



MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

MEF 2023 #GivingTuesday/December Matching Fundraiser
Donate Nov. 28 to Dec. 31, 2023 To Potentially Double Your Impact!



Our biggest fundraiser of the year starts November 28, 2023, 8AM EST and runs through December. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to help cover the Engaruka English Medium Primary School's (EEMPS) 2024 sponsorship/operating costs. This is half of MEF's operating funds commitment to EEMPS for 2024. In 2023, MEF donors sponsored 60 EEMPS students. In 2024, we will have approximately 35 more students and a total enrollment of 270 students, in pre-school through 7th grade. Only 28% of students attending EEMPS in 2023 came from families that could afford tuition and fees. The rest are classified as charity students by EEMPS and are supported by MEF and other donors. **The cost to sponsor an EEMPS boarding student in 2024 will again be \$700.** This \$700 covers a student's tuition, room and board, school uniforms, medical care, etc. If you donate after 8AM ET on Nov. 28, 2023, MEF board members have pledged to match at least the first \$10,000 in donations. The first \$40,000 in donations will go towards the school's 2024 sponsorship/operating costs and additional donations and match will go towards construction of the boys' dormitory.

To donate by credit card, please donate via the PayPal Giving Fund at: <https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198>. If you donate via the PayPal Giving Fund, 100% of your donation goes to MEF and the school. To donate via Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/MaasaiEducationFoundation/> and click on the blue DONATE button. **Facebook now charges a 2.53% processing fee, so credit card donations made via the PayPal Giving Fund are more beneficial to EEMPS.** Donations from either Facebook or PayPal Giving Fund are eligible for the MEF match depending upon the time they are submitted with first come, first served. Checks payable to Maasai Education Foundation may be mailed to 345 Woods Ln, Newport, VA 24128. If a corporate match is possible for your donation, please sign up for your company's corporate match. **Pledges** - If you want to participate in the fundraiser but plan to make your donation after the first of the year, please email maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com, text 540-922-2971, or mail us your pledge. **Please help us make this fundraiser a success.**



Message from Theo Dillaha, MEF Board Chairperson: 2023 has been another good year for MEF and EEMPS.

- We now have 235 children at EEMPS in pre-school through 6th grade. In January 2024, we will add 7th grade, our final grade, and we will have approximately 270 students.
- In October of 2023, our 38 fourth graders took the 4th grade national exams. Results are expected early next year. In 2022 we ranked 5th out of all 80 schools in the Monduli district.
- MEF board members Brian Benham and Steve Conner traveled to EEMPS with six Virginia Tech Service without Borders (SWB) students in May. The students donated 10 laptops to the school, funded and installed a drip irrigation system for the school garden, and dug over 100 one-cubic yard pits for the first phase of the school's fruit tree orchard.

- We had hoped that a new 128-bed boys' dormitory would be completed by now, but we have not been able to obtain a reasonable bid for construction. Our lowest bid so far was for \$161,000 and it only included two of the four dorm wings. For comparison, our 120-bed girls' dormitory completed in 2022 is larger and cost \$146,000. Our partners in Tanzania have identified an architect/builder that we believe understands what we can afford (approximately \$150,000) and we hope that plan he is currently developing will be within budget. We now hope to start construction in early 2024.
- The 2022 Giving Tuesday/December fundraiser helped fund satellite internet at the school, and it was a great success for the first eight months, but signal strength has since deteriorated. The school is looking for a better internet provider.
- Our 2022 GivingTuesday/December fundraiser and our 2023 Mid-Year Fundraiser were huge successes exceeding our goals, raising \$71,620 and \$52,000, respectively. We raised \$70,000 to help fund the school's \$140,000 2023 operating costs, with the remainder to be used for constructing the boys' dormitory.
- So far in 2023:
 - We have received \$131,232 in donations.
 - Expenditures include (1) \$35,000 to EEMPS for sponsorships/operating funds (with an additional \$35,000 sent at the end of Dec. 2022 for use in 2023); (2) \$16,700 to support the 2023 SWB service-learning trip to the school (the students and their advisors raised these funds); (3) \$3,750 to the proposed Canadian Maasai Education Society (MES) to help them with legal fees required to register a charity in Canada. MES will provide sponsorships to EEMPS students; and (5) \$5,500 for Maria Papaa Kingi's high school sponsorship (donated by her sponsors). Maria is the Maasai girl whose needs led to the establishment of MEF.
 - We had \$4,298 in non-program expenses out of \$77,664 in total expenses, so 94.5% of our expenditures went directly to Tanzania. Usually, more than 99% of our expenditures go to Tanzania but the \$3,750 Canadian donation increased our non-program expenses this year.
 - We currently have \$119,576 for the boys' dormitory construction and \$813 for 2024 EEMPS operating funds.



Message from Martha, EEMPS Manager: I am writing on behalf of EEMPS to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous and unwavering support to our school. Your dedication to the education and the well-being of our students has made a profound impact on our school and community. Your commitment to our school's mission has made it possible for us to continue our efforts to provide a high-quality education to the children in our community. Thanks to your financial assistance, we are better equipped to meet the educational needs of our students, ensuring a brighter future for them. We, at EEMPS, extend our deepest appreciation to MEF for your invaluable support. Your partnership has made a significant difference in the lives of our students, and we look forward to continued collaboration in our shared pursuit of educational excellence. (Congratulations to Martha and Abby! They welcomed a new son, Osiday, in July.)

