; and with other members of the community.



## Meet the New Board of Directors



This fall, TDS has expanded the board to include two more seats. We are excited to have Jerry Smith, former Executive Director of the DeKalb County Community Foundation and Don Gosnay, partner in Shivers, Gosnay & Greatrex, L.L.C. (pictured). Additionally, David Faivre has taken the treasurer responsibilities.

Jerry brings a wealth of experience in fundraising and managing a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to our discussions. Don was one of the summer 2009 Tanzania volunteers. We are already reaping the benefits of his legal perspective in our discussions.

David is a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in a village near Arusha, Tanzania, and a computer science specialist. He is comfortable with electronic banking and has given many hours of his time to get Tracey Swanson, our new intern, on the payroll.

Our new members will join President Kurt Thurmaier, professor and Director of the Division of Public Administration at Northern Illinois University; his colleague, Curt Wood, an associate professor of public administration at NIU; Vicki Clarke, Major Gift Officer for Heifer International; and Joe Gastiger, pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb, Illinois.

Our new board, with its array of talent and expertise, is eager to take TDS to a new level of development support for communities in Tanzania.



## Next Steps for Tanzania Development Support

We are very pleased with all of the support and hard work our donors and the students and volunteers have done to make significant progress on the new girls' dormitory at Nyegina Secondary School. As 16 year old volunteer Nick Jensen noted at the closing dinner the night before we left Nyegina to return home, "It was awesome to look up and down that line to see all of these people from so many different backgrounds working together to give girls and boys a better education." We all got lumps in our throats when he said it, because we all shared the same feeling deep within our hearts and souls. As great as that feeling was, we know our work is not quite done. We need to raise an additional \$10,000 to complete the work on the dormitory in addition to the \$38,000 already raised.



We are excited to send another group of students to Tanzania in June and July of 2010. That group will include students from the NIU chapter of Engineers Without Borders, who will be installing solar panels to power lighting for classrooms, hot water heaters, and a backup power supply for the school's water pump.

Once the dormitory is complete, TDS will continue its commitment of transforming Nyegina Secondary School into a modern institution that will truly give its students the opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their families and community. This will include outfitting the school with computers and providing enough textbooks to reduce the textbook to student ratio to three-to-one (a vast improvement). Once these goals are accomplished, we are looking forward to beginning the construction of a library in the summer of 2011.

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Our donors live in 21 states and three other countries. The median gift is \$100, and gifts range from \$25 to \$5,000. We are grateful for each and every contribution. You've made a difference. Thank you once again for all of your past support. Stay tuned for updates and more stories from the trip.

Peace,



Kurt Thurmaier  
Tanzania Development Support

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