

93% of Funds Used for Programs

The recent news of possible misuse of funds by Greg Mortenson and his Central Asia Institute (Three Cups of Tea) was personally and professionally disturbing to us and to other non-profits who strive to maximize the benefits that we provide to people in need with the funds that you so generously offer. We at *One School at a Time* are fiercely committed to using our resources solely to accomplish our (continued on the back cover)



Building A Water Cistern



Kukanga School Partnership

Kukanga School worked hard last year to create a vision for where they want their school to be in 2015. To make this vision a reality, they decided to complete the following work in 2011:

Clean Water System: *Girls have been collecting water from a contaminated swamp, 50 minute walk roundtrip.* No more! The final touches to the water system, complete with 40,000 liter water cistern connected to a rooftop guttering system and pumped by a treadle pump, was completed this May 2011.



School Farm and Lunch Program:

With the additional farm tools they recently purchased, the students were able to plant more crops and are well on their way to their goal of feeding themselves school lunch by 2015. Kukanga School recently harvested enough beans to require a storage container. Prior to this, all the food they had grown was eaten immediately. The school now has enough beans to feed the teachers throughout the 2011 school year. Students also plan to plant 50 fruit trees with funds donated from *One School at a Time*. These trees will be planted after the water system installation is completed.

Classroom Renovations: *Currently, dirt floors in classrooms promote disease and create dusty conditions. Classrooms don't have doors or windows and are insecure and subject to vandalism. The roof should be replaced and the foundation needs protection from runoff in the rainy season.* Work is in progress! All three classrooms, an office and a store-room will be completely renovated by June 2011- floors cemented, new paint, new blackboards, lockable doors and windows, a new covered verandah

and a new roof. Congratulations Kukanga School for work well done!

School-owned Small Business: a solar charging station for cell phones. One thing that strikes us when we travel in rural Uganda: people are poor but one thing that they can't live without is a cell phone!



Villagers in the Kukanga area are living in wattle and daub huts with no electricity and they have to walk about two hours round-trip to charge their cell phones. Kukanga School plans to operate a solar cell phone charging station in the school office. For a small fee, residents can charge their phones locally. This simple business will permit the school to generate a reliable source of petty cash to pay the salaries for the school cook and security guard, and to pay for maintenance for the new water system, new educational supplies, re-supply of the girl's sanitation kit, and other needed items. Funds have been secured to purchase the charging station which will be installed in Sept. 2011.

Girls Sanitation Kit: Older girls need sanitary pads in order to stay in school. Justine, Head Girl, is now in charge of the girl's sanitation kit. Girls can discreetly ask Justine to help them when needed. Programs like this help girls stay in school.



Kyamulinga School Update:

Kyamulinga School recently had a huge setback: one of their old wattle and daub classroom buildings fell down! Fortunately, students were outside during this incident- only one child was hurt. The building's wood supports had been ravaged by termites. No-one was aware of the extent of the damage since the wood was covered with a layer of mud. Students from these three classrooms are now back in temporary quarters and the school is assessing the way forward.



O-ring for water system

As we all know, eventually, just about everything breaks- even simple technologies. In March 2011, Kyamulinga School's treadle pump was not working and the students were again without running water. Hussein Tadesse, *One School at a Time* Program Manager, taught the P7 students and the teachers how to replace a critical O ring- what Ugandans call a "rubber". Next time this rubber needs replacing, we hope that Kyamulinga School will be able to fix it themselves!

Kyamulinga's new classroom building is currently being used by about 134 students in baby and top classes (pre-school and kindergarten) and the clean water system is now functional and in use.

Shamsha's story:

Bay received a call recently from Hussein Tadesse, *One School at a Time* Program Manager. Clearly, he was downtrodden. She asked him to tell her what was the matter and he said, " My brother has just sold his 13 year old daughter to a man."



Shamsha, age 13 years

Hussein had been paying Shamsha's school fees over the years because he believed in this girl and wanted to provide her a brighter future. Shamsha begged Hussein to convince her father to permit her to continue her studies. At that time, Shamsha's father, who has a 4th grade education, had already received the \$500 payment for his daughter. Bay asked Hussein if there was anything we could do to help. He replied that there was nothing to be done. Later, Bay told Patty, *One School at a Time* co-founder, about the situation. Patty responded that we had not tried everything and that we had to encourage Hussein not to give up! Hussein then arranged an extended family meeting and using his skills with non-violent communication, was able to convince the father to return the money. Shamsha is safely back at school now and working hard to make something of her life.

