Much appreciation goes to Wílmer Hale, LLP for their pro bono legal counsel.

Cover photo: Ruth Grant

Please share your email address with us so we can send news by email and reduce our environmental footprint.
Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of FoTZC. 2014 has been a year of firsts! We successfully raised $150,000 as part of a challenge match to fund our largest project to date – the dispensary and staff housing. We are deeply grateful to you for making this possible, and to a foundation that has become a committed supporter of FoTZC. While the case of our projects and their scope of impact have expanded, we remain true to our mission: to partner with people who are committed to improving their lives in a transformative and sustainable way.

Five members of the Board of Directors visited Tanzania earlier this year; we visited completed and ongoing projects, surveyed potential new projects, and met with top government officials. The biggest change I’ve seen over the past 20 years of working in Tanzania is a budding awareness of the benefits of communication, economic development, and the link between education and economic development and other community needs, such as healthcare. As a result of this evolution, FoTZC is now casting a larger prism because we require more partners to meet the growing needs.

We are proud to share what we have accomplished together with you, our supporters, in the following pages. Please check our website for updates throughout the year, or email us at info@fotzc.org to receive electronic updates on our progress or to inquire about how you can participate. Thank you for your continued dedication to Tanzania.

Sincerely,

Richard Johnston
President, Focus on Tanzanian Communities

---

Dear Friends,

During a meeting in Tanzania this past March with four other members of the FoTZC Board of Directors, I was struck by how much FoTZC has accomplished over the past five years. In 2009, we decided to change our mission; instead of only building schools, we began partnering with Tanzanian communities on sustainable development projects that work towards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly those of universal education, improving health care, and promoting women’s empowerment. We have worked hand-in-hand with local, ward, and district governments to effect change in these areas by building classrooms and teachers’ housing, building a new health facility in an underserved area, and teaching women bead-making and business skills. You are the reason we’ve been able to accomplish so much and make a difference in the lives of many Tanzanians, so thank you.

We hope that you will support FoTZC this year; we continue to work with our Tanzanian partners to achieve these UN goals, and they need your support!

Best,

Judi Wineland
Director, Focus on Tanzanian Communities
Director, Thomson Safaris

---

Dear Friends,

Thank you–your support this year has been exceptional! The women, men, children, elders and everyone in between in the Tanzanian communities with which we work are lucky to have such dedicated friends.

Nine years ago, I stepped off the plane in Tanzania for the first time. I didn’t know what to expect, but by the time I returned home, I was enamored with the country and incredibly impressed by the motivation and optimism of the Tanzanians I met along the way. I have been fortunate to be able to work for Thomson Safaris and Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FoTZC) for the past seven years. Many things about Tanzania have changed since my first visit, but the Tanzanians I meet continue to inspire me: they are determined, dedicated, driven, and always optimistic.

In 2010, I met members of the Enyuata Women’s Collaborative while buying their beadwork. When I asked them what they spent their income on, their vision surprised me: they wanted to save their money to build a small health clinic. Since that day, FoTZC has been working to help these women and their communities realize their dream. Thanks to your generous support, particularly in our challenge match campaign this summer, the construction of the dispensary and staff housing is nearly complete. We couldn’t have done it without you! Please enjoy the pictures enclosed here and online and join us in a “virtual” celebration. Follow our progress on our blog, www.fotzc.org/blog. Please make a gift to FoTZC so we can keep building momentum in 2015!

Asante sana!

Eliza Hatch
Director of Operations
info@fotzc.org
www.fotzc.org
Sukenya Village Dispensary

A Dream Realized

Imagine being severely ill or in labor. Now imagine having to walk for multiple hours to reach a health care provider. Could you manage it? The Maasai in the communities surrounding Sukenya Village have had no choice. If they needed health care, they had to walk 14 miles one way to reach the hospital. Due to the distance, many Maasai either do not seek needed care or they wait until it’s too late for treatment to be effective.

