AfricAid Annual Report 2011

Table of Contents

Letter from Executive Director .......................................................... 3
Mission Statement .............................................................................. 4
Impact Since 2001 .............................................................................. 4
Impact in 2011 ................................................................................... 5
  The Kisa Project ............................................................................ 6
    Student Profile: Margaret ............................................................. 7
Teaching in Action Teacher Training Program .................................. 7
Girls’ Secondary and Tertiary Scholarships ...................................... 8
    Student Profile: Prisca ................................................................. 8
Installation of Computer Labs ............................................................ 8
Muungano Secondary Vocational School ......................................... 9
Losinoni Primary School .................................................................. 9
Upendo English Medium Primary School ........................................ 10
USDAID Grant .................................................................................. 10
AfricAid Youth Service in America ............................................... 11
AfricAid First Annual Group Trip to Tanzania ............................... 11
Product Spotlight: Sam Learns Some Lessons .............................. 12
2011 Financials ............................................................................... 13
Board of Directors and Collaborations .......................................... 13
Contact Us ...................................................................................... 14
Letter from the Executive Director

A Tanzanian proverb says, matukio ya kufuata mtu mwingine kama siku za wiki – Events follow one another like days of the week. Throughout 2011, we have watched as events have unfolded to help and support girls in Tanzania and bring about opportunities that they would not have had otherwise.

When AfricAid started its work on 2001, we set our sights on supporting ten girls through their high school years. We made decisions and started a chain of events that has grown in impact and significance. In 2011, we have watched as our partner schools and communities have celebrated AfricAid’s work – work that has now impacted over 43,700 students. One event follows the next.

In 2011, we worked diligently to grow and expand our Kisa Project, a program that is helping Tanzanian girls finish their high school education and become leaders in their communities and nation. The 23 Kisa Scholars who inaugurated the program in 2010 have now graduated and are mentoring girls in their home communities. 66 new Kisa scholars joined the program in 2011 and have now received a year of training, coaching, mentoring and hands-on skill development in computers, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Over the next five years, we plan to grow Kisa to reach thousands of students across East Africa. One event follows the next.

We were humbled in 2011 by the impact that our efforts can make. We watched in awe and with great emotion as Prisca, one of AfricAid’s very first student scholars, graduated from teacher training college. She is the first woman in her Masaai community to go to college and become a teacher. Prisca is currently teaching classes and impacting the lives of hundreds of young Tanzanians. One event follows the next.

We watched with gratitude as the students we have supported have used their opportunities to become leaders and agents of change. Dozens have become teachers and nurses, accountants and businesswomen. Another young woman just graduated from one of the best girls’ boarding schools in the United States; and two of our Kisa scholars were selected to participate in a prestigious, month-long leadership training program in the U.S. One event follows the next.

We thank you for joining with us this year in helping to ensure that events keep unfolding that improve educational opportunities and transform lives. It has only been with your support that we have been able to create opportunities, and better futures, for children in Tanzania.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abshire
Mission Statement:
AfricAid envisions a future in which all African girls have equal access to high-quality educational opportunities that empower them to achieve their goals and better their communities.

Vision:
To provide young African women with the opportunity to transform their own lives and the futures of their communities through thoughtfully crafted and executed educational programs that reach, teach and empower girls.

AfricAid works in the following ways to achieve this vision:

Reach: AfricAid gives girls in Africa the basic opportunity to go to school. In Tanzania, education literally can be the difference between life and death. This is a frightening reality in a country where 95 percent of girls do not finish high school. AfricAid reaches these girls through our scholarship programs, helping to give them a voice in their future, and in the future of their communities.

Teach: It is not enough to simply provide hope and get girls in the classroom. AfricAid teaches these young African women and helps them achieve their potential in the classroom. AfricAid helps to pave this crucial path by ensuring that girls in Tanzania have relevant, high-quality learning experiences while in school. Our initiatives provide vocational and teacher training, build classrooms at overcrowded schools, supply textbooks and computers, and fund school lunches for undernourished students.

Empower: Finally, there is a saying in Africa that if you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a community. By giving these women the tools they need to improve their lives and the lives of those around them, AfricAid empowers young African girls to become leaders, reaching the next generation of girls.

