

Education Towards a Future

Promoting long-term change



December 2009

Dear Friend!

It is with great excitement that I write to you today! I am about to share with you the fantastic development 'Education Towards a Future' has undergone since I last wrote to you in June. I wanted to wait until certain things had been achieved, obtained and finalised. I now present to you a refurbished, exciting and purposeful charity; clear in its objectives and with many characteristics that will no doubt reaffirm your belief in Edtaf and ensure that, coupled with universal support, we impact Kenya with maximum force!

I am pleased to inform you that Edtaf is now registered with H.M.Revenue & Customs and as such is recognised by them as a charity for tax purposes. This means we can claim Gift Aid! Please see the attached sheet for more information on donating with Gift Aid. To register with the Charity Commission you need to have an income of £5000 a year. I do not see this target being far away at all, so once reached we will be 'bumped up' to the Charity Commission and have a charity number.

Furthermore, Edtaf now has a board of trustees who ensure that Edtaf continues to operate in an effective and charitable manner. They are as follows:

- Steve Desport - Angus Shiells - Brian Croucher - Mark Moore - Rob Croucher

We will soon be holding open meetings so that you have the chance to come and find out more about Edtaf. These will be announced in due course on our website www.edtaf.org.

Edtaf's first scholar, Patrick Achola, is fairing really well in Kenya and encapsulates everything that Edtaf is about. The following is his latest message to you (other updates can be viewed on the website).

Amazing love

"The poor will always be among you" (by Yoshua Bar Yusuf)

Poor people are a reality even though ignored by many. In Africa being poor is not necessarily out of idleness, but predominantly out of a lack of equal ground to compete with the rest of the young professionals that have first class university education.

It is unfortunate that most Africans will live and die never knowing anything in life apart from poverty! Because of fear of the unknown, it takes tons of courage to stretch a hand of hope to Africans and pull them out of the status quo, and only brave people in the world do this. Fortunately enough I am one of the handful Africans who have received the brave hand of hope to help me and I am deeply grateful.

This semester as with the last two, I have continued to be privileged and blessed by the benefit of your support for my university education, and for sure I have enjoyed this term a bit more than the last two because most of my Leadership concentration courses fell on this semester. The courses included: Leadership Training Models, Stewardship, Finance Management and Strategic Planning. Strategic Planning class was my best course this time because it opened my mind to understand that most African governments and other organizations fail because they do not plan for the future but live to depend on donations, reliefs and other aids. Can you imagine what happens to Africa when an economic recession strikes Europe and America just like it recently did? With my education, I have a vision to reverse some of these simple African's problems that have great negative impact. Some of these simple solutions can turn Africa around. I look in to the near future and I see Africa with no hungry children, no death out of hunger or malaria, a continent where justice prevails like a river. It is five days till I close this semester, and I reckon that you are preparing to celebrate Christmas and the beginning of a new year. I want to wish you happiness through this season and thank you for giving the best Christmas and new years' present of being in school. I wish you time full of merry.



I am sure you share my excitement about the potential that Patrick continues to show as a social entrepreneur and change agent. I have full belief that if ever there was someone who can impact a community it is him. I will be meeting Patrick in February so that we can discuss his educational and professional career. The challenge for Edtaf is to find more people like Patrick and this process has already begun! We will be holding the final round of the application process by interviewing six prospective Kenyans to start University in August. They will be judged on how much impact we believe they can have on a community in Kenya and how much they need a University education to make this impact. Undoubtedly they would all cherish an education and they are all worthy Scholars, but we want the best of the best! I look forward to telling you more about these students after the February trip. But just to whet your appetite, here are three prospective candidates:

1. **Molvine Owino.** Degree: Public Health. *"I long to educate people in my surrounding slum area in public health matters".*
2. **Linnet Ambiyu.** Degree: Early Child Development. *"I want to open a childhood development and education centres in rural parts of Kenya".*
3. **Benjamin Mutisya.** Degree: Entrepreneurship. *"It is my desire to start various small business projects around Nairobi that employ people on a part-time basis. This way I can educate people and empower them to start up businesses of their own".*

As always, we would love you to join us in this increasingly exciting venture. It has been incredible to see the journey we have been on already and I urge you to stick with Edtaf and keep believing in the individuals! We stand by the statements:

1. "Education is the most powerful tool with which to change the world" (Nelson Mandela)
2. "Long term change must come from the inside"

Edtaf is the combining and application of these two beliefs. Please find enclosed a Gift Aid form (should you be able to continue to support us) and also a pamphlet (for your reading and also for you to distribute to others!).

With many thanks and seasons greetings,

Robert Croucher.

Founder of 'Education Towards a Future'