Sukenya Village first asked FoTZC to help them build a dispensary in 2010. As we had never built a medical facility, we wanted to make sure that we did our due diligence and that the facility would be successful. We conducted academic and field research, and worked out each step of the process in conjunction with the local community and district government. The federal government has agreed to provide all that is needed to operate the dispensary – staff, salaries, furnishing, medicines and supplies – provided that FoTZC build the facility and housing for the staff.

Traditional Maasai midwife, Noosek Letiet, told us that she has “delivered a lot of babies in the area, but not all of the deliveries were without complications. We look forward to the dispensary working with traditional midwives to identify women who are at high risk for complications in labor and to bring them to the dispensary for professional checkups. The dispensary will also save lives for many risky pregnancies because we would not have to walk long distances to seek medical assistance.”

As of early November, the dispensary facility was nearly complete and the staff housing was well underway; by the time you read this, both structures will likely be complete, at a cost of nearly $200,000.

Our builder donated a water storage tank to the facility, and Judi Wineland and Rick Thomson, owners of Thomson Safaris, have drilled a well for the dispensary. To see photos of the construction and completion of the buildings, visit www.fotzc.org!

This dispensary will serve roughly 6,000 people from four villages who historically have had very little access to health care. We are thrilled that the Maasai in this area will be able to receive care more easily, giving them more time to spend on pursuits such as educating their children, improving their homes, and for women, in particular, earning an income.

The dispensary will reduce the number of hours that we had to walk to Wasso carrying our kids on our backs to access medical care for ourselves and our children. We thank everyone who played a role in building this dispensary.

— NooKimunyak Kioki

This dispensary will serve roughly 6,000 people from four villages who historically have had very little access to health care. We are thrilled that the Maasai in this area will be able to receive care more easily, giving them more time to spend on pursuits such as educating their children, improving their homes, and for women, in particular, earning an income.

The dispensary will reduce the number of hours that we had to walk to Wasso carrying our kids on our backs to access medical care for ourselves and our children. We thank everyone who played a role in building this dispensary.

— NooKimunyak Kioki

This dispensary will serve roughly 6,000 people from four villages who historically have had very little access to health care. We are thrilled that the Maasai in this area will be able to receive care more easily, giving them more time to spend on pursuits such as educating their children, improving their homes, and for women, in particular, earning an income.

The dispensary will reduce the number of hours that we had to walk to Wasso carrying our kids on our backs to access medical care for ourselves and our children. We thank everyone who played a role in building this dispensary.

— NooKimunyak Kioki

This dispensary will serve roughly 6,000 people from four villages who historically have had very little access to health care. We are thrilled that the Maasai in this area will be able to receive care more easily, giving them more time to spend on pursuits such as educating their children, improving their homes, and for women, in particular, earning an income.

The dispensary will reduce the number of hours that we had to walk to Wasso carrying our kids on our backs to access medical care for ourselves and our children. We thank everyone who played a role in building this dispensary.

— NooKimunyak Kioki
Oloipiri Primary
A Growing School

The view from Oloipiri Primary School is stunning. The school looks out over windswept plains and gently rolling hills. What a teacher at the school sees, however, is a long and arduous commute. There is no public transportation to the school from Wasso, the only town nearby with available housing; the teachers had to walk for multiple hours in each direction just to get to and from work. Oloipiri Primary School was started in 1978 with one teacher and ten students; now there are almost 550 students (the girls outnumber the boys – a rarity in Tanzania) and only eight teachers. The community has invested more than $15,000 in the school in recent years, and we are delighted to have completed a new 2-in-1 teachers’ house for the school (a 2-in-1 is a duplex).

The school will now ask the government to assign additional teachers for the start of the new school year in January. We are proud to watch Oloipiri Primary grow, with additional teachers who are able to be more dedicated and focused, we have no doubt that the students will get a higher quality of education in the coming years.

The Assistant Headmaster of Oloipiri Primary School, Ruth Masha, told us that “due to the lack of housing, we have had to walk at least 50km (more than 12 miles) from Wasso to the school, but now teachers can live on the school grounds. It will help teachers to focus on teaching instead of worrying about walking many hours back home. Additionally, teachers do not have to share a small room, which was difficult for teachers with families.”

