



African Education Fund - SWAZILAND

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Newsletter
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Board of Directors
Christopher Hoffmann, President
Silke Hoffmann, Treasurer
Ellinor Angel, John Phillips

MISSION STATEMENT

We work with local communities in Swaziland to provide scholarships, youth development, clean water, primary health care, and economic opportunity through microenterprise and microcredit.



Swaziland

Our activities are concentrated in an area of 300 square miles with a population of 17000.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

This newsletter serves as an update for each of AEFs activity areas and also comments on current events in Swaziland.

Education

Primary school scholarships

The Government of Swaziland has been gradually increasing the primary school grade levels that do not require school fees. With the 2015 school year, school is free up to the 7th grade. However, this does not eliminate all expenses. For example: children are required to have school uniforms. In addition, book and notebook fees can be a burden to poorer families.

In response to these changes, we are providing more school uniforms to needy students and fewer scholarships. For the 2015 school year, we provided primary school scholarships or uniforms to 531 primary school students at the following schools: Mangedla, Njakeni, Nyokeni,

Buhlebuyeza, Kutfunyweni, Mzaceni, Nkambeni, Lamakhasane, Ekutfunyweni, Mabhibha, Madudula, Nyonyane, Zandondo, Zwide, Madlangempisi, and Balagane.



Primary school students with new uniforms



Care points

Spearheaded by the effort and vision of Ellinor Angel, AEF assists several care points. The care points are pre-primary school feeding and enrichment centers meant for orphans or other vulnerable children. Ellinor has been traveling once or twice a year to Swaziland for the past 5 years to work with care points (and primary schools). Ellinor provides guidance on teaching, using classroom materials, and lesson planning. Importantly, she has also become very familiar with the care points and the priority of specific needs for each care point such as basic furniture, access to water, and stricter oversight of use of

the building by the community or churches. In addition, Ellinor has made connections with area teachers in primary schools and pre-schools. This includes working with Emily Hillary, director of a private pre-school, to provide trainings for the care point teachers.

Ellinor shares the following “One very happy memory I have from my last visit in June of 2014 was the field trip to Hlane Wildlife Park with twenty kindergartners from Make Shongwe’s Care point. The families were so excited about this opportunity for their children that they came to see us off and blessed the trip with a prayer. This provided an opportunity for me to talk to the parents and tell them about a book gift about African animals that their children would be bringing home. I urged them to read with their children and talk to them about what they were learning in school.”



Care Point students on a field trip, organized by Ellinor, to Hlane wildlife park

When Christopher visited care points 5 months after Ellinor’s last visit several of the care point teachers described how much they learned from Ellinor, including relatively simple – but potentially transformative - things like planning a lesson a day in advance.

Health

Building a Clinic

We agreed to assist a remote community with building a community clinic several years ago. What remain are furniture, medications, and staffing. We have had multiple visits from representatives from the Ministry of Health, including the Minister of Health herself for the Ministry to assume responsibilities for running the clinic. We continue to insist that the local clinic committee serve as the primary contact between the Ministry and the clinic project. This has meant guiding and educating people how

to be active participants in government – a contrast from the usual passive waiting in Swaziland. If these lessons are well learned, the community may be better able to advocate for and bring other services.



New Nurses’ houses near clinic

Health literacy days

We continue to hold these health literacy days using drama, song, personal stories, and presentations to deliver messages. Because of the burden of HIV and TB in Swaziland, with 25% of adults infected with HIV and over 1% newly infected with TB each year, we emphasize these topics. The Rural Health Motivators particularly see these events as an opportunity to inform the community about health to keep people from abandoning allopathic medical care for faith or herbal healing. Unfortunately some of the local religious leaders and herbalists offer, in place of allopathic medicine, quick, easy, and ineffective cures for HIV, TB, and other illnesses.



Home visit to provide medical care (health motivator, on right)

Rural health motivator program

The Rural Health Motivators are woman volunteers from the community who were nominated by community members to their role. Each month the Health Motivators supply AEF-provided basic food packets to approximately 225 individuals – mostly TB patients. Through the Rural Health Motivators, we also provide assistance to reach clinic appointments and coordinate home-based care services (for example: home injection of injectable TB medications). In addition, AEF provided the 65 area rural health motivators with t-shirts, supply bags, and two scales for use in their early childhood weighing program.



Rural Health Motivators

Microenterprise

We continue to support several micro-enterprise groups with micro-finance. For example the 80 members of the group at Buhlebuyeza use the micro-finance group to assist with purchases for small scale market trading and as an approach to savings. Each month they return principle and an interest and savings amount. At the end of 2013 the group divided \$3,318 (including the voluntary savings) amongst themselves from an initial total individual input of \$1000. This sum of money comes at the end of the year when school fees and other expenses arise.



Fanelo Gama and micro-loan group

Water Projects

We continue to meet with communities to discuss needs – including water needs. We have recently drilled one well in an area that will provide access to clean water to approximately 300 individuals and are planning to drill a another well in the coming months. We remain inspired by the support and encouragement that Krystyna Serkowski has provided.

AEF Team in Swaziland

All of our work depends on a committed core of individuals. In Nkambeni, **Bongani Mdluli** continues to be the leader of the activities. He fits his community leadership into his activities as a member of parliament in the Swaziland parliament. **Bheki Thusi** manages the health programs, meeting the the health motivators, clinic staff, coordinating health days, and visiting the patients we provide food packets to at their homes. He is involved full-time in managing these activities. **Justice Dlamini** is assisting in coordinating and monitoring care point activities. **Themba Dlamini** lends a hand part-time with school activities, scholarships, and uniforms, as well as coordinating sports activities. He is also has a fulltime job. **Fanelo Gama** manager the micro-loan program, meeting approximately monthly with each of the micro-loan groups.

Christopher Hoffmann visits sites in Swaziland 3 – 4 times a year during brief visits fit into work related activities in South Africa. **Ellinor Angel** has been spending several weeks twice a year in Swaziland.

Financial Summary January 1 to December 31, 2014

Balance December 31, 2013	30,334	
Income 2014	32,395	
Expenditures total	990	17,235
Education: scholarships, uniforms	9592	
Health care: food, supplies	424	
Microfinance	6229	
Swazi worker stipends, rent, supplies		
Balance December 31, 2014	45,494	
In-kind donations:		
Sewing materials, medications,		
School supplies, volunteer effort from Christopher Hoffmann, Bongani Mdluli, and Ellinor Angel		

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HOW TO HELP

Sponsor a primary school student (\$125 / year)

Provide a school uniform (\$25)

Library for Care Point (\$60)

Contribute to building the clinic

Drill a water well or buy a pump (\$1000-5000)

Provide food & soap for TB patient for a year (\$50)

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the African Education Fund

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