

NEWSLETTER

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VEGA EDUCATION FUND



www.vegaeducation.org



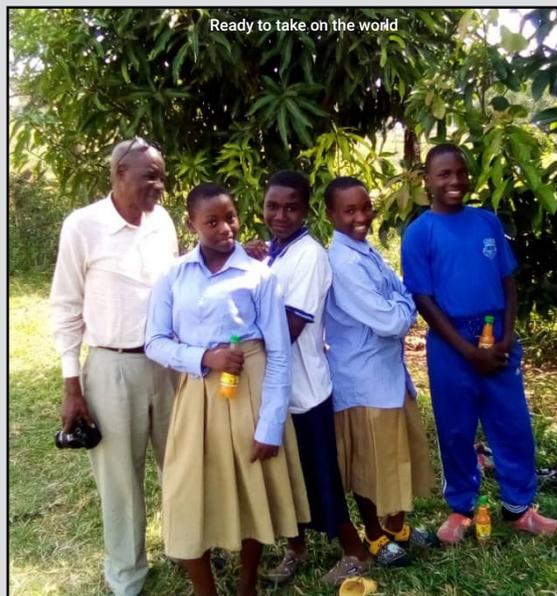
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OUR VISION

A quality educational system that is fully accessible to all, regardless of income level or location.

OUR MISSION

To provide opportunities for quality secondary education to academically promising, disadvantaged students in developing countries, beginning with Tanzania.



DENNIS TESSIER, VEGA BOARD MEMBER: "HOW I MET KIDZCARE"

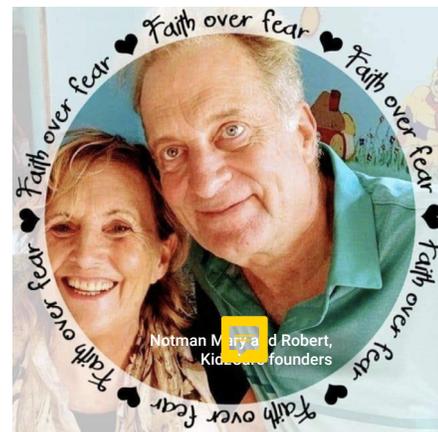
I met Robert and Mary Notman in September 2003 while going to school at University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. They ran a charity called Friends of Tanzania (now KidzCare – one of Vega Education's partners) which operated a home for orphaned children in a very poor area of Dar es Salaam. The Notmans believed in these kids and had big plans to build schools, clinics, and nutrition centers to provide everything the orphaned children needed to thrive. I remember wondering how they would ever achieve such big goals but as I continued to volunteer I began to see how hard work and perseverance goes a long way. My faith grew as did my friendship with Robert and Mary.

Two years later I completed my degree and had fallen in love with Tanzania. I wanted to stay, so I applied for a paid placement from Canadian University Services Overseas, and convinced them to allow me to be placed with KidzCare! A few days later I was hired as KidzCare's Capacity Building Officer.

And build we did: a school, volunteer house, nutrition center, a well, a children's home, and a clinic. And while I was helping build, Mary was training teachers, convincing village governments and national leaders to champion the cause, and finding donors to support it all. Robert diligently kept every receipt, crossed every t and dotted every i to ensure the organizations accounts were up to date. Somehow we were moving mountains.

When I joined Vega Education as a donor and board member, a link between Vega, which focuses on high school, and KidzCare, which focuses on preschool to primary, seemed to make a lot of sense. And the rest is history!

by Dennis Tessier



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“One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.”

~Malala Yousafzai~”

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A picnic with Busanya, Vega's first sponsored student, now in medical school

MEET AMILI



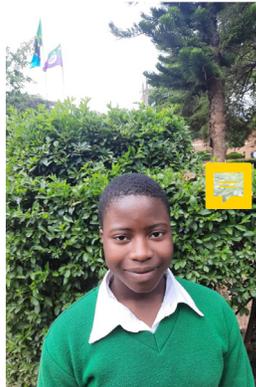
“My name is Amili Jumanne Rufandali. I was born in 2005 in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region. My father and my mother are both deceased. I am told that my mother died when I was only four months old. That is when my aunt assumed the responsibility and took me to live with her family in Mwanza.

In early 2019, just before our standard seven mock examinations, a representative from Panda Elimu Bora (one of Vega's partners) visited our school to talk to our teachers about the process and eligibility criteria on sponsoring students to secondary school. We were told that the NGO was looking for students who work hard and perform well in their studies, and those that are orphans or raised by a single parent. I was selected by the school committee for the sponsorship.

I remember that, when I started year one at Messa Secondary school, I had a lot of difficulties in reading and writing in English. My initial report cards were not good. The school personnel organized extra programs in reading and writing to give me more practice with the English language. The extra tutorials paid off, for I was able to perform much better in year two classes.

I do love to travel and play soccer. I am also talented in making beautiful baskets, shoes, ladies bangles and earrings as a hobby. However, I pray to God that I do well in science courses so I can realize my dream of becoming a doctor.”

MEET ADELLE



Adelle is the youngest of five children of a very poor family. Mary and Robert, KidzCare founders, met with them recently. “With radiant smiles, her parents explained how they wished they could bring a nice gift to us”, says Mary. “How grateful they are for their daughter to be able to get a good education. They come from generational poverty and never dreamed that one of their children would have such a chance. Gratitude and joy like this makes it worth it all”.

Generational poverty is the kind of crushing poverty that keeps a family poor generation after generation. In Tanzania, most generational poverty exists in villages, where families eke out a living from a 2-3 acre plot of farmland, planting food crops for themselves and then filling in the rest with a cash crop like maize, rice or cotton. Sons often inherit part of the land, but the inheritance becomes smaller and smaller with each new generation, making it critical for families to find another source of income. In the village, there are very few options. Children growing up in villages often do not attend high school, because they are too far away and the value of education is not well understood by their parents.

Vega Education is helping to break this cycle for village kids like Adelle.



Mary with Adelle's parents in the village