

# Nurturing Minds NEWS

Change Our World,  
Educate A Girl

Nurturing Minds Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 4, Sep. 2010



## A Letter from Polly

Dear Friends,

So much has been happening at the Segga Girls School that it's hard to know where to begin!

Our boarding students are now learning all of their courses in English (which is a requirement in Tanzania) so classes have become more challenging! Many of our students struggled with this in the beginning, but I'm happy to say that at this point, English is starting to become second nature and they are really starting to excel. A recent visitor noted that our 8th grade students spoke better English than her 11th grade students! The girls have also started a drama club, a debate club, and an ngoma/traditional dance and drumming club, and have cleared a playing field for daily netball games (a game similar to volleyball in the US).

Meanwhile, our new remedial day students that started in February have adjusted quickly to their new environment and are vigorously preparing for the mandatory Standard VII exam taking place later this month.

We are currently in the process of developing a business plan to identify several profit-making ventures to enable us to become self-sustaining over the next five years. We have an initial list of 22 businesses based on preliminary field investigations. We are now conducting in-depth feasibility studies in order to narrow it down to a handful of worthwhile ventures. Our aim is to have the business plan complete by the end of September 2010.

Thank you for your continued support and faith in our program. We hope to see some of you over here soon!



## In This Issue

A Letter from Polly  
Rose Dickson  
In-Kind Donations  
UN Visits Segga Girls School  
Fairfield County Regional Committee  
The Segga School Gets Computers  
In The News  
Student Sponsorship Update  
Construction Update  
Fundraising Efforts

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## In-kind Donations

The Ridgewood Running Company, Ridgewood, NJ donated 53 pairs of athletic shoes this summer. Thank you Beth O'Connor for your generous support!

Mills Wear of San Francisco donated school uniforms for all students for the second year in a row. Thank you Suzette Mills Foley for your on-going generosity!

## Rose Dickson

*Here are the comments from one of our first-year girls; she is a 7th grader:*

My name is Rose Dickson. I was born in 1995 in Morogoro. We are three children in our family, two girls and one boy. I am the first-born. I dropped from school because my mom got very sick with malaria and they took her to a witch doctor for healing instead of a hospital. After she died, my father also started falling sick with mental illness. After my mother's final death ceremony, I went to live with my aunt in Lukobe. I stayed for one year with her without going to school because she couldn't afford to send me. I heard that there is a school called SEGGA that helps girls like me. When I was selected, I was very happy. I want to become a future minister.



## UN Visits Segga Girls School

In June, the Segga Girls School was visited by a team of UN agencies as part of an awareness campaign to address the problem of girls dropping out and being excluded from school due to pregnancy. The campaign promoted the idea that girls should be allowed back in school even if they become mothers. Segga's headmistress, Salome, and one of our students were interviewed live on the Tanzania Broadcasting Association national radio station for the campaign.

**The Fairfield County Regional Committee (CT)** is officially up and running! Please contact Ashley Moran at [inthemoment3@yahoo.com](mailto:inthemoment3@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining the chapter.

## The Sega School Gets Computers

NoPC, a UK-based organization that aims to bring low cost, low power computing to schools in Tanzania, has donated 5 'thin client' computer units, and provided technical assistance for their installation and start-up. The arrival of the computer units coincided with the arrival and installation of solar panels, which are powering the computers. The students are thrilled with the new technology and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of volunteers in October who will be focused on computer training. We want to thank Suntech and Deka Batteries for their assistance in providing this equipment.

## Student Sponsorship Program

Almost 100% of our sponsors from the first class have renewed their student sponsorship commitments for 2010! Thank you for your continued support! The girls love hearing from you and treasure all sponsor letters and pictures so please keep them coming!

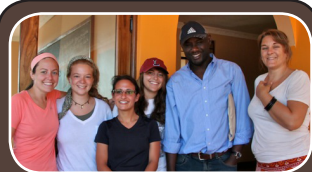
We still have quite a few girls from our new non-formal 7th grade class that need sponsors including Rose Dickson highlighted on page one. Visit our website and click on Student Sponsorship Program (SSP) to learn more about how SSP works and to select a student. We have several levels of sponsorship; starting at \$720 that covers essentials for a student, to \$5,000 for helping expand our campus and program. For further information, please contact Cindy Silvis at [georgeandcindy@earthlink.net](mailto:georgeandcindy@earthlink.net). All donations are tax-deductible.

## Construction Update

The Sega Girls School is expanding! Construction is currently underway on a 2-room classroom and the current kitchen banda is being expanded in order to accommodate incoming students in 2011. Our goal is to have enough space to house and educate 200 students by 2015.



Board members Juma Said Ally and Ashley Devery, along with her 13 year old daughter Emily, visited the Sega School in July.



Christy Knapp, Elizabeth Livorsi, Ashley Busone and Kayla Bercu visited Sega during a two week service learning project in July. They are pictured with Nurturing Minds board member, Juma Said Ally and VSO volunteer, Sandra Bemelmans.

## In The News



Nurturing Minds and Ashley Devery, one of our board members, was highlighted in a three page story in the June issue of Cooking Light. The article recommended getting out of one's comfort zone and participating in programs that "give back" in order to create a healthier body and soul.

## Amazon

At least 4% of your total purchase at Amazon.com could go directly to Nurturing Minds. All you have to do is click on the Amazon link on the Nurturing Minds website homepage, and then make your purchases. Please note that you must use the standard check-out procedure, and not the '1-click' feature, for NM to receive the money. Thank you.

## Rocky Mountain Chapter - Fundraiser

The Rocky Mountain Chapter (CO) is hosting its 2nd Annual African Evening fundraiser on Friday, October 15th at the Colorado National Golf Club (formerly Vista Ridge) from 6:30 – 10:00 p.m. An African safari for two to the Zulu Nyala Game Lodge in South Africa, is being auctioned, courtesy of African Eyes Travel in Denver. To purchase tickets to the event, visit [www.nurturingmindsinafrica.org](http://www.nurturingmindsinafrica.org).

## Recent Fundraising Efforts

Trinity Episcopal Church in Ambler, PA.

Radnor Friends Meeting in Villanova, PA held a flea market.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter in Boulder, CO hosted a Silpada Jewelry & Creative Cheese Plates party.

The King's Highway Elementary students in Westport, CT donated funds raised at their annual talent show. A very generous anonymous donor matched the funds.

A group of 5th grade students at the King's Highway Elementary School organized a spring walkathon.

The Fairfield County Regional Committee hosted their first cocktail party.

*Nurturing Minds is a US-based (501) (c) (3) non-profit organization.*

*EIN # 20-8870624 All donations to Nurturing Minds are tax deductible.*

*The official registration and financial information of Nurturing Minds may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1(800)732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*