



IMAGINE...

A Newsletter from The IMAGE Project

Our mission is to empower Maasai girls and women in Tanzania through education and economic opportunities.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4
April 2009

Board of Directors:

Deb Pangerl,
*Co-founder and
Executive Director*

Molly Gillin
Terry Jensen
Susan Piegras

Tanzanian Affiliates

Tasiana D.njau
Dr. Richard Lubawa
Dorothy Lubawa
Phoebe Msigomba,
Co-founder

Newsletter editor:

Molly Gillin

Upcoming Events:

04/25/09: Presentation to
Zion Lutheran Church
Women's Group,
Davenport, Iowa

11/09: Trip to Tanzania

Ongoing: Jewelry Parties and
Educational Presentations

Contact us for more information.

Contact us at:

The Image Project
P.O. Box 222
Rush City, MN 55069
612.267.5622
imagetanzania@hotmail.com
Visit us online and register for
our e-newsletter!
www.imagetanzania.org

Letter from the Director



One of the most rewarding moments for me came during my trip to Tanzania last year as I watched the Maasai women walk into our new Namnyaki School (translation: School of Blessings.) With wide smiles and their heads held high they signed their names for the very first time. They were so proud, as was I, for it was yet another example of how The IMAGE Project is changing lives. During both of my visits in 2008, I listened carefully to

the women and girls. Sometimes my heart was so heavy I couldn't breathe—and at other times I was filled with gratitude that I could be part of something so powerful and life-altering. I hope the following stories will inspire you as well.

Monica shared that she is saving money by selling her cow's milk so her daughter can go to school. According to Maasai culture, education is the only inheritance a woman can leave for her daughter. Monica buries the money in the dirt so no one can find it.

In October, I received a call from Dr. Richard Lubawa, our coordinator in Tanzania. Four girls had

literally shown up on his doorstep the night before. They had heard about our program from a relative and traveled 500 miles hoping we could help them "fight for their rights and liberation." We assumed it was a woman who gave them the money for the expensive bus fare. We were wrong—it was their brother.

There are many more stories of courage, perseverance and triumph. I can assure you that your support is truly making a difference in the lives of many Maasai girls and women. Thank you.

-Deb Pangerl,
Co-founder and
Executive Director

A Story of Courage

By Scott Nelson, life coach

I had the privilege of coaching the Maasai women on the phone for eight months prior to meeting them in person. When I did meet them, I was so moved by the way they expressed themselves with such love and appreciation. Their acceptance was unconditional in a way I've never experienced.

My role as a life coach is to empower the women to think for themselves, to let

them know that their voice matters, and to help them stand in their own power as human beings. Life coaching is accomplished through asking questions rather than giving answers. But the question I kept asking myself throughout this process was, "Who is actually coaching who?"

I discovered that I was learning from the women about the true meaning of courage and commitment. Their way of courage is not about getting



rid of or avoiding fear. It is about taking risks in the midst of fear. Their commitment is simply a commitment to possibility without evidence that it can be accomplished. This kind of commitment takes the greatest courage of all.

The IMAGE Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The Chicken Project *Changing Lives—One Chick at a Time*

By Deb Pangerl

Maasai women raise chickens to eat, share or sell for profit. But all too frequently, disease reaches the flock and kills the chickens, depriving the women of a source of income and nourishment. Baby chicks are also taken by predators. Our new Chicken Project is working to combat these risks while empowering and educating the women.

A donation of \$10 toward this project will help:

- pay a local veterinarian to conduct a



"chicken care seminar" in the village that includes tips on how to raise, care for and vaccinate chickens;

- purchase disease vaccines and predator protection spray; and
- deliver matching flocks to women who

invest their own money in the first flock.

Your gift will keep on giving:

- Any Maasai woman who enrolls her daughter in our education program will receive a flock of chickens.
- Each woman who receives a flock will then "pass it on" by donating one or more baby chicks to another woman in need.

With your help we're:

Changing Lives—One Chick at a Time!

A Life Lesson

By Susan Piegras

During my two trips to Tanzania in 2006 and 2008, I asked the students that are being sponsored at Image Secondary School to share some of their hopes and dreams, their fears, and what would bring meaning to their lives. Here are a few of their responses:

Eighteen-year-old Ngujeje is so grateful to have completed Form 4 without getting married as has happened to so many of her peers—including many younger than herself. She wants to be an accountant in the future, and "create ways for Maasai girls to earn

money, rather than stay idol and depend on men for financial means."

Joida, (age 30), tried to find a way to fund her education for *nine years*, as her family had no ability to help her pay for school and she lacked economic opportunities to earn the money herself. She didn't give up. Her self-determination and commitment to her goals led her to her sponsor and she is now enrolled in Form 5. Joida says she has dreamed for years of becoming a nurse and "working with the heart."

Oliva, (age 20), lived with her grandmother after her parents died. She wanted to go back to school, but knew she would have to do it on her own

Initiative. She talked in depth about how grateful she is to have found The IMAGE Project, and for the help with her school fees from her sponsor.

These are just a few of the students I met, but their stories reflect the views of many of the Maasai secondary students in our program. These individuals have been *willing to risk* whatever they needed to in order to reach their goal of receiving an education. Above all else, these brave women have inspired me to always remember to be grateful and to never give up on my dreams—a valuable life lesson indeed.

Let There Be Light!



Special thanks to Linda Cullen from Fifty Lanterns International for bringing solar flashlights to the women in Kwale village. To learn more visit: www.50lanterns.org.

Ways to Give

Your general contribution goes a long way in changing the lives of the women and children we serve. Here are a few specific examples of how you can help:

\$10: Buy a flock of chickens for our chicken project.

\$30: Purchase a goat for a Maasai woman to raise money for education.

\$60: Buy an acre of land to support the women's agricultural project.

\$120: Sponsor a primary school student for one year.

\$350: Sponsor a girl in secondary school for one year.



"You take away the ignorance in us. All the women in Kwale village are learning to read and write now."

-Maasai woman

Register For Our E-Newsletter

Help us reduce paper waste and costs. Visit www.image Tanzania.org and register for our e-newsletter!