



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 5

November 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:

11/09: Trip to Tanzania

12/09: Student sponsor fees due by the end of the year.

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

By the time you receive this newsletter, a group of us will be on our way to Tanzania. We plan to evaluate our current projects, visit a new village, and develop a task force of students, parents, teachers and members of the Maasai communities where we are involved. We're looking for feedback on what's working and where we can improve. We will provide you with this information in our next newsletter. The trip also gives us the chance to spend time with the people who have become a part of so many of our lives. It's a time to reflect on how these Maasai women and girls have changed their lives and made all of us better people. It takes a lot of courage to

stand up for the tough issues that many of our friends in the villages face everyday.

When I need to feel inspired, I think of the women at Kichangani who built their own chicken coops so they can sell chickens and eggs to earn extra money for their daughters' educations.

When I'm afraid, I think of the brave Maasai woman who stood up and said, "As a woman I am treated like a sack of corn – I am tossed about this way and that."

And when I need extra encouragement to believe in myself, I think of the two Maasai secondary students who passed their exams into Form 5 and are now in the

top 25 percent of Tanzanian students in the country to reach this level – something they couldn't dream of happening.

I look forward to sharing the stories of hope, inspiration and courage with you when I return. Thank you for your support. It's because of your generosity that we exist.

-Deb Pangerl,
Co-founder and
Executive Director



Growing Together in Tanzania



By Tasiana Dnjau

Every Saturday and Sunday, I have growth groups with the primary school girls. They sit together according

to their ages and discuss the things that are important to them. They share their experiences and difficulties, support each other and learn from one another. My role in these groups is to provide an environment that encourages discussion and trust while ensuring the privacy and confidentiality among the group members.

Since I have introduced these groups, I can see that the girls' self esteem and self confidence is improving.

They express themselves very easily now. They are comfortable answering questions in class and they ask their fellow classmates for help when they get stuck. They care about one another and their social skills are improving.

When I started these groups, only a few girls were able to appreciate themselves and believe in their own success. I look forward to witnessing their continued transformations!

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

“An Evening of Possibilities”

By Mindi Limberg

Imagine dozens of Tanzanian women lying on African soil too excited to sleep...

Imagine half the world away over 100 people gathered on the lawn of a beautiful Victorian home on a breezy summer evening...

Imagine the possibilities when these two worlds intersect!

On July 24, The IMAGE Project held an event to benefit the Maasai women and children at the Historic Carlson House at Firefly Acres in Rush City, Minnesota.

Guests enjoyed food and drink, an inspirational video featuring the Maasai women and girls, a silent and live



auction, and moving conversation, much of it revolving around possibilities...

- *The possibilities of aiding Tanzanian women by providing opportunities that allow them to feed their children and pursue their and their daughters' educations.*
- *The possibilities of reaching out and being blessed in return, of making a friend who is half the world away, of making a difference in someone's life..*
- *The possibility of finding your best self.*

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make this evening a great success!

Touching the Hearts of Children

By Deb Schultz

Last fall, when The IMAGE Project needed someone to help outfit the new Namnyaki School in Kwale Village, I was thrilled. I had recently retired as a social studies teacher and had a desire to go on a mission trip that was focused on education and opportunities for women and girls.

I needed to acquire all kinds of materials to make the school ready for learning. I considered the needs of the Maasai students, and realized what a wonderful learning opportunity it would be to in-

volve my former students and other children from my community in this project.

I spoke to over 800 students in the Princeton, Mora and Milaca schools in Minnesota, sharing with them what life was like for the Maasai children. The impact was heart-warming: over 3,500 school supply and personal care items and a dozen soccer balls were donated. These were the gifts given by children of one culture to the children of another.

When I returned to the schools after the trip, I was touched by the effects this act of giving had on the students.

Karl Schultz, a Mora second grader, had donated the contents of his piggy bank for the Maasai children. When asked to share his thoughts, Karl told me, “I

learned that one person can make a difference in the lives of others. And that one person can be me!”



Sponsor a Girl...Change a Life!

Most Maasai girls can't even dream of ever going to school. They are born into difficult and challenging lives. In their culture, it is customary for girls to be wed as young as 13 in arranged marriages. In Tanzania, the government only pays for students to attend school through 6th grade. If a student wants to continue, she needs a sponsor since most families can't afford to pay for their daughters' educations.

- We sponsor girls on a first-come basis; last year, we had 55 students enrolled.
- Many of the girls are orphans.

- The girls attend a private boarding school in Tanzania.
- As a sponsor, you will receive a picture and letter from your student at least once a year.
- You can correspond with your student by sending letters through The IMAGE Project.

Fees: Tuition, room and board and books costs \$350 per student per year. You can pay monthly, quarterly or yearly. We encourage sponsors to commit to all four years of secondary school, but any support is helpful. Contact us for more information.

A Special Gift

Your donation can recognize a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion or memorialize a special person. A notice of the gift (and a gift card) will be sent to the person you designate, keeping the amount confidential.

Chickens: \$10 per flock

Books: \$10

Goat: \$30 per milking goat

With your gift, the lives of Maasai women and their children are being transformed and their hope for a better future becomes a reality.

Thank you for your support!