



Sakila Sponsorship Program

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Dear Sponsors and Supporters,

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Happy New Year! We are so grateful for all you have done and are doing for the children of Sakila! Our hearts overflow with God's goodness and protection over the Schools, the Students, and the Staff. Before you read Kim's report you need to know how unusual it is for young people to interact with those in authority. It is as though any informality between the two groups would tarnish the image of the elders and open the doors for a possible display of disrespect. Unthinkable, unheard of! Now that you are aware of this you can better appreciate this story:

"It's always a blessing to visit Sakila and celebrate the graduation of so many amazing students, and our October trip was no different. Each year I am amazed at the growth of the students physically, emotionally & spiritually as they continue to succeed in and out of the classroom. Early on in our trip, I learned that Sakila Hebron Secondary School was going to have a sports day and I was invited to come be a part. For those of you who know me, you know this is right up my alley! The agenda for the day included a talent show, a chicken catching contest, a staff vs. students' net ball game (which the staff won) & several soccer matches. When I showed up that morning every student was dressed in



their casual tracksuits instead of their usual uniforms, ready for the fun and festivities. There was music blaring and laughter and loud conversations all over the campus. Each competition, the kids and staff gave it their all and enjoyed every minute. The highlight of the day for me was the talent show. Each act showed the amazing creativity and talent of so many kids. There were singers, dancers, artists, skits, a drill team, comedians and even a fashion show! Our students are such a talented group and the crowd was entertained from start to finish! But, my

favorite part had to be watching the interaction between our staff and students. If you've ever visited Tanzania, you know that there is a high level of respect shown between kids and adults. Kids rarely speak up around adults or let their hair down and act silly. Most of it is healthy, but sometimes, kids need to be kids! As I sat in the back row and took it all in I was struck by the change I was witnessing. Our staff were sitting in amongst the kids, laughing and joking. There were high fives being exchanged and jokes being shared. Several students even felt comfortable enough to have their talent include some impersonations of a few of the staff! There were tears on some faces as they roared with laughter. Not only are our staff fantastic educators, but also they have bought into the culture we are trying to create on our campus. They value our students enough to get to know them. They laugh with them, pray for them, and believe that these kids are special. The conclusion of the talent show was a huge dancing session and I teared up a bit as I watched all of our staff singing and dancing right in the middle of it all. Academic achievement at Sakila Hebron continues to amaze me, but on this day it was so much more than that. Through all the SSP sponsors, you have helped create an atmosphere where staff and students know their value and worth and the result is kids having the confidence to be who God created them to be. It doesn't get much better than that and the future of Tanzania is going to be forever changed. Mungu ni mwema na asante sana (God is good and thank you so much)" ~ Kim Selemba

Thank you so much for the many Christmas cards and extra gifts for calves and goats! As of this writing we have enough for several more goats and calves for the school's herd. It's good to have meat in the children's diet. Annual potluck is February 2nd in Gateway's Fellowship Hall, in Poulsbo, from 2 to 5.

Gene & Perraine Anderson

The Sakila Sponsorship Program is a U.S. Federally recognized 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to the Sakila Sponsorship Program (S.S.P.) or pay securely using your credit or debit card by going to www.sakilasponsorship.org and clicking on the 'CONTACT INFO & DONATIONS' button.