

2005 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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BOARD...

Jay Cohen Jen Haefeli Neema Ngwilulupi-Malecela Robin O'Brien Wanda Olszewski Brian Singer Karen M. Stupic

IN MEMORY...

Rhobi Kisiri graduated this past December from Standard 7 and was awaiting her secondary school selection results when she suddenly passed away. Project Zawadi and our Zinduka partners have extended our most heartfelt condolences to Rhobi's family. To honor Rhobi, Project Zawadi is sponsoring her younger sister (seen *below)* for the duration of her schooling.



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

The 120 Project Zawadi students continue to amaze us. When presented with an opportunity, they grasp it with both hands. Just a few years ago, for example, Lukas (seen below) was living on the streets of Arusha and not attending school. This year he is positioned to score 1st in his class and was selected by his classmates and teachers to be the equivalent of Student Body President. A few years ago, it was unlikely that Yunia would be able to afford to go to secondary school. This year, she is thriving as a sophomore at the best girls boarding school in Tanzania. At the same time, Chuchu had given up on school completely. Today, she is a proud graduate of a sewing school and self-employed as a seamstress, using her own sewing machine that was purchased with assistance from Project Zawadi. These are just a few examples of the scores of stories I could tell (e.g., of Adam, Doris, Juma, Mary, Thomas, Simba, Anna) if we had the space, stories of young lives changed permanently as a direct result of the generosity of our donors and sponsors. But our work is not finished. Together, we must continue to support the current PZ students and reach out to the scores more young Tanzanians who dream of a better life through education. If you have already made a donation this year, we thank you and invite you to consider deepening your investment in these wonderful students. If you have not yet donated to PZ this year, please consider making a donation today. – Brian Singer





First wing of girl's dorm this April, ready for finishing.

GIRLS' DORM NEAR COMPLETION...

Last summer, the foundation of a girls' dormitory was well underway at Makongoro Secondary School, one of only two government secondary schools serving Nyamuswa and the 30 villages in the surrounding area. This dormitory will provide female students at Makongoro with a comfortable and safe place to study and live. As we reported previously, Project Zawadi has partnered with the Malaika Project and Friends of Tanzania (FOT) to secure initial funding of \$4,000 for this project. Since then, an additional \$9,000 has been raised through SSKIDS (Simple Supper for Kids in Desperate Situations) in Greeley, CO. These funds will be used to complete the first wing of the dormitory. Board Member Jennifer Haefeli and her mother, Deanna Haefeli, helped bring the project to the attention of SSKIDS. Deanna's firsthand experience in Nyamuswa last summer inspired her to nominate the Makongoro Girls' Dormitory project to be the recipient of the SSKIDS 2005 Simple Supper proceeds. The SSKIDS Board selected the project from several other nominations, and Jennifer traveled to her hometown of Greeley to present more information about the project at the Simple Supper event in February. Her community gave generously to this critical project, which Nyamuswa community and school leaders have identified as essential for increasing female student enrollment and improving attendance, test scores, and retention. The first residents are scheduled to move in to the dormitory by January 2006, and we anticipate that several PZ students will be members of this initial class.



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Educating Tanzania's children for self-reliance.

IMPRESSIVE RESULTS DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR SUPPORT...

A major milestone in a Tanzanian student's education is the national exam taken at the end of 7th grade. Only the highest scoring students are selected to continue their studies in secondary school. On average a mere 8.2% are selected! We are pleased to report that 46% of the PZ students who took the exam this year (6 of 13) were selected. All are now studying in high school. As in primary school, we provide them the tools for education (uniforms, textbooks and school supplies), which they otherwise could not afford, and the promise that if they continue to succeed, we will pay for their schooling as far as they can take it plus an additional year to help transition to full self-reliance. Our new high school students again make it clear that when presented with an opportunity, PZ students take it. We and our local Zinduka partners will also continue to support our students who were not selected. They have the option of either repeating 7th grade or receiving training in a vocational field of their choosing such as sewing, agriculture and auto mechanics.

EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT...

In addition to sponsoring individual students, PZ helps improve the educational infrastructure where students study. The 30 primary schools in the region where we work suffer from a severe shortage of classrooms, desks, and teachers' housing. This shortage means that classrooms designed to hold 30-40 students more often than not are packed with more than 100 students sitting on a cement or dirt floor. Compounding the challenges is a shortage of teachers, due, in part, to the shortage of teachers' housing. We are pleased to report that two classrooms and one teacher's house are being constructed with PZ support and are nearing completion. We need support for completing these construction projects and initiating several more in some of the most under resourced schools. Please contact us if you are interested in donating to these efforts. We will gladly provide you with more details and a range of ways in which you can help.





WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT...

Without the resources we provide, most PZ students would have little hope for an education. Donations can be made at a variety of levels and in a range of ways. For more information, visit our website at www.ProjectZawadi.org.

Project Zawadi is a non-profit organization. As such, contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by current IRS regulations. Thank you for your support.