

INTERNATIONAL SHARING MINISTRY

UPDATE ON TANZANIA

St. Joseph Parish has been working for over five years to change the lives and hopes of a vulnerable population of children who are AIDS orphans and impoverished in Africa. A group of nineteen parishioners and friends recently returned from our project in Moshi, Tanzania and are happy to report back that our long efforts are



producing real and lasting change. Seventy-five first and second graders are now joyfully receiving very high quality English-language based educations with another eighty preschoolers eagerly awaiting their chance to begin our primary school. In all, each year 280 of the most vulnerable of sub-Saharan African children will have their futures dramatically changed as our project reaches its full capacity.

A cornerstone of our effort has been to build self-sufficiency into the project. Building a school for children who are in need is a worthy endeavor, but if the villagers have no way to pay the teachers and buy food for the children, the result would be an undesirable dependency as well as a future funding challenge.



Fortunately, the beautiful village of Mailisita is nestled at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro and the modest guesthouse we are now completing and hoping to open by the end of the year can earn enough money catering to mountain climbers and animal safari enthusiasts to pay the ongoing costs of running the school. Thus, we will not be

challenged by a future funding commitment, but rather enriched by the opportunity to stay connected in an ongoing way to their success!

While much of the heavy lifting is behind us, there are still future opportunities for service and connection, and to expand upon the accomplishments to date. Next summer's visitors, in addition to working with the children, will be building additional classrooms for our growing student enrollment (contact Mary Causey at 847-990-1213 if interested). Our parishioners continue to seek out new ways to help – from collecting books to stocking a library, raising funds for the children's occasional medical expenses, and volunteering to teach in Africa for a week, a month, or even a year!

As a parish, in addition to our many outreach efforts closer to home, we will continue to seek out opportunities to help children who are vulnerable populations in the world's poorest regions.

St. Joseph's has initiated and implemented this ambitious project through God's grace and guidance. Our work in Tanzania has shown us that - yes - we really can make a meaningful and lasting difference! And with that knowledge comes the responsibility to continue our outreach efforts to those persons who are in need of assistance.