



Abby and Martha Olemisiko, our educated Maasai partners and saints that make it all happen.



HELPING THE MAASAI BY EDUCATING THEIR YOUTH



MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

– NELSON MANDELA



ABOUT US

The Maasai Education Foundation (MEF) supports the education of disadvantaged Maasai youth in Tanzania. The idea for the Foundation originated during a safari to Tanzania in 2016. The safari members met a Maasai girl, Maria, selling beadwork and decided to support her education. As we learned more about the educational challenges of Maasai youth, we decided to do more than just help one girl and MEF was born.

WHAT WE DO

Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries (190/228) and the Maasai ethnic group is its poorest and least educated. Less than 20% of Maasai are literate and girls are often married off to older men at puberty. Maasai are predominately Christian, but maintain a very strong and unique traditional culture. Maasai generally do not pass secondary school entrance exams because they can not speak Swahili or English, the national languages of Tanzania. When we asked them how we could help, they asked us to help educate their children in English.

ENGARUKA ENGLISH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL (EEMPS)

Our primary activity is support for the EEMPS. It will eventually have grades K-7. The first classroom building (shown above), was completed in 2017 and pre-school classes began in Feb. 2018. Forty-eight children are enrolled. We started a Phase II Building Expansion in 2018 and the kitchen/laundry/dining hall is close to completion. All instruction is in English so students can pass the national secondary school exams.

HOW TO HELP

Our greatest need is construction of the school and scholarships for students. During 2018, we will start the Phase II Building Expansion, which will add four classrooms, a library, and additional restrooms at a cost of \$68,000. Tuition, room, and board at the school is \$840/year per child. Volunteers are also needed to act as teachers' aides.

Interested in visiting or volunteering at the school and going on a safari or climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro? We can help plan your trip and suggest excellent local guides. Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area are located within three hours of the school.

Details of our fundraising needs and progress are available on our website: maasaieducationfoundation.org

HOW TO DONATE

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 public charity and can accept tax deductible charitable contributions. Last year, 91.5% of our donations went directly to the education of Maasai youth. Gifts can be made via check or credit card.

Checks can be mailed to: Maasai Education Foundation, 345 Woods Lane, Newport, VA 24128.

Secure credit card donations can be made at: www.paypal.me/MaasaiEducationFound

For more information on ways to give and online donation links, please visit our website at: maasaieducationfoundation.org. In a rush for more information? Call Theo at 540-922-2971.

PARTNERSHIPS

We have partnered with the Engaruka Community Initiative Organization (ENCO), that owns and operates the Engaruka English Medium Primary School. ENCO is directed by Martha Olemisiko, a college-educated Maasai woman from Engaruka. Together with her husband Abby and his parents Matthew and Helen, the Olemisiko family is making the school a reality and we are honored to be helping.



The Virginia Tech student organization, Service without Borders (SWB) is also helping. In 2017, SWB students helped construct the first classroom building pictured above. In May 2018, SWB students will install a photovoltaic system to provide electricity for the school, help build prototype guest housing, and teach English at the school.



A kitchen/laundry/dining hall will be completed in May 2018.