



MAASAI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2025 | NEWSLETTER NO. 14



“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON
WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

-NELSON MANDELA

WELCOME BACK FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Welcome back to the [Maasai Education Foundation](#) (MEF) quarterly newsletter, Summer 2025 edition! There have been many accomplishments over the last three months with our efforts to support the [Engaruka Community Initiative Organization](#) (ENCO) and its operation of the [Engaruka English Medium Primary School](#) (EEMPS) and the ENCO Secondary School (ENCOSS). Please read on to learn about the results of MEF's mid-year fundraiser, our new monthly PayPal payment option for EEMPS sponsorships, our revamped MEF website, ENCOSS construction updates, a new book release featuring Martha Mereso Sengeruan, ENCO's Executive Director and EEMPS and ENCOSS School Manager, and much more!

I was recently looking at pictures for a presentation about MEF's work in Tanzania and was reminded again of the amazing transformation that has occurred since the cornerstone for the first EEMPS classroom was laid in May of 2017. The two photos below show the EEMPS campus in Sep. 2017 and in Dec. 2024. From a barren, over-grazed plain to a lush oasis of learning, the transformation is nothing short of miraculous. The progress reflected in these pictures is due in no small part to the dedication of faculty, staff, and students at the school and the generosity of MEF's donors. Thank you! Just imagine what else is possible!

BRIAN BENHAM
MEF Chairperson



Campus in Sep. 2017



Campus in Dec. 2024



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This quarter has been a period of steady progress and important milestones at Engaruka English Medium Primary School, made possible through the generous support of the MEF and our many partners.

One of the most significant developments has been the continued construction of the new secondary school. These advancements bring us closer to fulfilling the requirements for secondary school registration, an important step toward expanding learning opportunities for our students.

To accommodate our growing population, we also began extending the school kitchen this quarter. In addition, students led landscaping and tree planting efforts around the compound, which have not only improved the school's environment but also instilled valuable lessons about environmental care and responsibility.

MARTHA MERESO SENGERUAN
EEMPS Manager
ENCO Executive Director



Our school farm continues to stand out as a practical learning space and a vital source of nutrition, supporting the school kitchen and improving students' health. The success of the farm has been enhanced by the drip irrigation system funded by the Rotary Club. Students remain at the heart of this initiative, gaining hands-on agricultural knowledge while building teamwork and responsibility.

Academically, we are proud of our Class 7 students who recently sat for the district-wide mock examination, competing with 83 schools. EEMPS ranked 9th overall, with an average score of 78 (B+). This achievement reflects the dedication of our teachers and students and has inspired us to prepare even more rigorously for the upcoming national examinations in September.

On behalf of the school, I wish to extend heartfelt gratitude to MEF, the Rotary Club, our teachers, parents, and the wider community for their unwavering support. Your contributions continue to shape the future of our children. Together, we are building not just a school, but a strong foundation for the next generation.

MID-YEAR FUNDRAISER RESULTS

Our mid-year fundraiser was a huge success thanks to our generous donors! Our \$30,000 goal was surpassed with a total of \$60,337.66 USD raised to support the ongoing construction of the final wing of the boy's dormitory, student sponsorships, and general operating funds for EEMPS, \$5,000 USD of which was matched by MEF Board members.

A huge thank you to those who donated: Sylvia, Mike and Janet, Lynn, Pat, Ellen, Juliet, David C, David M, Margie and John, Tom and Dani, Paul and Lynne, Ginny, Theo and Rebecca, Carl, Nancy, Betsy, Michael, Saied and Patty, Whitney, Brian and Karen, Jackie, Don, Michael, Robert and Brigitte, Randy and Paula, Robyn, Steve and Ann Marie, Jackie, Carter, Dave, Rebecca, Charles, Ron and Beth, Mary Lee, Scott and Shanna, Richard and Jean, Kathryn, Glenda and Franklin, Jim and Pam, Peggy and Bill, and Paul.

Planning is well underway for the second of MEF's two annual fundraisers, our year-end Giving Tuesday Fundraiser (November 27th to December 31st) when MEF has historically focused on increasing the number of students that MEF donors generously sponsor.



Aerial shot of the dorm with three wings.



Interior shot of a completed wing.

ENCOSS CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

There has been great construction progress made at Engaruka Community Initiative Organization Secondary School (ENCOSS)! One two room classroom building has been completed and is in use, and the foundation for a second classroom has been prepared in anticipation of construction starting soon. Construction of these classrooms are being supported with funds raised locally in Tanzania. In addition, two laboratory buildings (biology and chemistry) and their integrated washroom facilities are nearing completion with the walls, roofs, windows, and doors already installed and finishing work to begin soon. The construction of these buildings was made possible by the Crane family of Columbus, Ohio.



Funds for ENCOSS lab buildings were generously provided by MEF donor Rob Crane and his family expressly for the purpose of constructing the labs.

WEBSITE UPGRADE

Our generous friends at [AccessU](#), the premiere Roanoke, VA advertising firm, have given our website a major upgrade! [Explore our revitalized website](#) to see the new features, latest updates at EEMPS, and new ways to donate. A big thank you to Tony, Greg, Olivia, Randy, and Lucas at AccessU for donating your time to make our website a better experience! A long-term MEF donor is generously sponsoring an EEMPS student as a show of appreciation for the time and effort donated by AccessU. Thank you to all!