AfricAid’s Impact Since 2001

Since 2001, AfricAid has raised over $1,300,000 to support over 43,000 Tanzanian students in their educational and professional goals. Specifically, AfricAid has:

- Provided over 200 one-year scholarships to young Maasai women.
- Funded the education of over a dozen Tanzanian women for medical school, teachers’ training colleges, and clinical officer training colleges.
- Funded four Teaching in Action teacher training workshops completed by over 200 Tanzanian secondary school teachers from across the country. These teachers improve the quality of education offered to thousands of Tanzanian students each year.
- Initiated the Kisa Project, a girls’ scholarship and leadership training program that supports young women in helping them to become leaders in their communities and nation.
- Funded the creation of an Assistant Medical Officer training program whose young female graduates will return to their communities to provide much-needed medical care.
- Contributed building supplies and labor for the construction of eight primary and secondary school classrooms. Initiated the construction of a vocational center at an existing secondary school and equipped that center with a tailoring workshop and computer lab.
- Provided computers for computer labs at six schools.
- Provided sewing machines for a vocational center for at-risk girls.
- Provided over $100,000 worth of school supplies and textbooks to eight schools.
- Implemented a school lunch program for an impoverished rural Maasai primary school, which has increased school attendance by 30%.
- Funded the construction of a water pipe that provides clean drinking water to a remote village primary school without a water source of its own.
- Installed solar power at a rural Maasai primary school, giving teachers access for the first time to a computer, printer, and cell phone chargers.
- Developed a greater culture of service learning and service activities among American youth through AfricAid Clubs formed throughout the US.
AfricAid’s Impact in 2011

Successes-At-A-Glance

Kisa Project growing! AfricAid’s Kisa Project is a girls’ scholarship and leadership training program that helps young African women become leaders in their communities and nation. Kisa Scholars communicate monthly with their American sponsors through kisaproject.org.

With grants from USAID, The Segal Foundation, The Cubit Family Foundation, and The Flahive Family Foundation, the Kisa Program grew to 88 girls in 2011, paving the way to add 120 new girls in 2012.

The Teaching in Action(TIA) teacher training program received funding support and recognition from the Open Society Institute.

For the first time, the annual TIA seminar was 100% Tanzanian-led. Dr. Frances Vavrus continued to help with oversight and guidance. 50 Tanzanian teachers learned how to use participatory, student-centered teaching methods. These teachers have improved the quality of education for thousands of Tanzanian students.

With the support of NComputing, AfricAid installed three low-cost computer labs in Tanzanian schools, serving over 2,000 students.

As a result of AfricAid’s work at Losinoni Primary School in supporting classroom construction, a solar power installation, a school lunch program and textbooks, attendance has increased by 30% and the graduation rate has increased from 20% to 98% in six years! Nearly 328,000 lunches were provided at Losinoni Primary School in 2011 alone.

Several former AfricAid scholarship recipients are continuing their education at teachers’ and nurses’ training colleges.

Tanzanian girls in AfricAid’s Kisa Project created their own digital stories, sharing their experiences and hopes for the future in 3-minute videos. See these stories at http://www.kisaproject.org/featured-digital-stories!
The Kisa Project

In 2010, AfricAid initiated the pilot year of the Kisa Project, a girls’ scholarship and leadership training program in Tanzania.

Kisa means “story” in Swahili, and through this new AfricAid initiative, young women in Africa have the opportunity to write a new future story – both for themselves and for their communities. Through the Kisa Project, young women are supported as they complete the final two years of their high school education, while also participating in a weekly leadership training program with powerful Tanzanian women mentors. The 2-year training culminates in these “Kisa Scholars” returning to their home communities for a 6-month period and mentoring groups of girls in what they learned through Kisa. In this way, the Kisa Project works to uplift the next generation of women leaders across Tanzania.

At the same time, our Kisa Scholars log on to computers every week, using the low-cost labs that AfricAid installs at every Kisa partner school. While there, the girls sign into www.kisaproject.org, a user-friendly social network that allows them to connect with other Kisa Scholars, with their Kisa Sponsors in the United States, and with other Tanzanian women leaders who are part of the Kisa network. In this way, Kisa Scholars not only learn vital computer skills, but also build the support networks they need in order to become leaders and agents of change in their communities.

The Kisa Project was launched in 2009 and AfricAid initiated the pilot year of the program in 2010 with 22 young women at two Tanzanian partner schools. Over the course of the first year, the Kisa Scholars met weekly with their Tanzanian mentors and developed meaningful relationships with their American sponsors through monthly, guided conversations on Kisaproject.org. Within the first four months of the program, the Kisa Scholars even started their own small-scale social business to teach computer skills to women and students in their communities! In 2011, 60 new young women joined Kisa to receive the same hands-on training and mentoring during their last 2 years of secondary school. Kisa activities in 2011 included special events, like “Career Day”, where 5 dynamic professional women shared their life stories with our 82 Kisa scholars, staff and friends of the project, which took place in August.

