



FALL 2017

Greetings AfricAid Friends,

Mentorship is at the center of AfricAid’s two core programs, the Kisa Project and Binti Shupavu. Scholars in both programs attend weekly classes with their Mentors, who teach the curricula, but also serve as role models to Scholars. Long after high school graduation, Mentors and Alumnae stay in touch, often forming lasting friendships. Through AfricAid, the **Mentors have many special ways to connect with girls in order to build those crucial relationships.**

Fall has been a season of special events. In October our Tanzania team hosted the **7th annual Career Day women’s leadership conference** in two locations, with a combined attendance of 1,368. In the US we held our **Art & Soul fundraiser on September 23rd** where we helped to make the experiences of our Scholars come alive for our donors. This was made easier because, for the first time ever, we had Devotha Mlay (Kisa Project Manager) in attendance to share her stories first hand. In this edition you can read about Devotha’s travels in the US, Art & Soul, Kisa Project’s Career Day, and Binti Shupavu’s parent outreach events. Plus, make sure to check out the blog and video pages of our website for more stories about these special events.

With Gratitude,

Jana Kinsey
Executive Director



DEVOTHA VISITS COLORADO!

My trip to Colorado was like a dream... I hiked in Telluride and Boulder, experienced Mesa Verde and Black Canyon National Parks, and took so many pictures along the way. But nothing compares to the moment I met **YOU**, the people who make AfricAid’s life-changing programs possible.

Now back in Tanzania, I cannot stop talking about my visit to the US, the highlight being Art & Soul. I have never experienced such an event...the amazing food, our famous host TaRhonda Thomas from 9News, and the contagious excitement about the Kisa Project and Binti Shupavu!

I continue to be humbled and honored to have taken part in the evening that raised over \$75,000 to support our mission. I especially want to tell you that my absolute favorite part was sharing stories with you...

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L-R: BOARD MEMBER NINA SHUYLER AND SISTER BONNIE BUCKLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JANA KINSEY, KISA PROJECT MANAGER DEVOTHA MLAY, FOUNDER/BOARD MEMBER ASHLEY CARTER AND HUSBAND PHIL PLUS BABY KINLEY



CAREER DAY 2017 MWAJABU MSOFE, KISA MENTOR

Career Day is the highlight of AfricAid's Tanzanian calendar. Kisa Scholars come together, celebrate, share stories, partake in career counseling, and engage with successful Tanzanian women. The girls' energy could be felt as over 1,300 young women and guests came together in two events, one under the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Moshi, and the other with the backdrop of Mt. Meru in Arusha.

The plenary speakers shared their incredible life stories: the hard work of pursuing dreams, how they contributed to their communities, barriers they have faced, and ways they kept going. We heard from a university lecturer, a young Kisa Alumna who has achieved success in her business, a writer, entrepreneur, and a bright young woman who was runner-up in the Ms. Tanzania Competition.

"It doesn't matter who I am or what I am facing. I can still stand up and be one person among a million. I came back to school feeling happy and knowing Kisa, it lasts forever. I can last, too."

- Jenifa, Kisa Scholar

Kisa Scholars commented about what they learned from the guest speakers:

"The little idea we have can be worked on so hard and creatively to create a change in a society." - Rose

"I have been inspired most by Miss Stumai. From her story I have learned how to stay focused and move on even though there are a lot of challenges, we should never give up." - Neyonkulu

"Today I have learned how to be wild and wide. Dr. Magreth is a doctor but also she has other investments, and I wish to be an Engineer but also I can sing, and now I believe I can reach all my goals." - Debora

After a delicious lunch, the large group broke up into smaller, more specific career-orientated sessions. Girls could choose between community development professionals, teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, lawyers, office managers, lecturers, the tourist industry, IT professionals, fashion designers, engineers, journalists, and others.

As to be expected with such a large and enthusiastic group of young African girls, there was plenty of dance, music, and singing along with the DJ and entertainment. There was good-natured competition between the schools as well, as each celebrated the success of individuals in their particular schools who received awards and cheered for the recognition of their Kisa Liaisons. It was a very enjoyable day and Scholars were inspired to make life better for themselves and their communities. Career Day is indeed Inspiration Day.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KISA ALUMNA AND CAREER DAY SPEAKER STUMAI?

We'll be featuring Stumai and her businesses on the blog in December! Learn more about her personal story and why she told Kisa Scholars to believe that everything is possible!

