



PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

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Dear Friends of WATU,

Welcome to our June 2012 newsletter

WATU Senior Secondary Opens!



May 7th 2012 was an historic day for our small organization.

We are very proud to announce that WATU Senior Secondary School began its teaching programme! Our first four students arrived early at the campus (and two more have since joined) where they were greeted by their headmaster, Mr Mark Mwarabu, second from right in this photo.

Our teachers have started work with enthusiasm

Geofrey Kabyamera

Diploma in Education
B. A. Education (University
of Dar- es- Salaam)
Teaching Kiswahili and
General Studies (Civics)

Albert Salewi

Diploma in Education
(Marangu Teachers College)
B.Ed. (University Dar-es-
Salaam)
Teaching geography as a
part time teacher

Mark. Mwarabu Head of School

Diploma in Education (Marangu
Teachers College)
B. A. Education (University of Dar- es-
Salaam)
Teaching English, History
He has been head at Kibo Secondary
School in Moshi and Namfua Secondary
School in Rombo.

I like this school because it takes students from low income families so as to help them reach their dreams so that they can earn during their lives. Meshack George Mechuwi



The opening of the school is the result of a great deal of hard, often frustrating effort, on the part of Josiah Mchome who has been working towards this moment for a number of years. Particularly significant was his securing of official registration for our school. The reason for there being so few students is the consequence of the very poor results at national level for the second year running in Form Four examinations. Josiah is confident that student numbers will grow rapidly and an official opening is planned for later in the year. In the context of the poor results Watu Senior Secondary will offer support classes and extra tuition to local Form Four students during the coming holidays in an effort to combat these poor results. The small fee that these students will be asked to pay will go towards supporting the regular students at Watu Senior Secondary all of whom come from financially impoverished families and are currently being sponsored 85% by Watu.

Emanuel Michael *Despite the school having many good things, there are problems facing our school such as reliable electricity supply at night and a problem with football and volleyball playgrounds.*





Cycling for WATU

An enormous thank you must go to the Round The Lake group from the Geneva area in Switzerland and the Gex area in France who, on Sunday June 10th took part in the annual cycle race around Lake Geneva and contributed the very generous sum of **1820 Swiss francs, 360 euros and 310 dollars so far** to Watu. A special thank you to Jamie Williams for initiating the support and to Jon Bastow for administering it.

This donation was in the context of Richard's trans-Europe bicycle ride which will take him from Galway in the west of Ireland to Tulcea on the Romanian shore of the Black Sea. The first stage, as far as Schaffhausen in northern Switzerland (1906kilometres), has been completed. The Danube follows in late August/early September. To date the Swiss franc equivalent of 6,277 has been donated. If you are interested in reading about Richard's ride then please visit

www.bikewatu.blogspot.co.uk or, better still, ask Richard to send a copy. A special thanks to Jake Howard for setting up and managing this blog. If you would like to make a donation, however small, in support of Richard's ride then simply use the PayPal facility on the Watu website: www.e-watu.com. Thank you!



Special thanks also must also go to Anthony Pitt, Per Nillson, Brian Wheeler, Peter Kennewell, Michael Wheeler, Diane Mueller, Neill Gregg, Niki Low, Peter and Mary-Jo Giroux, and Geoff and Pauline Causey for their recent generous donations, and to Judith Johnson, Alison Stuart, Robert Heery, Claire Willey and Ruth Stokes for their regular monthly contributions. As always thanks go to Henrik and Linda Svennas at Expand International not only for their financial support but also for their invaluable advice. We also thank every other donor whose names are too numerous to mention. As well as to Expand International, Watu would like to acknowledge gratefully the continued generous support given to them by the Procter and Gamble Alumni Associations in both Switzerland and the US, and to Tetral of Lutry, Switzerland.

Josiah and Richard also thank Casper Nillson for his excellent work on the sponsored student flier attached to this newsletter and to David Gregg for his invaluable work during his recent volunteer session in Moshi. His initiative in establishing a contact with his old school, Bilborough is one which Watu would like to develop with other schools. As always, the work of Theo and Philippe Mbise on the website and George Justo on our Facebook page and PayPal connection is gratefully acknowledged.

Daniel Yusto Shayo *My school has good buildings such as classrooms, dormitory, laboratory and library. My school is surrounded by trees and beautiful flowers which decorate the environment.*

Electricity and The Road to Shiri Mgungani

Josiah reports that the road from Moshi town to the school at Shiri has been upgraded and it is now quite possible to drive all the way to the school in the Volkswagen Sharan which was kindly donated by the Svennas family last year. In the very short term this vehicle is adequate for our needs but in the near future, as numbers grow, a reliable second hand Toyota Hiace will be essential.



Unfortunately, though, to date no progress has been made on providing electricity to the Shiri site. This ongoing saga is becoming frustrating, even for our students, but we are confident that the problem will eventually be solved. Nonetheless, the laptop computers donated in 2010 by The World Economic Forum in Geneva are being used thanks to the small generator donated to Watu by Mr Steve Cliften of The Cicely Foundation in the UK, here being collected by Josiah in Moshi after maintenance.

One way of getting around the lack of mains electricity is to use solar energy. **Solar panels and batteries are available in Moshi town and our most recent estimates suggests our needs in this crucial area would be met with 7000 euros.**

Volunteer Work Permits

Efforts are currently underway to secure exemption from the authorities for volunteers coming from abroad to work for Watu. This is particularly important because having to pay over and above the fee for a tourist visa is clearly a disincentive for potential young, enthusiastic volunteers.

A major difficulty that many Tanzanian students experience is in the acquisition of a level of expertise in English, adequate to deal with the intellectual and conceptual demands of a pre-university, A-level academic course of study.

In this context Watu is seeking English mother-tongue teachers, qualified in the instruction of English as a Second Language to work at Shiri Mgungani for periods of three months or more. If you are interested in such work please write to :-pamoja_tunaweza@yahoo.com for more details.

Jumo Hatibu

The library has different kinds of books from abroad and within our country, which may facilitate the students to make cross- referencessomething which is different from other schools.

The Immediate Future?

Lessons may have begun at our small senior secondary school but this is no time to rest on our laurels. It is important that numbers increase, not to unmanageable levels, of course, but to a level that makes their funding more viable.

Our Needs

Can you Help?

We would invite potential donors to consider :-

- **sponsoring a student for one year** (see the attached flier),
- To contribute towards the **installation of solar electricity**,
- To help towards **the eventual purchase of a school vehicle**,
- To fund the **purchase of school pullovers** which, amongst other things, will serve to advertise our school in the local area.

Ahsante Sana Thank You

Success

Finally, a few words about some of the “graduates” from our sponsored student programme.

Flora Mrema at Makumira University, Arusha, is delighting her professors with her excellent results despite not being able to attend all of her lectures due to financial difficulties. **Hamidu Ibrahim** is doing well in his degree course in Telecommunications and visits the Watu office every time he is in Moshi. **Frank Msoka** is doing so well that his professors are advising him to enroll for a Masters programme. He hopes to become an English teacher.

More news of other “graduates” in our next issue

Rafaeli Peter Mushi *Also my school has computers so we can use them to download material from the internet . So many schools round here do not have computers so that is a big prestige for my school.*