The Kisa Project has been recognized and supported by the Tanzanian Ministry of Education, USAID, the Women’s Foundation of Colorado, DoSomething.org, NComputing, She’s the First, Educate!, and the Center for Digital Storytelling.
Kisa Scholar Profile: Margaret Melkiori

Margaret Melkiori is a phenomenal young Tanzanian woman who became orphaned at a young age after her parents died from AIDS. Left to be cared for by her extended family, Margaret has faced and overcome many challenges to make her education possible. With the support, training, and mentorship she is receiving as a Kisa Scholar through AfricAid’s Kisa Project, she is planning to become a lawyer to support women’s rights in her country.

Moreover, Margaret was one of six women from Tanzania chosen to attend a Youth Leadership Exchange Program in the United States based on her impressive leadership and academic skills. She is an outstanding example of the “girl effect” in her active participation and leadership in her community. She is evidence that, given the opportunity, educated woman will change the lives of future generations.

Watch Margaret’s amazing 2-minute digital story here: www.kisaproject.org/archived-digital-stories!

Teaching in Action Teacher Training Program

In September of 2011, 50 teachers gathered on the campus of Mwenge College of Education in Moshi, Tanzania to participate in the fifth annual Teaching in Action (TIA) program, sponsored by AfricAid. Teachers came from across Tanzania to attend the workshop – in fact, schools located a 25-hour bus ride away had heard about the workshop and sent their teachers to participate. During their time together, the teachers and faculty worked together to learn and practice student-centered, interactive teaching methods that each teacher will bring back to his or her partner school.

In Tanzania, students are usually taught through rote memorization and are rarely encouraged to use critical thinking skills. This is not surprising given the conditions that teachers face in Tanzania: there are often more than 50 students in a classroom, most of whom do not have access to school supplies of any sort. In addition, the children are often at very different levels academically. Facing these challenges, Tanzanian teachers struggle to truly engage their students in the learning process.

The Teaching in Action teacher training workshop was developed by Dr. Frances Vavrus, in collaboration with the faculty at Mwenge College of Education in Tanzania, in order to address these challenges. Each year, teachers from across the country gather to learn how to better engage their students – even in difficult learning environments – and prepare them for academic and professional success. Each day, teachers learn about different topics relevant to Tanzanian high schools, such as gender and inclusive education, teaching English, and utilizing locally available and low-cost materials to make effective teaching aids. This year, the faculty of Mwenge made a great leap forward in completely organizing and leading the program for the first time ever!

The TIA program has been recognized with funding and support from the Planet Wheeler Foundation, the TAG Foundation, the Provost Fund at Columbia University, the University of Minnesota and the Open Society Institute. The impact is truly enormous for the thousands of students who will benefit from a better education in their classroom!
Girls’ Secondary and Tertiary Scholarships

During 2011, AfricAid continued to support motivated young women in their educational goals. AfricAid provides boarding school scholarships to young women at the Maasai Girls Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania, and Upendo English Medium Primary School in Usa River, Tanzania. 21 students directly benefited from these scholarships. Additionally, in 2011, AfricAid sponsored several tertiary-level scholarships for teacher training, including a scholarship for one of the very first AfricAid Scholars, who was the first woman in her village to go to secondary school and is now the first female school teacher from her Masaai village!

Student Profile: Prisca Lesakire

Born in a rural Tanzanian village, Prisca was the first girl in her village to go to high school. AfricAid provided her with a scholarship and school supplies, and outfitted her school with books and computers. When she graduated from high school, Prisca was expected to marry, but instead decided to continue her education. With the support offered by AfricAid, her family, and her friends, Prisca is now the first female teacher from her village, having graduated from teacher training college in 2011. She is truly an inspiration and role model for the generation of girls who follow her.

Installation of Computer Labs

In 2011, AfricAid installed low-cost computer labs in three Tanzanian schools, making it possible for over 2,000 students to develop critical computer skills.

The labs were installed at Edmund Rice and Enaboishu secondary schools (both part of the Kisa Project), and the Muungano Vocational Secondary School, using low-cost NComputing technology and open source software that helps safeguard against the viruses that so often cripple Tanzanian labs.

AfricAid has been recognized in several ways for our innovative use of technology, including a case study published by NComputing.
Muungano Secondary Vocational School

Since 2005, AfricAid has assisted the important work being done by the Muungano Vocational Secondary School in Usa River, Tanzania. Muungano was the vision of community leader Joseph Kitia, who saw that vocational training is essential in a country where unemployment levels can climb above 40 percent. Muungano trains students in practical skills that will qualify them for employment or enable them to start their own small businesses. In 2010, a tailoring workshop was completed at the school through a grant from the Western Union Foundation, which is providing vital skills to students who would otherwise have few opportunities for employment. In 2011, AfricAid completed a second workshop that houses 20 computer stations, which was made possible by a grant from the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation. In this way, AfricAid is providing pathways to employment for hundreds of Tanzanian students.