Google Workspace



Google Workspace: With assistance from EEMPS and SWB, MEF applied for and received a Google Education Workspace account for EEMPS. As a non-profit, EEMPS was granted a workspace without the usual business fees. The Workspace allows students, faculty and staff to have Gmail accounts and online storage. The Workspace also provides many Google business tools and enabled EEMPS to have its own [website](#). Google Workspace is managed by Olar Paul Mollé, the school's public relations officer. Olar also oversees the computer club at the school, through which the students learn to use computers. Currently, only the 6th grade students have access to Gmail, but we hope to expand that to grade 3 and above when the school's satellite internet is fully functional again. This will facilitate direct communication between students and their sponsors.



Service Without Borders (SWB) Update: SWB is a student organization at Virginia Tech that volunteers in communities around the world. Working with MEF, SWB students have worked at EEMPS since 2017. In May 2023, five SWB students and three faculty advisors visited the school to improve the school's food production. They funded and helped install a drip irrigation system for the school's vegetable garden, they dug 100 one cubic yard pits for planting fruit trees, funded the drip irrigation system for the fruit trees, and donated 10 new laptop computers to the EEMPS computer lab. After all their work at the school, two SWB students went on safari to Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater and another student hiked to the top of Kilimanjaro. SWB members raised \$16,700 through MEF to support their trip. No other MEF funds were used to support the trip.



EEMPS Visit and Safari: In July 2023, MEF organized our first visit to the school for donors and MEF Board members that had never visited the school. A total of 21 people participated including six of our nine board members and 15 donors and family members. We spent three days at the school touring the school facilities and interacting with students and staff. It was an incredible experience, and everyone was extremely impressed. Before arriving at the school, the group went on a 5-day safari and visited Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater, seeing the big five (rhino, lion, leopard, elephant, and Cape buffalo) as well as countless wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, hippos, etc. It was a life-changing trip, particularly the visit to the school. We plan to organize similar trips in the future. Our next trip is scheduled for the 2nd half of May in 2024. No MEF funds were used for the trip. If you are interested or want more information, please email maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com for more information. Final trip details and costs will be available in January.





Boys Dormitory Status: As mentioned, we are trying to build a boys' dormitory and have \$120,000 to start construction. So far, the proposals we have received are well beyond MEF's financial means. The current thought is a simplified version of the plans to the right. Phase I will probably not include the patron's unit but might include 3 dorm wings at a cost of approximately \$150,000. We are currently waiting for a cost estimate from the architect/builder that the school has recommended. Hopefully, construction will start before the end of the year.

We've Been in the News: Click on the following link to read an article and view a video that Virginia Tech published about MEF, how we got started and the involvement of Virginia Tech faculty and students in MEF: [Taking 'Ut Prosim' to Africa.](#)



How to Help: There are many ways that you can help.

- **Student Sponsorships:** A student sponsorship is \$700 per year and covers a child's tuition, fees, clothing, room and board, medical care, etc. You can also provide partial support for a child. Sponsors receive updates on their child.
- **Donations:** General donations go towards school operating costs or facilities construction. We will hopefully complete construction of the school in 2026 or 2027. Remaining facilities that are needed include: the boys' dormitory, two additional classrooms, a small administration building and some staff housing so that we can attract the best teachers.
- **Corporate Match:** Many corporations match the donations of their employees to charitable organizations. We probably receive over \$15,000 in corporate matching funds annually. Please check and see if your donations are eligible for a corporate match. If you have questions about corporate matches, please contact us.
- **Corporate Giving Programs:** Did you know that Kroger family of companies (Kroger, Ralphs, Dillons, Smith's, King Soopers, Fry's, QFC, City Market, Owen's, Jay C, Pay Less, Baker's, Gerbes, Harris Teeter, Pick 'n Save, Metro Market, Mariano's) and some other merchants will donate a percentage of your purchases to a charity if you them as your preferred charity? If you know of other companies that do this, please let us know. Email us and we'll help you set this up with Kroger.
- **Vehicle and Boat Donations:** Supporters have donated two cars to us in the past that they no longer used. It is incredibly easy. Just contact us and we'll recommend a vehicle donation service. Then you fill out a one-page form, the service picks up the car and sells it at auction, and you get credit for a charitable donation.
- **eBay Sales:** Did you know that you can designate all or a portion of eBay sales to charity? When you do so, eBay waives the percentage of the fees that you donate. For example, if you sell something for \$20 and designate all the funds for a charity, eBay will waive all your transaction fees. If 50% is designated for charity, 50% of fees are waived.
- For more information on any of the above, please email maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com.

HOW TO DONATE

BY CHECK: Send checks payable to the Maasai Education Foundation, 345 Woods Lane, Newport, VA 24128.

BY CREDIT CARD (with no fees):

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MEF, PLEASE VISIT

<https://maasaieducationfoundation.org> or

<https://www.facebook.com/MaasaiEducationFoundation/>

Email: maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com

Text: 540-922-2971

