

## Dining for Women

### Twelve Month Interim Progress Report 3

March 28, 2016

1. Please provide the following information:
  - Organization name: Tanzania Nursing Scholarship Program
  - Program Title: Nursing Scholarship Program Supplement
  - Grant Amount: \$35,000 (\$17,500 per year for two years)
  - Contact Person: Linda van Werkhoven, President
  - Address: P.O. Box 182 Blandford, MA. 01008
2. Recap briefly what outcomes the program is designed to achieve:
  - To assist academically qualified and financially needy young women attain the designation of Registered Nurse/Registered Midwife
  - To assist these young women attain a profession that will allow them to have financial security and independence.
  - Break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families
  - Increase educational opportunities for their families-- ex. Paying for siblings to go to school
  - 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.
  - 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
  - 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?
  - Tuition increases. When we started our sponsorship program in 2007 school fees plus pocket money provided to students totaled approximately \$300 a year. 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.
  - Effective with the fall 2015 term the Ministry of Health has discontinued food service to the students. Students will be responsible for their own meals. This decision has caused a lot of distress for students. In response we have provided a food allowance to sponsored students. Additionally, various components of school fees have been

increased. Taking into consideration the school fees, a small amount of pocket money and a food allowance, our current cost per student per year is approximately \$875.

- 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.
6. Pregnancy—this is not an uncommon problem. We had two young women in our program with this experience. In our previous report we mentioned this. Both young women returned for the fall 2015 term and expect to complete their studies in the fall of 2016.
  7. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?
    - 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
  8. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective.
    - We expect to sponsor 51 students in the 2016 spring term. Since our inception 66 sponsored students have graduated through 2015 and an additional 21 sponsored students will graduate during 2016.
    - 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.
    - 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.
    - 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.
  9. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the time frame outlined in your proposal?

No – At this time we have selected the students who will benefit from the DFW grant. Increases in various school fees and elimination of food service by the government controlled nursing schools has increased significantly the cost of providing financial support to the sponsored students.

#### Other Update Information:

1. We continue to work with five Schools of Nursing in Tanzania:

- We have sponsored nursing students at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical since 2007 and Tukuyu School of Nursing since 2012
  - During our 2015 visit to Tanzania we partnered with three new nursing schools where we had not previously sponsored students. These new schools are:
    - Muhumbili School of Nursing located in Dar es Salaam,
    - Mirembe School of Nursing located in Dodoma and
    - Operating Theatre Management School of Nursing located in Mbeya.
2. We developed a PowerPoint presentation that is focused on secondary school students. The presentation discusses a career in nursing, the educational requirements and the application process. At a secondary school and was well received. We expect that it will be utilized at other schools.
  3. We are very excited that four of our graduated students are enrolled in a Bachelor Degree Program in nursing.
  4. Two of our graduates are assisting us with our sponsorship program. Sarah Mdete is in very close contact with Muhumbili School of Nursing where she has been working with us to select students and help manage the program there. Tegemea is active working with students and staff at Mirembe School of Nursing. We enjoy the commitment and input that these young women bring to the program.

In addition to the financial support of individual students, we are also happy that we have been able to accomplish the following during this year. A dedicated donation allowed us to:

- Sponsored a visit by a tutor/instructor from Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center to the University of Massachusetts for a semester as a visiting scholar. Her focus was on learning the use of the Manikin Simulation Lab, e-learning and the different education modules. We expect that she will take home new skills for use at KCMC and at other nursing schools in Tanzania.
- One of the outcomes of this visit is discussion for the establishment of a student exchange program between UMass and KCMC School of Nursing.

Since our inception in 2007 we continued to have a clear focus of our goals and a simple approach to management of our program. We have seen a dramatic increase in school fees, making it even more difficult for young women to complete their nursing studies. Normally we start our sponsorship in the second year but this year we chose two students experiencing extreme hardship who were in their first year of studies. Our selection process includes a number of steps that has allowed us to be successful in identifying and assisting candidates for our program. To date only one student selected for sponsorship has left the program for poor academic performance. All other students selected for sponsorship have either successfully completed their studies or are working towards completion.

We continue to carefully and wisely use donated funds to make sure it reaches the intended target. We also continue to work closely with our school contacts and coordinators to address any issues that might arise. We require each student to send a monthly email reporting their progress and experiences. These emails are answered by a retired nurse practitioner.

We have just returned from a five week visit to Tanzania during which we visited the five schools where we sponsor students. We met with our sponsored students and selected new students for sponsorship. During each school visit we invite the students for a dinner and solicit any concerns or comments they may have.

We again want to thank you on behalf of the young women we sponsor and everyone associated with our sponsorship program.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda

Linda van Werkhoven, President

Tanzania Nursing Scholarship Program