In the coming years, AfricAid plans to continue to help Muungano achieve its dream of providing workshops in mechanics, carpentry, electrical work, and business management.

Losinoni Primary School

AfricAid has funded the construction of four new classrooms, a solar power installation, new latrines, desks, textbooks and the renovation of several buildings at this rural Maasai school. In addition, AfricAid continues to partner with the school’s “Maasai Mamas” – the mothers of the school’s students – who make beautiful beaded jewelry that AfricAid then sells in the United States. AfricAid uses that money to fund a school lunch program for the students, many of who receive just one evening meal of porridge and walk miles to and from school each day. Specifically in 2011, AfricAid supported the completion of Losinoni’s new Standard 7 classroom, sold bracelets, and served over 328,000 lunches. Attendance at the school has increased by 30 percent since the lunch program was implemented, and the nutritious lunch enables students to actively participate in their classes!

In May of 2011, AfricAid supporters visited and camped at Losinoni on our first annual trip. Trip participants received a unique glance into life in a rural, Maasai village and got to interact with the children first-hand and see all the progress that has been made there. They were also able to meet the dynamic Head of School, Mr. Ezekiel, who first started working with AfricAid in 2004.
Upendo English Medium Primary School

At Upendo English Medium Primary School AfricAid provided various forms of school supplies to their student body and facilitated sponsorships of 13 students. We have a strong relationship with Joseph Kitia who runs the school with his wife and look forward to continuing our work with Joseph and Upendo in the future.

USAID Grant

In June 2011 AfricAid announced that it had been awarded a three-year grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support desperately needed education for young women in Africa. The $150,000 grant will support The Kisa Project in Tanzania, AfricAid’s flagship leadership initiative that provides scholarships and training to African girls in secondary school. The grant will enable AfricAid to reach, teach, and empower young women, in a part of the world where they are often denied basic educational opportunities, despite the well-documented and critically-needed social impact that comes from women’s education.

“We are honored to have been awarded this grant from USAID because it demonstrates the degree to which we are making a real difference in the lives of young women in Africa,” said Elizabeth Abshire, Executive Director, AfricAid. “USAID’s financial support is a great validation of our supporters’ vision and dedication, and we are thrilled that The Kisa Project will now be able to reach ten times as many young women.”.
AfricAid Youth Service in America

AfricAid is dedicated to the belief that we in the United States have an increasing responsibility to help build a culture of service learning and service activities among the youth of America. To achieve this end, AfricAid has helped to initiate and support the development of “AfricAid Clubs” across the country, and has provided ongoing support to groups of students who have become sponsors in AfricAid’s new Kisa Project. Through these experiences, students across the United States have the opportunity to learn about life for students in Africa, to form strong bonds with a young woman in Tanzania, and to understand the value and satisfaction that comes from developing lifelong habits of serving, giving, and caring.

AfricAid now has 12 school clubs across the country supporting Kisa scholars and it is growing each month. AfricAid is inspired by the hundreds of students who have worked creatively and passionately across the United States to learn about the lives of students in Africa, and to reach out a helping hand to provide rare educational opportunities!

AfricAid’s First Annual Group Trip to Tanzania

AfricAid and Africa Adventure Consultant’s first guided, fund-raising trip to Tanzania took place in May 2011. Twelve participants witnessed AfricAid’s programs first-hand in visits to four AfricAid partner schools and got to experience Tanzanian culture through home visits. The trip also included the classic safari experience. The group visited Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti. In one day alone, they saw 30 lions and one leopard - and that’s just the cats.

The trip provided a very unique opportunity to see life-changing programs close-up and to be invited into Tanzanian schools and homes. The group visited two primary schools: Upendo and Losinoni, and two secondary schools: Muungano and Arusha Secondary. There was a blend of public and private, and urban and rural schools, but one thing was constant – the beautiful children who simply want to learn and make their lives and communities better. At Losinoni, children and travelers engaged in a postcard activity where each shared stories and pictures of their homes and lives, and then sang, played, and asked questions to learn about one another at Upendo. Multiple home visits, including a visit to a traditional Maasai home, afforded the opportunity to better understand the culture in an authentic, unfiltered way.

The three game park visits were extraordinary and offered the chance to see some of the famed wildebeest migration, as well as hundreds of other animals from the tiny dik dik to the mighty lion. Venturing out among a field of elephants is truly a life-changing, awe-inducing moment.

