



WMF Friends & Donors Newsletter

October 2014

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Online Auction Bidding Begins October 1

The Bidding for Good WMF Online Auction runs from October 1-17. This year we have exciting unique experiences, trips, local and international art, luxury goods, sporting tickets, and much more! Become a character in New York Times Best Selling Author Chris Bohjalian's next book. Fly down the Hudson River and around the NYC skyline with Andy Topp. Surprise a friend for a one hour photo shoot. Or plan to be the best dressed for Halloween 2015 with a custom made costume by designer Ciera Wells! We have something for everyone. The bidding has begun!

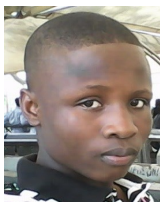
Online auction: <http://www.biddingforgood.com/wellsmountain>

Welcoming the WMF Class of 2014

The hard work of nearly 100 volunteer reviewers evaluated 1600 Empowerment Through Education program applications this year! On August 1, we welcomed 23 new WMF Scholars into the Empowerment Through Education program! Bringing our total to 63 current scholars. The new students are from 15 developing nations. WMF Scholars share a common goal, they desire to continue their education and use their knowledge for the betterment of others. Meet four students within this newsletter and visit our website to meet all 23!



Kinley Yangzom, Bhutan - Kinley is the eldest of four sisters. Her parents live in a small village near the Black Mountain National Park in Bhutan. Kinley spent school breaks working on a rural orange farm to raise funds for her educational expenses in secondary school and during the school year she volunteered with disabled children and the elderly. Kinley will study law at the Indian Institute of Legal Studies. Her goal is to return to Bhutan and help women and children suffering from domestic violence.



Bolaji Oyeniyi Abimbola, Nigeria - At sixteen years old, Bolaji is our youngest WMF Scholar. He attributes his double promotion in primary school to "his brilliance"! As a Medicine & Surgery student at the University of Ilorin, Bolaji has already completed his first semester. His dream is to, "...help tackle the scourge of the deadly HIV/AIDs disease and other prevalent deadly diseases."



Celinda Elizabeth Teresa Meza Villanueva, Peru - Celinda lives with her mother, younger sister, aunt, and grandmother. Celinda has won numerous science competition honors throughout her city and region. She has chosen to study Medicine & Surgery with the personal mission to, "...relieve the pain of my patients and attend to them with love, patience, and goodness." After graduation, she plans to become a missionary and serve her city of Ica with her medical knowledge.



Shamsul Haq Safi, Afghanistan - The Safi family of eleven have been living in Pakistan as refugees since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Shamsul has one year remaining before earning his degree in Agriculture Science from the University of Swabi. His specific area of interest is in plant breeding and genetics. Even though Shamsul has never lived in his home country of Afghanistan, he plans to help improve its agriculture sector that has been ravished by numerous wars and decades of instability.

Literacy Programs

Giving the gift of literacy

- **Back To School Shop**
140 early reader books were
given to children of
Addison Country, Vermont

- **English Library
Donation**
100 books were brought to
Caracol, Haiti in September as
part of the YMCA building
volunteer trip



Haiti Container Update: The Building Begins!



September 1, 2014



September 14, 2014



September 21, 2014

The construction of the fourth YMCA d'Haiti container YMCA began on September 14 in the northern town of Caracol. A team of 12 volunteers spent five days on site cutting steel, welding trusses, deconstructing the two shipping containers to accommodate windows and doors, installing wall partitions, and raising the truss system! The team of eight returning volunteers and four first-time travelers to Haiti worked with extreme dedication in the blazing heat and assisted each other in learning new skills.

The site for the Caracol YMCA is situated in the heart of the town and has an expansive lawn that will become a very popular soccer field! Throughout the week, local children lined the property fence and watched as two shipping containers quickly turned into a 1600 square foot building that will house classrooms, a computer lab, library, director's office, bathroom, and a large open multi-purpose space. We look forward to monitoring the progress of our Haitian partners as they complete the center and prepare for the January 2015 grand opening!



*"WMF gives me
(and all
involved) the
rare opportunity
to actually see
and experience
where the
donations and
time go....I am
proud and
honored to be
affiliated with
this organization
and this specific
project."*

*-
Jennifer Bennett*

Donor Spotlight: The \$10K Fundraising Duo

Michael Taglavia and Jennifer Bennett recently returned from Caracol, Haiti on their second YMCA Container building trip. Their first experience in Haiti was in 2012 for the construction of the Croix des Bouquets YMCA. Jennifer stated, "After the first trip, I knew that this was going to be the start of a lifelong dream of using my education and professional skills to help those in need."

Together the friends raised over \$10,000 to support the construction of the Caracol YMCA Center! Fifty-one businesses contributed to their dynamic fundraising event which was hosted at the Boardy Barn in Hampton Bays, New York. Their success was supported by 300 attendees, which included numerous construction company professionals, family, friends, and fellow Philadelphia University Alumni. Both Michael and Jennifer, who are architects and work in the construction field, found a very supportive donor base with companies who were eager to support a humanitarian construction trip.

The duo's fundraising event was not only extremely successful financially, but it also provided an opportunity to educate others about the current situation in Haiti. Jennifer states, "Many people cannot wrap their heads around why we care so much about helping the people of Haiti. So, another goal of our fundraiser was to illustrate how much the people of Haiti need our help, and the difference that WMF makes in the lives of local Haitian communities."

