



MAGULILWA AREA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Magulilwa, Tanzania

Website: www.maguschool.org Email: information@maguschool.org Spring 2008

Dear Friends of Magulilwa Area Secondary School,

Thanks to your support and generosity, we have created a leading secondary school in Tanzania. We are fortunate to have a school that is operated and managed by community members, for community members. Not only are our children getting a rare chance at education, our community is benefiting from new jobs and educational opportunities. This is a unique situation in our country.

Because secondary schools are so rare in Tanzania, many people question the community's ability to own and run a secondary school. However, our village has risen to the challenge. The community has provided 52 acres of land for school use. Community members are freely participating in making bricks, and collecting stones and sand for construction activities. We have engaged the community in this work through discussions and joint decision making.

Another way that our school is different from the traditional Tanzanian school system is

that we offer educational opportunities to students who, in the past, were considered unqualified to continue with secondary education. Many of these individuals who were passed over years ago, are now among our leading students. This proves that education has no age and no end. Providing education to these students is crucial to the success of our community. However, we are concerned about the additional resources this demand will require. In the last two years alone, we have enrolled 30 "non-traditional" students. This number will only continue to rise, creating greater needs for classrooms and teachers.

As we see the rate of applications increase for both traditional and non-traditional students, we are faced with resource challenges. Beyond space, books and teachers, we also need to look to the future. Where do we send our students when they finish secondary school? Surely there will be a demand for further education. We will be facing these tough questions in less than three years.

The presence of secondary school in Magulilwa Village has raised everyone's awareness about the importance of education. This awareness will continue to grow.

*"...education
has no age and
no end."*

I invite you to share your ideas on how we can create a good future environment for our students.

*Sincerely,
Ernest Kasike
Chair Person, Board of Trustees*



A volunteer from the UK tries to cook Ugali (the main corn dish for students)

Volunteers from around the world

by Cindy Nordstrom,
MASS board member and webmaster

"How will the students study in the evening with no light? How will they send letters with no postage?" These are the questions that haunted Volunteer Vida Peskay after spending three weeks with the MASS students.

In January 2007, Peskay, a retired teacher from Minnesota, traveled across the globe to share her love for education at MASS. She played games, taught literature and set up pen-pals to help the students practice English. After returning to the U.S., she continued volunteering. She has recruited sponsors for students and shared stories at the Fall Benefit Concert. Her latest mission: recruit more pen-pals and find a system to supply the students with postage. A seemingly simple task in America, buying stamps, is incredibly

complex in Tanzania. Yet Peskay believes that the connections it fosters for the students are priceless.

Another group of volunteers visited MASS last July after reading about us on our website. Four teachers from the Riverside School, a Christian international school in Prague, also spent three weeks sharing their knowledge with the students. Hamish from New Zealand teaches science and biology, Kevin from Scotland teaches music, Graeme from Scotland and Michelle from America both teach primary school. "People in the village were very welcoming toward us. We were greeted with 'karibu' wherever we went. It was lovely. The welcome to and farewell from MASS resembled Olympic opening and closing ceremonies. We were greatly honored," says Hamish.

The teachers were amazed by the exceptional students at MASS. The students have high aspirations to become doctors, pilots

and engineers. According to Hamish, "At least two of the boys want to move the United States to live, study and work (in Evaristo's footsteps, perhaps?)"

The teachers were deeply impacted by their experience. They continue to communicate via e-mail across three different continents. Hamish writes, "It is great to see a desire for education and growth in everyone at the school."

The suggestions, concerns and ideas the volunteers share are invaluable to the school's growth and success. These volunteers provided ideas on wind power, biodigesters, water collection, a gift of textbooks and reference materials for the teachers, and a list of materials needed for a chemistry lab according to the Tanzanian syllabus.

"Our stay in Magulilwa was a great experience, and we will continue to let others know about the good things that are happening at MASS," says Hamish.



Students harvesting corn

"Come to Afrika" on April 27

"Come to Afrika" right here in Minnesota. Bring the entire family to eat an African lunch, take lessons in Kiswahili, shop the duka for African goods, try some African drumming and jewelry making. This is a fundraising event for the Magulilwa Area Secondary School--free-will offering.

Mark your calendars to attend:

April 27, 2008

noon to 4 p.m.

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

7160 S Robert Tr, Inver Grove Heights, MN

Visit www.maguschool.org for details and directions

HIV/AIDS Workshop benefits students and community

by Deo Kapufi, teacher, Magulilwa Secondary School.

There are currently 1.4 million people in Tanzania living with AIDS. Since 1983, the country has faced untold hardship because of this epidemic. Most youth have been impacted by AIDS in one way or another. Magulilwa Area Secondary School will provide a workshop to educate students and community members about HIV/AIDS. The goal of the workshop is to improve skills and knowledge against the disease and educate students about preventive measures. We know that it takes more than facts and figures to fight this epidemic. That's why a huge part of our workshop will focus on helping youth be more confident. By building self-esteem and awareness, our youth can be role models in the community. This workshop, and others like it, will help our youth build a brighter future for Tanzania.



Students gather beneath the Tanzanian flag

Want to volunteer?

Send an e-mail to cindy.nordstrom@comcast.net for information on volunteer opportunities or visit our website www.maguschool.org

Want to donate?

Visit www.maguschool.org/help.htm for more information.