We’re planning to make the trip an annual one. It is a great way to foster cultural understanding and to enrich the lives of Tanzanians and Americans.
AfricAid is proud to highlight a wonderful new children’s book that features the creativity of the inaugural class of Kisa Scholars as well as the inspirational work of AfricAid Founder Ashley Shuyler.

SAM LEARNS SOME LESSONS is a touching tale about a young elephant who comes to his friend’s rescue. Published by the nonprofit organization Dot-to-Dot Children’s Books, the book is based on stories written by the Kisa Scholars during a creative writing workshop last year. Dot-to-Dot’s creative writing team selected favorite elements written during the workshop and combined them into a single story, making SAM LEARNS SOME LESSONS an expression of the collective creativity of the young women who helped write it.

However, the young elephant in SAM LEARNS SOME LESSONS is not the only hero whose story is told through this book. The Kisa Scholars who helped author the book are prominently featured in the book as role models for generations of youth around the world and AfricAid Founder Ashley Shuyler is profiled as “A Heroine and Leader.” The book also features information about AfricAid and facts about elephants and Tanzania.

AfricAid is incredibly excited to be part of this project. Please join us in giving a global voice to the Kisa Scholars and spreading the word about AfricAid by sharing SAM LEARNS SOME LESSONS with children in your life and recommending it to your friends and family. 20% of sales of SAM LEARNS SOME LESSONS will automatically be donated to AfricAid and an additional 20% of sales will be donated if you enter promo code AFRICAID at the time of purchase. An additional 10% of sales will be donated to the Wildlife Conservation Society to help protect elephants. To learn more or purchase, visit: http://www.dot-to-dot-books.org/shop/
## Board of Directors and Collaborations

**Board of Directors:**
- Rocco Dodson
- Emily Droll
- Felicity Hannay
- Gretchen Healey
- Betsy Hoke
- Bazi Kanani
- Dr. Doug Millham
- Kent Redding
- Nina Shuyler
- Richard Shuyler
- Ashley Shuyler
- Krista Warnick
- Mark Williams
- Dr. Frances Vavrus, Special Advisor

**Tanzanian Board:**
- John Laser
- Dr. Augustine Mahiga
  *(former Tanzanian Ambassador to the United Nations)*
- Esupat Ngulupa
- Susan Simonson

**Staff:**
- Elizabeth Abshire, Executive Director
- Laura Walter, Operations Director
- Valerie Weich, Development Consultant
- Tait Flint, Country Director
- Anande Nkko, Kisa Mentor
- Esther Pinel, Kisa Mentor
- Jessica Shayo, Kisa Mentor

**Interns:**
- Molly McCormick
- Ursula Minszewski
- Julia Reis
- Chelsea Smith
- Ashley Hall

**2011 Sponsors and Partners:**
- 9 News
- Africa Adventure Consultants
- African Eyes Travel
- Applewood Seed Company
- BoldLeaders
- Chalet Floral
- Colorado Academy
- Colorado Women’s Foundation: Beyond Our Borders
- Concinnity Initiatives
- Cubit Family Foundation
- Denver Corporate Search
- Digital Printing Partners
- DLT Solutions
- Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation
- Eat So They Can-GVN Foundation
- Educate!
- Elephant Corral
- Flahive Family Foundation
- Flying Dog
- Gourmet Fine Catering
- Mentoring Montessori & more
- Merage Foundation
- Metropolitan Homes
- Milstein Family Foundation
- MSN Communications
- Mythics
- Neinnet
- Open Society Institute
- Rotary Club of Evergreen, CO
- Segal Family Foundation
- She’s the First
- TEK Systems
- USAID
- Vintage Fringe

## Financials

### Statement of Activities
1/1/2011-12/31/2011

#### Revenue
- Individual Contributions: $132,085
- Foundation Grants: 114,173
- Corporate Contributions: 20,538
- Fundraising Events: 71,594
- Other: 8,821
- Sub-Total: 347,211

Cost of Goods Sold: 4,607
Total Revenue: **$342,604**

#### Expenditures
- Program Funding: $97,384
- Program Expenses: 113,445
- Sub-Total: 210,829

- Fundraising: 33,636
- Administrative: 46,220
- Total Expenditures: **$290,685**

Change in Net Assets: **$51,919**

Note: Excludes In-Kind Contributions

### Statement of Financial Condition
As of 12/31/2011

#### Assets
- Cash: **$234,019**
- Other Assets: 2,411

Total Assets: **236,430**

#### Liabilities and Net Assets
- Liabilities: **$165**
- Net Assets: 236,265

Total: **$236,430**
Thank You!

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