Both Michael and Jennifer feel strongly in support of partnering with Haitians to complete the construction of YMCA Centers. Michael believes that, "...leaving some work for the Haitians to complete is a great way to keep them involved and passionate about the whole experience."

The construction of the Caracol YMCA would still be a distant goal if not for the dedication and compassion of Michael and Jennifer!



Women in White Coats Initiative

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In the global world we live in today, illness and disease have no borders. Global Health Workforce Alliance and the World Health Organization estimate that the world is in need of over 7.9 million additional health workers today and that there will be, "...a global deficit of about 12.9 million skilled health professionals (midwives, nurses and physicians) by 2035."

This summer, we created the Empowerment Through Education: Women in White Coats Initiative to expand our ability to provide support to women who have put their university studies on hold due to economic constraints. Awarded grants and donations to this initiative will be applied toward the selection of an increased number of female students pursuing medical diplomas, certificates, and degrees from the 2015 Empowerment Through Education applicant pool.

Selected recipients of the Women in White Coats Initiative will be participants of the Empowerment Through Education program. The women will receive all program benefits and must meet all program requirements. Qualifying applicants are women who have already gained university admission, will have earned a minimum of a B+ average within previous semesters, and have engaged in community service activities that have aided in making their communities healthier.

We currently are supporting 14 females from 10 nations who are studying towards a medical degree. Of these students, the following are pictured engaging in community service projects; (left to right) Alpha Pokharel of Nepal, Catherine Nagadye of Uganda, Amani Bakroon of Palestine, Melisa Bhebe of Zimbabwe, and Sehrish Saeed of Pakistan.



WMF "Dream Big" Scholars Conference

Seventy-five current students and alumni of the Empowerment Through Education program will gather at the first-ever global conference on June 26-28, 2015. The WMF "Dream Big" Scholars Conference will be hosted at the Savelberg Retreat Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The three day event will include leadership trainings, resume and interview skill sessions, opportunities for students and alumni to expand their interest and skills in community service through lectures on community-based and non-governmental organization development, entrepreneurship workshops, and networking opportunities with each other and guest speakers.

This once in a lifetime opportunity for program participants would be inaccessible without the financial support of set travel stipends, visa support, and the all-inclusive structure of the conference.

The Empowerment Through Education program continues to grow in prestige and in our ability to support a larger number of students each year. It is with your help that we will be able to bring 75 students and alumni together in Nairobi. We are currently seeking grant opportunities and private sponsorships to assist in funding our largest event in the history of WMF! If you are interested or have suggestions on potential funding resources, please contact us!

Hear from Hillary Maduka, a 2013 WMF Scholar from Nigeria on his excitement and determination to be in attendance at the conference: "My motivation to attend the conference is to meet my fellow alumni and current scholars, share with them my experiences, hear their successes after graduation and challenges, and to learn from others and their testimonies as I continue to be a change agent in my community."





Community Service Inspiration Learning from Our WMF Scholars

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*It is never too late to
make a tax-deductible
donation in support of
one of our programs!*

BiddingForGood

Remember!

There are over 100 items
waiting for your bids! Our
annual online auction will
run from October 1-17.

www.biddingforgood.com
/wellsmountain

**Thank you for your
support!**



Ralf Etienne, Haiti

Since April 2014, Ralf and a team of friends have collected over 9000 pairs of reading glasses to be donated to citizens throughout Haiti. Due to the enormous outpouring of support, Ralf has created the Eyeglasses for Haiti organization. In addition to collecting donations, he has hosted eye clinics within remote areas of the country with US volunteers and hopes to find support in holding advanced eye care clinics in the near future. In a nation where there is one eye doctor for every 200,000 people, the opportunity to be seen at a free clinic and receive a pair of eyeglasses is life changing. To learn more about Ralf's work and to donate your used glasses, visit his website at:

www.eyeglassesforhaiti.org



Happy Alex, Tanzania

Spent six weeks volunteering
as a teacher of history, civics,
and Kiswahili.



Alpha Pokharel, Nepal

Was a nurses aid at the
Birateshowr Geriatric Home
for 72 hours this summer.



Hilary Maduka, Nigeria

Provided English and
Christian religious education
classes to primary school
students.

Donor Spotlight: Jackie Tuxill



Introducing Jackie Tuxill, our very own "Rock Star Application Reviewer"! Jackie has reviewed over 240 applications within the past four years! She states, "Each year I'm amazed at how committed the applicants are to getting an education. Many of them have undergone such hardship to complete their secondary education and be eligible for college. We are so fortunate in this country and we take our opportunities for education for granted. I read through these applications and am so inspired by the hopes and dreams of the applicants, and by their dedication to improving the lives of others in their countries."

Jackie has recently joined a growing number of WMF donors who have made the commitment to monthly contributions in support of providing scholarship opportunities. Having lived in Lincoln, Vermont for 22 years and worked in conservation for 30 years, we are honored by Jackie's desire to continue investing in making the world a better place through providing the ability for others in developing nations to earn a bachelor's degree.

Jackie admires the work the Wells Mountain Foundation is doing locally and worldwide. As a result of her strong personal commitment to helping others, she is playing an active role in changing the lives of many. The benefits of investing in an individual and their education is unquantifiable. We would like to thank Jackie for her generosity of time and investment in the Empowerment Through Education program!

Connect with us online: www.wellsmountainfoundation.org and on Facebook as Wells Mountain Foundation, Inc.