— Earnest L. Mhina, Headmaster, Oloipiri Primary School

Now we can confidently ask the Government to bring teachers from the city because we have modern houses for our teachers to live in. Since the building is of very high quality, most teachers would not transfer quickly to another school; this housing will allow us to maintain our teaching staff, which is critical for the provision of quality education.

— Earnest L. Mhina, Headmaster, Oloipiri Primary School

Now we can confidently ask the Government to bring teachers from the city because we have modern houses for our teachers to live in. Since the building is of very high quality, most teachers would not transfer quickly to another school; this housing will allow us to maintain our teaching staff, which is critical for the provision of quality education.
The Future of Women’s Empowerment

For several years now, we’ve been funding bead-making trainings for women in Loliondo. The goal is to help these Maasai women improve their beading skills and quality in order to earn an income. Women in the developing world tend to spend their money on health care, education for their children, and supplemental food for their households. Providing women with an opportunity to earn an income creates positive change in their communities, so we were pleased with the women’s increased sales of their beadwork as a result of our bead-making trainings. Perhaps you are wearing a colorful Maasai bracelet or pair of earrings, or maybe you have seen the unique chargers underneath the soup bowls in a Thomson Safaris dining tent. The women are creating really beautiful pieces, and we are proud to have helped them improve their craftsmanship!

Unfortunately, far too many women want to participate in the bead-making program than the market can support – the market for beadwork is oversaturated and some women are better beadmakers than others. As a Board, we’ve been discussing how to help the women diversify their businesses. We’ve heard ideas about beekeeping, purchasing motorbikes to rent out, and even operating a public restroom for tourists! We keep coming back to the fact that as FoTZC, we don’t have experience in beekeeping, or in any other small business in Tanzania. A project that we are considering funding is Community Conservation Banking (COCOBA) training. COCOBA is run by an organization in Tanzania and has been successfully implemented by other well-known nonprofits, including Frankfurt Zoological Society. The women form small groups and each member contributes a small amount of money to their group’s bank account on a weekly basis; they can then take low-interest loans from this pot of money to start a small business. The model is similar to microfinance models being used in other parts of the developing world, but this one is particularly focused on important in Loliondo where the ecosystem is fragile and droughts are becoming more common.

FoTZC would fund the training required to launch the COCOBA program for the women we work with in Loliondo. The trainers have experience in Northern Tanzania and have already come to do an initial assessment; they will work in three villages and train seven groups. They will help the women form small groups (each group is formed of five women who know and trust each other), establish procedures for loans and repayment, teach the women the concepts of startup capital and operating expenditures, and provide an introduction to entrepreneurship. The training will also help the women identify ideas for more diverse businesses. Perhaps the next time you are in Loliondo, you will see more beehives cultivated for household or commercial use.

— Happiness Mwamaiska

Community Conservation Banking, or COCOBA, will improve the lives of the Maasai women participating. It has the potential to be a great source of household income since it allows the women to diversify their businesses, instead of all the women concentrating on selling beadwork as their only source of income.

Estim ated Cost: $22,000
How You Can Help!

Pencils and Dreams – Jane Moore’s dedication to Tanzania and FoTZC

Travelers and donors frequently ask FoTZC how they can help the Tanzanian communities that they have visited. Some want to give money, some want to give goods, and some want to give time. One of the most exceptional examples of the difference an individual can make is Jane Moore. Jane and her husband Dale traveled to Tanzania with Thomson Safaris in 2005. In 2009, Jane still had memories of young children asking for pencils and asking to go to school even if they had no school to attend. She contacted FoTZC and offered to help raise money for our projects. She started fundraising for FoTZC to build classrooms at Ayalabe Primary School in Karatu, and settled on the motto “a pencil and a dream can take you anywhere.” Jane is making dreams become reality for many Tanzanian children and families. Since 2009, she, her husband, and her friends have raised more than $120,000 for classrooms at Ayalabe, the girls’ dormitory at Sori Sambu Secondary School, and for classrooms at Orkiu Primary School. Jane asks her friends, acquaintances, and local businesses to contribute to FoTZC; she sends letters, gives talks to schools and organizations, sells pencils with her motto on them, and hosts elaborate fundraisers.

