

NEWSLETTER

October 2021 | Fall



VEGA EDUCATION FUND



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MEET LILIAN

Lilian is a hardworking girl both in school and at home. She lives at home and despite being kept busy with the duties of an African village girl, which includes cleaning, cooking, and helping at home after school, she faithfully returns every night to the school library to study. A few months ago when she was awarded a scholarship to a high-performing high school, the headmaster commented that he "had rarely met such a mature, focused, and dedicated year 1 student. Her work ethic is wonderful." Lilian is grateful for the opportunity she has been given by Vega Education sponsors and is determined to not let it go to waste. She dreams of becoming a doctor as a way to invest in her country.



Serengeti Wildebeest Migration

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we head into autumn, Tanzania moves into its 'short rains', with temperatures dropping to low twenties in some parts of the country (while remaining at thirty in others). This is certainly the time of year when I think about which warm country I would rather spend the winter in, and Tanzania often tops the list. It has so much to offer, not the least of which is going on a safari in the Serengeti National Park. This is something our Vega Education students in Mwanza had the chance to do recently, which you can read about in this newsletter.

The country's short rains will soon bring the wildebeest down from Kenya into the moist grasslands of Tanzania, where they will gorge themselves until calving season (Jan-Feb), spend a few months on the plains while their calves gain strength, and then begin their northern migration in June as the dry season sets in. Their migration forms a giant elongated circle across the Tanzanian plains into southern Kenya, and back down into Tanzania. (As you can imagine, wildlife higher up in the food chain follow a similar route.)

And so it is with us...another year, another giant loop. But yet, every year we learn a few things that make our loop look a little different the next time. Hopefully a little better, a little smarter, a little kinder. And then sometimes things change completely and we suddenly find ourselves on a very different loop. That is the kind of loop our Vega Education students are now on. Everything is new and intimidating, and they may sometimes wonder if they've got what it takes. But they do, and one or two times around this new loop, they will figure it out. Make sure to read the update from Freddy below, a second-year student who, after a challenging first year, is starting to find his way.

Sincerely,

Leah Katerberg

Leah Katerberg
President



The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. ~ B.B. King ~

OUR VISION AND MISSION

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.

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You can find them all - and much more - on our website www.VegaEducation.org.


SERENGETI TRIP

What's the best part about Africa? So many things, but near the top of the list has got to be the animals... lions, cheetahs, giraffes, elephants, zebras, hippos, gazelle, ostrich... all accessible for the public to view in national parks like the Serengeti. One of the best-known national parks in the world, the Serengeti spans 30,000 km² across the northern plains of Tanzania,

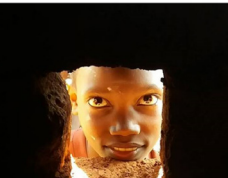


providing a critical migration route and home to over 70 large mammal species and 500 bird species. These vast grasslands attract 200,000 tourists per year, most coming from outside the country. But for most Tanzanians, travel costs, entrance fees and guide costs make the Serengeti beyond their reach.

This famous park happens to be less than 2 hours from Mwanza, where about half of Vega Education's students are sponsored. While most kids in Mwanza grow up never seeing the amazing wildlife in their own backyard, seven first-year Vega students recently had the chance to do just that through a Serengeti trip arranged by their school! Vega was able to cover the cost of the trip through one-time donations, and seven lucky children joined their classmates on a Safari. We were so happy to be able to support them in this unique part of their education.



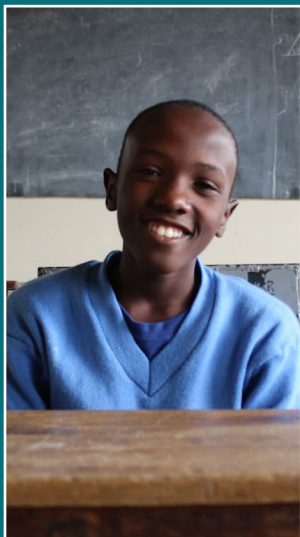
Home Approach Newsletters



Breaking the cycle of poverty by providing high quality secondary education to disadvantaged yet academically-promising students in developing countries.

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MEET FREDDY



Freddy is thankful for the opportunity to pursue a secondary education. When Freddy was a baby, he got very sick. According to his mother, it was thanks to the dedication of the nurses caring for him that he was able to survive. Because of this, Freddy wishes to pursue a career in nursing as a way to give back to his country and the nurses who saved his life.

Now in his second year of high school, Freddy's marks have improved significantly. He struggled in his first year, with mostly C's, some B's, as well as D's. This was likely attributable to his weak English, coming from the village. With his semester 1 report now in, Freddy is getting A's in

four subjects, and no D's! Freddy attributes his improved academic success to his teachers' extra support. "I am very grateful to have teachers invest in me," he says. In addition, Vega Education ensured that Freddy received English tutoring to help bring him up to speed.

Freddy is very involved in his school's extracurricular activities as well. He is on the Netball Team at school, which he says is a great way to have fun and make friends, as well as have healthy competition. Freddy thanks Vega Education sponsors for investing in his future and he promises to continue to work very hard in his studies.

BUSANYA VISITS VEGA STUDENTS

You read in our last newsletter about Busanya, Vega Education's first student, whom Leah and Tim Katerberg met while living in Tanzania a few years ago. He was a single orphan at the time, although his mother has since passed away, now making him a double orphan. Busanya dreamed of being a doctor one day, but we knew that meant he would need to go to a good high school to even get a chance at getting accepted into medical school. With this recognition of the 'high school gap' that exists for many low-income families in Tanzania, Vega Education was born. Busanya thrived in high school, and is now in his third year of medical school and fluent in English, the language of opportunity in Tanzania.

Busanya recently paid a visit to Vega Education's sponsored students in Mwanza, supported by our partner there, Panda Elimu Bora. Sodas (pop) were brought in for the occasion – a staple for important events in Tanzania – and the students listened to Busanya tell them his story. The Vega students could relate. They too were plucked from difficult situations and given an opportunity of a lifetime. And Busanya, now a young adult, stood in front of them to share words of inspiration: "If you work hard, you can achieve your dreams." These kids, like all kids, have dreams. Of course, many start out wanting to be doctors and lawyers (don't we all) and then along the way they will see other options opening up to them. The gift of options, really, is what you, their sponsors, have given them. These kids actually can achieve their dreams.

Vega Education remains incredibly proud of Busanya, as well as our sponsored high schoolers, for what they are achieving through their hard work. May we all continue to think of them and pray for their bright future.



'Professor' Busanya



Busanya with year 2 students

OUR GOAL: 25 NEW STUDENTS IN 2022!

Our goal is to sponsor 25 more students to start high school in January 2022 (the beginning of the Tanzanian school year). Will you help spread the word? The 2022 sponsorship cost is \$1700 CAD, or \$142 per month. For people who want to help but cannot afford the full sponsorship, they can share with a friend or family member. We even have 5 university students sharing a sponsorship! Together, let's see what we can do to bring these 25 new students into the program.

