

Dining for Women

Six Month Interim Progress Reporting Guidelines

March 30, 2015

1. Please provide the following information:
 - a. Organization name: Tanzania Nursing Scholarship Program
 - b. Program Title: Nursing Scholarship Program Supplement
 - c. Grant Amount: \$35,000 (\$17,500 per year for two years)
 - d. Contact Person: Linda van Werkhoven, President
 - e. Address: P.O. Box 182 Blandford, MA. 01008
2. Recap briefly what outcomes the program is designed to achieve:
 - a. To assist academically qualified and financially needy young women attain the designation of Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife
 - b. To assist these young women attain a profession that will allow them to have financial security and independence.
 - c. Break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families
 - d. Increase educational opportunities for their families-- ex. Paying for siblings to go to school
 - e. To allow them the opportunity for further education. Once they have worked 2-3 years they can apply for a loan from the government to continue their education. Their nursing salary also continues while they are in school.
 - f. An increase in the number of skilled professionals will promote improved health outcomes in Tanzania in accordance with the United Nation's Millennial Goals outcomes
 - g. Promote gender equality
3. Has funding changed for this program: NO
4. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal: No
5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?
 - a. Tuition increases— When we started our sponsorship program in 2007 fees plus pocket money was approximately \$300 a year. As of 2012 fees have increased to around \$650 per year. This has increased the need for financial support. Most peasant families have a cash income of less than \$1 a day. We adjust the number of students we can sponsor based on the funds available to us, the current school fee schedule and the current exchange rate
 - b. Fundraising. We continue to seek financial support in many different ways— for example, through grants, service organizations and individual donors. We seek out speaking opportunities and hold fundraisers.

- c. We are seeing higher proportions of male students, impacting the number of female students at the schools—Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center started accepting male students last year. This has reduced number of incoming female students by half. Our response has been:
 - Increase the pool of candidates by developing a relationship with additional schools of nursing. During our recent visit to Tanzania we visited two nursing schools where we had not previously sponsored students.
 - We are exploring different ways to identify candidates for sponsorship. Ex.: Partnering with SEGA Girls School (a secondary school) for future candidates, discussion with another US based NGO, Africa Bridge, to identify possible qualified candidates in the villages they serve.
 - We developed a PowerPoint presentation that is focused on secondary school students. The presentation discusses a career in nursing and the educational requirements for entry.
 - d. Pregnancy—this is not an uncommon problem. Due to such poverty and lack of resources young women may exchange sex for promises of help with school fees. When they become pregnant they and their baby are abandoned. We have two young women in our program now with this experience. The school requires that they take a year off after having their baby. A year is a long time to be out of school .We are determined to assist them in every way possible to assure that they return to school to complete their diploma. We keep in close contact and have helped set up a plan and goals for the year they will be out of school. Tony visited the home of one of these students in March 2015. She and her baby are doing well. She has a family member who will care for her daughter while she is in school next year. She is currently volunteering as a midwife in a local clinic four days a week, she has received material from school to study, talks regularly with one tutor at school and is very positive about returning to school. She does not have to worry about school fees next year which makes her very happy. She continues to email us and update us on how she is doing.
6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?
- a. No, our objectives remain the same: Identify and assist financially needy young women to complete their nursing education and attain a designation of Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife
7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.
- a. We currently sponsor 54 students. Since our inception 46 sponsored students have graduated and an additional 20 sponsored students will graduate during 2015.
 - b. Upon graduation and passing a national examination sponsored students can anticipate a starting salary in the range of \$325-\$500 per month depending on where they work. These girls come from extreme poverty where families have a cash income of less than \$1/day. Because of a significant shortage of healthcare workers they do not have any

- difficulty obtaining employment so they are assured a regular income that puts them above the norm and puts them in a position to assist their family and community.
- c. Upon obtaining a job we see them assist their family in many ways—paying for siblings to go to school, providing the funds for health care, build a small house for a single parent and provide basic necessities such as food.
 - d. The young women we sponsor tend to be survivors of an educational system that is stacked against them. They have a strong desire to better themselves and their family. They are very bright young women who have struggled to complete their secondary education and who so desperately want to complete their education in nursing school. Some have their eyes set on furthering their education. The sponsorship program assures them that they will complete the diploma program without financial worries. Currently we have two graduates of the sponsorship program who have started a bachelor program and there are others who hope to do so in the future. These are the future leaders in nursing in Tanzania. They serve as role models to other young women who have a difficult path ahead.
 - e. Tanzania has very high infant and maternal mortality rates. Every nurse/midwife that graduates improves future outcomes. The students we sponsor are trained to do a lot of health teaching. They tell us of going home to their village during term break and teaching their family and neighbors on many health related issues.
8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the time frame outlined in your proposal?
- No – At this time we have selected most of the students who will benefit from the DfW grant. Because of the depreciation of the Tanzanian currency we may be able to sponsor several students above the goal outlined in our DfW grant submission.

Message:

“Son preference” is still very much practiced in Tanzania. Being born female immediately places girls in an inferior and subordinate position. Girls continue to have less access to education and less access to meaningful employment. Traditional male/female roles are difficult and slow to change and families are often unwilling to invest very limited funds to educate a girl. The government has made strides in making access to school more affordable for girls by making primary school “free.” Providing “free” primary school education still carries fees of around \$40 a year. This is a staggering amount for a peasant family that has a cash income of less than \$1.00 a day and may have 4-6 children. Once in school it is a rocky road for a young girl. Many factors affect how long they will stay in school. For example a girl may be taken out of school to help on the farm or help take care of younger siblings. Many never make it beyond primary school. The families of the girls we sponsor tend to be very poor peasant families with little or no education. With the introduction of free primary school more families attempt to also educate their daughters. The girls we sponsor all have a great drive and desire to get as much education as possible so they can step beyond the boundary of poverty which has had a tight grip on their family. Often the family of the students we sponsor consist of a single parent or a grandmother

who has made a huge sacrifice to insure a better life for their child (or grandchild) and coming generations.

So to get a basic education for a girl in Tanzania is very challenging and often ends in heart break. Those who do manage to complete their studies (O levels) are faced with the stark reality that very few jobs are available to them. Even with an A level education very little is available—one area they can work in is teaching which is very poor paying. In contrast those who finish a degree in nursing have many opportunities for employment all over the country.

We sponsor young women who have had an incredibly difficult time getting their education and are now looking towards a more secure future. They arrive in nursing school usually with only enough funds for 1 or 2 semesters. They may be sent home (thus losing valuable class time) numerous times to collect money for fees. Some are not able to return to school. Grades tend to fall because of constant worrying about how to get money so they can continue in school. Our program (with the assistance of school staff) identifies these young women during their first year and we then pay for all fees in their second and third year of their studies. To date all of our sponsored students have graduated and passed their National Exams. Upon graduation they can expect to make \$325-\$500 per month. There is no shortage of opportunities for employment. As a registered Nurse/Midwife many different opportunities are available to them. They also have the opportunity to further their education. After 2-3 years they can apply to the government for a loan to continue their education. Their nursing salary continues while they are in school. We currently have 2 graduated sponsored students in bachelor degree programs. They are excellent role models for other women.

The DFW grant will allow us to sponsor close to 30 (depending on exchange rate) additional students. We cannot thank you enough for this opportunity to make such a difference in the lives of these young women we sponsor and their families.