

The Safi Signal



SAFI SCHOOL PROJECT

MARCH, 2020

A Message from Marilyn . . .

To all those who responded to the Safi School Project end-of-year letter:

I want to express thanks from the Safi board for the many wonderful donations Safi School project received from supporters over the last several weeks.

It is heartwarming to realize so many care about the educational challenges these students in Tanzania are faced with on a daily basis. Your ongoing support is indeed necessary to carry out our mission for Safi.

Through your generous donations, we are able to continue the good works Safi is doing in Tanzania.

Someone once wrote "little by little fills the pot." Bit by bit, we will succeed! Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Ahlf, Safi Chairperson



Next Africa Trip NOT Coming in Fall

The next Safi Africa trip, planned for this September, has been postponed indefinitely because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rescheduling info will be posted to the Safi web page and Facebook, but at this point, who knows when that may be.

The Pig Roast is Back!

The SAFI Pig Roast, the funnest fund-raiser of the Safi year will be back on June 13.

BBQ pork hot off the fire, sides galore, desserts aplenty, and a goodly supply of many types of "favorite beverages." YUMMY!

Mark your calendars,
more details to follow.



From Executive Director, Mary Nelson:

2019 was another good year for Safi. I am grateful to all of you who gave of your time, money and caring for students in Tanzania.

So, in no particular order:

1. All Safi sponsored students who finished Form 4, or secondary school, in 2019 passed the national exam and are qualified to continue their education for at least two years. Statistics show that only a third of students pass this government examination.
2. One of the main reasons that our Safi sponsored students have done so well is the remedial program that Safi board member Chris Gourley and her Tanzanian partners teach each year to help prepare Safi students with how to take the national examination.
3. Many of our Safi students have finished school and are employed and some are still awaiting government appointments. Safi supports 83 students in post-secondary schools. Some of these students are on an academic pathway to university and some are in technical schools. These schools typically cost more than secondary school and transportation and living expenses are the student's responsibilities. For students who are unable to even afford tuition, meeting those expenses is often very difficult. Safi helps as much as we can.
4. A dream come true for nonprofits working in another country: Baraka Moshia, our Safi consultant in Arusha, and others have formed a new group named "Sponsoring Youth, Empowering Women," or "SYEW". Students are encouraged to 'give back' as they have received so much help. They are working on plans for moving forward with our Safi goals and have shared some excellent ideas. The purposeful Travel group will meet with them and bring back their proposals to the Safi board.
5. A thought for the future of Safi is to hire a part-time Executive Director who would help Safi with fund raising.
6. Baraka Moshia should be invited to come to the USA to visit, speak to other groups concerning Safi's work in Tanzania, to study and perhaps teach.

Thank you to all of Safi's donors, board members and many volunteers for making Safi 'work' for the students in Tanzania because of all of you, Safi can succeed.



Another Memorable Purposeful Travel Adventure Starts Safi Year

The January/February Purposeful Travel trip was a humungous success. Seventeen intrepid travelers from Washington, Arizona, and Minnesota gathered in Arusha, Tanzania. It was a great mix of souls who spent three weeks visiting many relevant organizations and cultural sites to better see and understand the current conditions and lives of the people that the Safi School Project serves.

While there, the group also went on a fantastic safari adventure to see the great migration. Due to connectivity and internet complications, blogging in real time was not possible, but a synopsis of the trip will be posted on the Safi web site soon now that



Monkeying Around on safari

all the catching up with home, family, sleep and that ever relevant 11 time zone change is wrapping up.

Some of the highlights included visiting with students and schools, meeting with the new SYEW Board, Safi's Tanzanian counterpart; visiting Sister Martha's Albino Peacemaker Project, distribution of Days for Girls menstrual kits, visiting Maternity Africa, Magengo Children's Center; . . . the list goes on and we haven't even covered the great food we had while traveling. You'll have to go look on the web to see the photos.

www.safischoolproject.org

Safi Mission Being Accomplished

Here is a shout out from Safi School Project's Mission Statement to empower and improve the lives of young people in Tanzania through Education (yes, a mission statement can shout) - 97% of all donations to Safi in 2019 went directly to our programs. We have 83 post-secondary students now with 13 continuing into university. Now that's a big Ya-Hoo!

Each time a Purposeful Travel group goes to Arusha they meet Safi students who have completed their studies and are beginning their careers. These Safi alumni, excited about their lives, are living proof of the success of your support, and they thank Safi supporters for having a Safi* Heart. The Safi Board thanks you as well.

*Safi (Swahili) translates to clean, fresh (English)