When people ask how they can make a difference in Tanzania, we think of Jane. She’s done an impressive job fundraising, and the majority of her success comes from dedication, energy, and an exceptional drive to help others. Thank you, Jane. We hope that you inspire others like you!

“...I came to realize that the way to preserve the integrity of Tanzania’s age-old cultural and natural wealth was through education. An education could equip its peoples to solve the simultaneous challenges of preservation and inevitable change, but how could I help? At the very least, I could raise money to build schools where education could take place.”

— Jane Moore
We are now working with a Tanzanian consultant, Happiness Mwamisika, to help us watch over each of our projects and to ensure that they are being completed to our specifications. Happiness is a former member of FoTZC’s Board of Directors, and has her Master’s Degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandeis University. We are thrilled that she is our “boots on the ground” in Tanzania!

We are pleased to announce our upcoming projects, in addition to COCOBA (described on page 7), and we hope that you will help us and our Tanzanian partners complete them! For additional information on these projects and how you can participate, please contact Eliza at info@fotzc.org or visit www.fotzc.org.

2013 Projected Revenue

We have worked closely with Acme Construction on our projects in Tanzania since 2009, erecting more than 13 buildings. Hans and Jane are deeply committed to improving the quality of life in Tanzania. They bring a wealth of experience and ideas to our projects and often improve the outcomes. The 2-in-1 teachers’ house design was their idea based on their understanding of local needs. Our partnership with Acme has been key to FoTZC’s success and our ability to complete sustainable, reliable building projects in Tanzania!

2014 Preview

Spotlight on: Our Contractor, Acme Construction

We constructed a 2-in-1 teachers’ house for Sukenya in 2010, and the school was able to increase its teaching staff. We were impressed with the headmaster’s thoughtful, disciplined approach, the community’s involvement with the school, and the bright, motivated students of Sukenya. One student told us that he wanted to become the president of Tanzania! The school has 372 students and only nine teachers. The community has asked FoTZC to build an additional teachers’ house so they can request more teachers; we look forward to working with Sukenya Primary again.

In 2011, we built a 2-in-1 teachers’ house at Orkiu, enabling the school to add to its teaching staff. In early 2014, Orkiu had half of the necessary classroom space for the student body; half of the 350 students are taught in classrooms with no roofs. Orkiu is on a cold, windy plateau; to say that learning in this kind of environment is a challenge is a drastic understatement. FoTZC has begun construction on two classrooms at Orkiu Primary School.

2-in-1 Teachers’ House

Estimated Cost: $78,000

Two Classrooms

Estimated Cost: $77,000

Project Support

Building Materials

2013 Expenditures

$109,634

2014 Expected Expenditures

$400,577

Revenue and Expenditures for January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013

- Revenue

  Cash Donations: $43,682

  In-Kind Donations (Thomson Safaris): $1,954

  Total Revenue: $45,636

- Expenditures

  Administration & Development: $71,373

  Building Supplies: $37,743

  Project Support: $92,521

  Total Expenditures: $109,634

2014 Projected Revenue

- Revenue

  Cash Donations: $16,000

  In-Kind Donations (Thomson Safaris): $1,400

  Total Revenue: $17,400

- Expenditures

  Administration & Development: $571,000

  Other Primary School: $170,000

  Orkiu Primary School: $200,000

  Project Support: $200,000

  Staff Housing & Travel: $130,000

  Water Collection: $0

  Entrepreneurship Seminar: $10,000

  Water Well: $50,000

  Orkiu Primary School: $71,000

  Orkiu Primary School: $171,000

  Orkiu Primary School: $171,000

2013 Financials