

The Safi Signal



SAFI SCHOOL PROJECT

DECEMBER, 2017

From Board Chair Lola:

Thanks for a Successful Fall Auction

On behalf of the Safi School Project Board and all of the students we support, I want to thank all of you who came to the 2017 Fall Auction, who donated items for the Auction, and bought Cruise tickets.

A new Safi video capsulized the last 10 years of the work of Safi provided a visual reminder of our educational programs and of the beauty of Tanzania.

The Auction itself brought in over \$32,000, including 9,000 Fund the Dream dollars to be used for the Post-Secondary programs. See the Sponsorship & Education Committee report on page 2 for more details.

The Cruise Raffle brought in over \$10,000 and those funds will also be used to underwrite the Safi programs.

The Board has just finished its Fall Retreat and spent a day reflecting and planning. The plans for this next year will see two Forms (grades) still continuing at Bishop Durning School plus post-secondary students in a variety of programs.

This will be a year of more localized outreach with two events in the planning, one in the Vancouver/Portland area, and the other in the Lacey/Olympia area. Small group gatherings are being planned throughout the country and will provide an opportunity for everyone who is involved and/or interested in Safi to see the new Video and to hear about the progress of the students and their programs.

If you would like to have some friends in for such an event, please get in touch with Mary Nelson at mdi09nelson@gmail.com to schedule your gathering. We look forward to seeing many of you this year. (See Chair, next column)



Chair, from col. 1

The Board is changing, as it does each year. Courtney Bell and Jenny Bona have completed their terms and Sally Tellekson, Robert Alspaugh and Lyle Morse are also leaving the Board. If you would be interested in serving on the Safi Board for a three year term, please contact Jane Seidel at fiveseidels@yahoo.com or me at lhshaw@gmail.com. We can also give you more information.

Lola Deane, Safi Board Chair



Attention Thrivent members!

Safi Foundation (Safi's legal name) is now eligible for **Thrivent Choice**. Please consider directing some of your Choice Dollars to Safi. Also, remember when you are shopping if you use **Amazon Smile** that Safi Foundation is a registered donation site with them, as well.

Education and Sponsor Committee Report

We will have 20 students in Form III at Bishop Durning School in 2018 and another 17 students in Form IV. Forms III and IV are approximately equivalent to our last two years of high school. The cost for each student has risen to \$700/year (\$25,900 – total for 2018) and we are hopeful that the sponsors for these students will be able continue their involvement with these students for these last two years of the Secondary Education.

In addition to the Secondary students, Safi supports a total of 79 post secondary students who are involved in various study areas which include both vocational programs or academic University preparation programs which are similar to our community colleges. Thirty-three who graduated in 2015 will be completing their programs in 2018. Twenty-nine who completed secondary school in 2016 will be continuing their two year programs and 17 Safi students who graduated in 2017 will be applying for post-secondary programs.

The total costs for these Post-Secondary students will be between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for the 2018 school year. Many of these students have faithful sponsors who are continuing to support their students through these critical years of schooling to become financially productive citizens of their country.

Some of the areas these students are involved in are preparation for University application and focus on the math and sciences; vocational programs in computer sciences, elementary teachers (2 year program), nursery teachers, lab technicians, nursing assistants, auto mechanics, tour guides, and we even have one young woman who is studying to become an electrician.

Your donations are supporting the post-secondary education efforts of these Safi students making a difference this is making in their lives. Your help is the key to their success. If you have questions about any of this or would like more information, please contact us.



Message from Mary

As we move through the holiday season, I am THANKFUL FOR:

- Our students finishing their "high school" (Form 4) at Bishop Durning.
- Form III students who will finish their high school next year.
- Students who are in "post secondary". This is their path to a job, career or further schooling.
- Young people in Tanzania who are employed and able to support themselves and their family.
- All of you who have contributed to the success of hundreds of young people half way around the world. Your help is still needed.

As my husband once said, "Safi, we have a problem. We have succeeded!" Our students, teachers and donors have succeeded beyond anything we expected. Almost all of our students are continuing their education after Form IV. It's wonderful, BUT, it costs money. So instead of funding 25 students, we have nearly 80 to fund. These students have few resources. They are encouraged to get as much funding as possible from family, but Safi remains their major source of help.

Any donation is welcome at any time!!!

Safi School Project
P.O. Box 8275
Lacey, WA 98509

Thank you all.

Mary Nelson, Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE

PIG ROAST

June 9