CHECK IT OUT: AFRICAID.ORG/BLOG



TOP: SCHOLARS PERFORM SONGS ABOUT KISA AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPOWERING GIRLS TO REACH THEIR GOALS

MIDDLE: SPEAKER NYAMAGESA LABAN SIGNS COPIES OF HER BOOK *IF ALL YOU HAVE IS ONE SONG, SING IT LOUD*

BOTTOM: SCHOLARS DANCE AND CELEBRATE THEIR CLASSMATE WHO WON AN AWARD FOR BEING CLASS CAPTAIN



BINTI SHUPAVU ENGAGES PARENTS NGAIRE MCCUBBEN



BINTI SHUPAVU MANAGER ASIMWE SUEDE LEADS PARENTS IN A DISCUSSION ABOUT KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL.

AfricAid has pioneered a parents' night engagement event as a critical part of Binti Shupavu to encourage parents to become advocates for their daughters' education. We plan to hold annual events at each Binti Shupavu Partner School, bringing parents from multiple schools together when possible to share ideas and become part of a bigger movement.

The first event was held May 20th and included an introduction to Binti Shupavu, a focus group session on the importance of girls' education, and performances by Binti Shupavu Scholars. **One Scholar made a speech about how Binti Shupavu has helped her so far; others did a skit about the challenges girls face in getting an education; and another group recited a poem about gender discrimination and its impacts.** We were thrilled to see girls demonstrating new skills like confidence and courage just four and a half months into the program!

The event was well received by the parents, all of whom were engaged in asking questions of the staff. **A number of them shared their thoughts publicly about the importance of educating their daughters.** Mama Esther spoke about how difficult it can be to raise an adolescent girl and how she believes it is up to parents to protect and guide them. Another mother noted how times have changed and that this generation is very different from her own. She said that maintaining a close relationship with one's daughter is essential to knowing what is going on in her life. Many thanked AfricAid for developing Binti Shupavu and pledged to support their daughters' educational endeavors as best they can.

FULL BINTI SHUPAVU BLOG SERIES: AFRICAID.ORG/CATEGORY/BINTI-SHUPAVU/

CELEBRATING GROWTH: ART & SOUL 2017

DEVOTHA MLAY, KISA PROJECT MANAGER (Continued from cover)

Celebrating Growth -- from 22 Scholars in 2010 to over 2000 this year across our two programs! At Art & Soul I shared with you about two Kisa Alumnae...

Stumai lost her parents young and was very insecure about her life and what she had to offer the world. **But because of Kisa, she learned to be confident.** After graduating, she started a business selling vegetables to both earn income and promote health. While doing that, she met a Minister of Parliament who was so impressed by her that he sponsored her to go to business training -- now she runs two successful businesses!

"If one door closes, use the window!"

- From a Kisa Lesson

The other, Neema, wanted to attend university, but didn't have funds or government loans to go. So she started a business and little by little she is saving up. That, plus a University Scholarship from AfricAid, means she will be able to attend next year. In Kisa she learned the phrase, "if one door closes... use the window!" Stumai, Neema, and so many Scholars' lives have been changed because of you.

As I shared in my speech, it's not just their lives that have been changed, it's mine too. When I was growing up, I didn't know about confidence. I didn't know girls could create positive change. But in my interview with AfricAid, Jana looked at me as if I was important and what I said mattered. Since that day, **I have dedicated my life to educating young girls** and helping them experience that same positive feeling -- learning that they are important, that they are capable, and that they can become powerful changemakers in their communities.

From the bottom of my heart, my continued thanks for all that you do.



ART & SOUL HONOREES DEE & GENE MILSTEIN!

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MENTORING GIRLS, IGNITING CHANGE



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“Be you. Be memorable. Start talking to yourself nicely. Say, ‘I am strong. I can.’ It will follow you.”

- Jennifer Shigoli
Career Day Speaker

Read about Career Day inside!



Make a gift on **Tuesday, December 5** and help us unlock a percentage of the \$1,000,000 incentive fund created by Community First Foundation and 1st Bank! africaid.org/donate



P.S. You don't have to wait - you can schedule your gift today!

ANGEL BREAKFAST EVENT

Angel Breakfast is our spring event where Kisa Sponsors connect to Kisa Mentors over video conference. Hear personal stories from our Mentors and ask questions about the Kisa Project at this exclusive event!

Want to join in the fun?

Become a Kisa Sponsor today with a gift of \$500, \$1000, or \$50/month!



Watch the highlight video from last year:
africaid.org/videos