THE DAY OF THE BIG RUNNING RACES!

On March 28, 2011 there was huge excitement at Kukanga Primary School: the day of the big running races! People came from far and wide to watch the races: grandmas and grandpas, parents, government officials, Kukanga alumni and recent graduates, the Kassanda town clerk, the county bishop, Kukanga board members, teachers and neighbors and *One School at a Time* program manager, Hussein Tadesse (proudly sporting new soccer boots as he calls them). The ones who traveled the farthest to attend were Carrie Evans (*One School* board member) and Bay Miller (*One School* volunteer), both from Boulder, Colorado, USA. There were races for parents, graduates and even a separate race for *One School at a Time* representatives (Carrie reports gleefully that she was last!). In Uganda, they do their races differently: boys and girls run separate races but everyone runs the same distance regardless of their age. This means that for the 1600 meter race (25 laps of the soccer field), anyone can give it a go, even if you happen to be a tiny person no more than 6 years old! The boy's 1600 meter race started with 25 kids but only 7 of them made it to the finish line. The overall winner was Makumbi- he won every single race and was the hero of the day. Winners received exciting prizes. The top prize was a black plastic wash- basin. Other prizes included toothbrushes (brought by Carrie and donated by her dentist), notebooks, pencils, cereal bowls, jelly glasses and coffee mugs. Following the races, an inspirational speech was delivered by Aida, the town clerk. Aida is lame and walks using crutches. In Uganda, people with disabilities are discriminated against, most especially girls. Aida convinced the audience why it's important to support girl's education. She said, "I am a well educated women with a good job and influence in this community. This would not have been possible if my parents had not believed in me and sent me to school". The Bishop then whipped the crowd into a fervor, encouraging them to donate to the Kukanga School Kitchen fund so the students could eat school lunch. People, mostly subsistence farmers with little to no access to cash, dug deep in their pockets and managed to collectively donate \$19!

On your marks, get set,.....GO!



\$19.00 donated



Aida, the town clerk and little 6 year old Paul Balikounda who ran around the soccer field 25 times!!

Thanks to so many *One School at a Time* supporters, every single Kukanga runner was sponsored financially. All proceeds (\$2855 total) will be used to purchase the kitchen supplies for Kukanga School Kitchen: sauce pans, plates, cups, jerry cans, bucket, mugs, thermos, utensils etc. Remaining funds will be used to build a separate kitchen building where these supplies can be kept securely.

(continued from front page)

goal – improving educational opportunities for Ugandan children through working school partnerships. We feel an obligation to reassure our supporters that *One School at a Time* is using your support appropriately, efficiently, and effectively. Last year, 93% of donations were used for our programs at targeted impoverished Ugandan schools. To this end, we make our activities transparent via our website, facebook and these newsletters. Our budget and administrative costs are open for all to closely examine, and we encourage you to do so. We are proud of our success in improving education in impoverished areas of Uganda and hope that you are also. We can't thank you enough for your continued support.

HOW TO HELP

One School at a Time works with Ugandans to develop well-managed, self-reliant, sustainable schools.

By donating to One School, you are doing so much more than helping a poor Ugandan school. You are bettering the life of every child that attends, and their families and community. We bring hope and improvement, and a little support goes a long way.

We make a difference in Ugandan schools by listening and learning from our partners. This is how we begin. We act as a catalyst by supporting the strengths of our partner schools and by connecting them with local resources and solutions. Helping schools succeed in Uganda is not about dumping resources on perceived problems and moving on, it's about building strong partnerships with local communities to harness the remarkable intelligence, vision and commitment that they share for education.

Join with us in this vital work! Go to 1schoolatatime.org and click on: How to Help or make a donation using the enclosed envelope.

93% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to help targeted impoverished Ugandan schools. We pride ourselves in keeping overhead low. All North American staff are volunteers.

Contact us by e-mail at Bay@1schoolatatime.org



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WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK - "be-FRIEND" US!



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