2025 GRANTS ACTIVITY

So far in 2025, MEF has made grants totaling \$190,025 USD to ENCO:

- \$92,700 USD was sent in three installments as part of a \$103,000 USD grant agreement between MEF and ENCO to support the construction of the ENCOSS chemistry and biology lab and girls and boys restroom buildings.
- \$26,525 USD was sent for the first installment of a \$53,050 USD grant from MEF to ENCO to support construction of the fourth wing of the EEMPS boys' dormitory and associated bath facilities.
- \$60,000 USD was sent to fulfill MEF's 2025 EEMPS sponsorship and operating commitment of \$80,000 USD. \$20,000 USD of the 2025 \$80,000 USD commitment was wired to ENCO in Dec. 2024.
- \$10,800 USD for twelve ENCOSS sponsorships.

MONTHLY DONATION OPTION

We are introducing a new way to pay for EEMPS student sponsorships! For just \$700 USD per year, you can cover the cost of a student's education. Your sponsorship helps to provide school supplies, meals, uniforms, and more to help keep our school running for children who deserve the chance to thrive. Through our [PayPal Giving Fund](#), you now have the option to offer your support via a monthly donation of \$58.33 USD; you can also choose to cover the associated PayPal fee (1.99% plus \$0.49 USD).

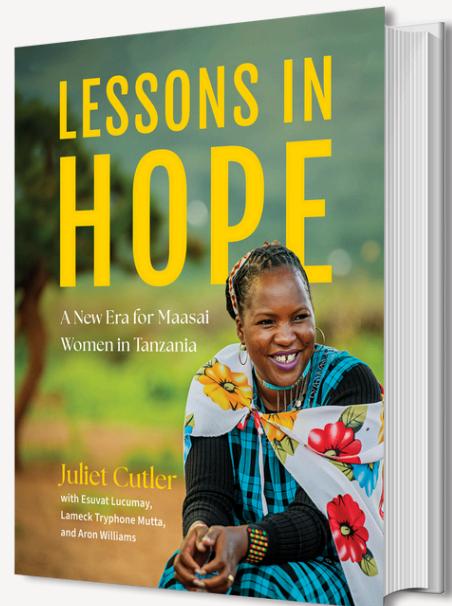
You do not need a PayPal account to set up monthly donations, but you will need an account to stop or change monthly donation amounts in the future. Receipts and thank-you notes for tax-deductible gifts made via PayPal will be sent to you by MEF. We will also send you a consolidated receipt for all your donations during the year in early January.



**CLICK HERE TO SET UP MONTHLY
DONATIONS FOR A SPONSORSHIP**

NEW BOOK RELEASE

We are excited to share the news about a new book by Juliet Cutler, *Lessons in Hope*. From 1999-2000, Juliet was a teacher at the Maasai Girls Secondary School in northern Tanzania where she taught our own Martha Mereso Sengeruan. In *Lessons in Hope*, more than twenty graduates of the Maasai Girls Secondary School share how education has enabled them to rise above poverty, break cycles of violence, and lead change in their communities. Through deeply personal stories and striking portraits, this book offers a rare, ground-level view of global progress in gender equity—and a powerful tribute to the resilience and leadership of Maasai women. *Lessons in Hope* will be available on Monday, September 9th, 2025.



BUY NOW
CLICK HERE



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nadupoi Sing'eita is a 6-year-old girl in Grade 2. She is a very bright and promising student who has shown strong potential since joining EEMPS. Her teachers describe her as eager to learn, attentive in class, and always ready to participate in activities.

Despite her abilities, Nadupoi faces challenges at home. Her parents are unable to support her education financially.

With a sponsor, she can have the stability she needs to thrive, access learning materials, and stay focused on her dream of completing her education. She represents the resilience and potential of many children who only need an opportunity to succeed.



**CLICK HERE
TO SPONSOR**

HOW CAN YOU HELP EEMPS OR ENCO SECONDARY SCHOOL?

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS: An EMPS student sponsorship is \$700 per year and ENCOSS sponsorship is \$900 per year. Sponsorship covers a child's tuition, fees, clothing, room and board, and medical care. You can also provide partial support for a child. Sponsors receive regular updates on their child.

DONATIONS: General donations go towards school operating costs or facilities construction. Construction needs include staff housing so that ENCO can attract the best teachers and support staff, a water treatment system, and guest housing for visitors. To donate via credit card, click [HERE](#).

CORPORATE MATCH: Many corporations match the donations of their employees to charities. We receive over \$15,000 in corporate matching funds annually from corporations such as Altria, Apple, GE, IBM, and Verizon. Thousands of companies participate. Please check and see if your donations are eligible for a corporate match at the following website: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/donor-basics/giving-101/employee-match-programs/>.

HOW TO DONATE

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

BY CREDIT CARD (no fees):
<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2457198>



DONATE NOW
CLICK HERE





CREATIVE WAYS TO DONATE

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS: The 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 donate a percentage of your purchases to a charity if you specify them as your preferred charity. Sign up at: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

VEHICLE AND BOAT DONATIONS: Supporters have donated two cars to us in the past that they no longer use. It is incredibly easy. Just click on the following link <https://careeasy.org/nonprofit/Maasai-Education-Foundation>, 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.

MEF AMAZON WISHLIST: Items for the school will be delivered on our next trip. Donated items are charitable donations and tax deductible.

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/6ADPF403U0A2>

Donate to the Canadian Maasai Education Society: Click <https://maasaieducationsociety.com/>.

Questions? Reach out to us at info@maasaieducationfoundation.org.



MEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

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345 Woods Lane | Newport, VA 24128
maasaieducationfoundation@gmail.com
Tel: +1 (540) 922-2971
www.facebook.com/MaasaiEducationFoundation/
maasaieducationfoundation.org



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