

The Kingiti Fund Quarterly

December 2015, Issue #2



Editor's Note:

We are pleased to offer this second issue just in time for the new school year in Tanzania. As you read about the students, please consider supporting our projects with a donation of any size.

Always Grateful,
Ben Belknap, Tino Kasagula, and the Kingiti School Scholarship & Village Health Outreach Fund Board of Directors.

The Kingiti Fund's First Primary School Graduating Class

When our Kingiti Primary School education project began in 2009, we could not have hoped for a more incredible outcome than to be sending these very same kids to secondary school seven years later. These students (pictured above), began primary school with the help of this organization, providing them with the basic necessities and enrolling them into the equivalent of first grade. In late 2008, after receiving funding to begin this project, I recall going house to house where I was told un-enrolled

children lived, either orphaned or simply destitute, and recruiting these hopeful young minds to join their peers at the primary school. The absolute joy that these children had to be able to attend school left an enduring impression on me. Thanks to the tremendous support this organization has received from generous donors, these students are now reaching for a secondary school education, something few in this area of rural Tanzania obtain. The number of students we will be enrolling in secondary school this

year will be twelve, a substantial increase from the sets of three in recent years. Secondary school (equivalent to high school in the US), requires the student to live in a town or city often far away from their home in Kingiti village and the expenses associated with twelve students will present a unique challenge this year. However, we are confident that the generosity of our donors will allow these students, who have persevered through great adversity, to achieve their goals of obtaining a secondary education.



Kingiti Primary School Head Teacher, Asha Bwanary (far left), and Kingiti Fund Project Director, Stanley Muhede (far right), with the rest of the primary school scholarship students in front of the schoolhouse.

Student Spotlight:



Theopista Suluti is the Kingiti Fund's first scholarship student to be funded all the way from primary school into college. She began her studies at the Dodoma Teacher's College in August of 2015, aspiring to become a primary school teacher. She graduated from the Kibakwe Secondary School and passed the Form 5 entrance exam in 2014. Her mother, a woman who exemplifies the uncanny work ethic of an African woman, raised Theopista and her four siblings alone in their traditional two-room mud home on the southern edge of Kingiti village. Theopista is the pride of her family as she becomes the second family member to complete secondary school and the first to go to college. Upon completion of her studies she wishes to return to her family in Kingiti to teach at the village primary school.

Kingiti School Scholarship and Village Health Outreach Fund, Inc.

~Kingiti Sharing Group~

The Kingiti Fund's 8th Annual Bash at The Monkey Wrench

1025 Barret Ave 40204

Saturday, January 16th @ 7:00pm

\$10 Raffle Tickets at the Door

We are thrilled to announce The Kingiti Fund's 8th Annual Fundraising Bash at the one and only Monkey Wrench! We will have Live East African Music and DJs to make you move, Delectable Treats to enjoy with your Drinks, and Drawings for Door Prizes that Can't Be Beat, so please come out and have a good time for a great cause!!!

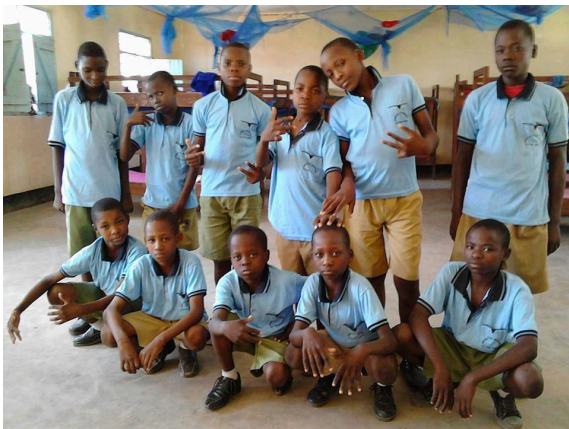
The proceeds will help fund the 2016 school year for our education projects, supporting students at the Kingiti Primary School, Kibakwe Secondary School, Kigwe Secondary School, Kigwe School for the Deaf, and Dodoma Teacher's College. These kids, without adequate family income or any family at all, rely on the generosity of our donors to obtain an education.

The Kingiti Fund has experienced a fantastic amount of growth in recent years, allowing us to impact the lives of more children than we could have ever hoped for during the organization's inception. This coming school year will see our largest influx of secondary school

students to date, an achievement that makes us proud but also presents new challenges for fundraising. There are no secondary schools in Kingiti village, which requires us to send students to other areas of the district or region and support them fully during their studies. To put the expenses in context, one secondary school student is roughly ten times more expensive to fund than a primary school student. Furthermore, as one can imagine, the logistics of responsibly managing a number of secondary school students, living for the first time away from their village, is demanding.

It is our hope that this year's annual fundraiser will be the best yet, allowing us to provide a secondary school education to all of our graduating primary school students while maintaining our support for the other students in primary and secondary schools and college. So, please come and bring friends to enjoy a night of East African music and general merriment at The Monkey Wrench in Louisville on the evening of Saturday, January 16th!

The Resilient Boys of the Kigwe School for the Deaf



The Kigwe School for the Deaf is the only school of its kind in this area of Tanzania. These students, unable to enroll in their local schools due to their disability, come from villages hours away to live at this school, learn sign language, and gain the basic education they are denied in rural Tanzania. Visiting this school and seeing the deep bond that develops between these children who are commonly ostracized in their own villages is truly amazing. Graduates have used their education to develop

a variety of skills allowing them to join the local workforce, many becoming mechanics and skilled technicians. A few of our ten scholarship students have expressed interest in eventually teaching at a deaf school. Their teacher, a man that serves as the Kingiti Fund's Education Project Director, Tino Kasagula is fluent in sign language and lives on their campus in Kigwe. He describes them as the forgotten children of East Africa that are exceedingly grateful to be given this opportunity at an education.

For more Information and Donations:

Please visit www.kingiti.org for more information on this organization, our history, and all of our projects! Donations can be made via Paypal on the "Contacts & Donations" page of the website or mailed to:

1135 Charles St. Louisville, KY 40204.

The Kingiti School Scholarship and Village Health Outreach Fund is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible. To see updates and photos straight from our project directors in Tanzania like our page at facebook.com/kingitifund/!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS & FOR OUR LOUISVILLE FRIENDS, SEE YOU ON JANUARY 16TH AT THE MONKEY WRENCH!!!

Student Spotlight:



Kesi Yona and I met shortly after I arrived in Kingiti village in 2007. The seven-year-old deaf child was living with his decrepit and blind grandmother in a small hut near the road. He had never gone to school due to the village primary school being unable offer enrollment to deaf children. However, this child was anything but uneducated and often through nothing but his own cunning did he get enough to eat at night. I would help him out as much as I could for the two years I lived in Kingiti.

In 2010, Kesi was fortunate enough to qualify for a spot at a government deaf school outside of Dodoma town. With the help of his primary teacher, Tino Kasagula, Kesi thrived upon arriving to the Kigwe School for the Deaf. Six years later, he now converses in sign language and studies all core subjects at a secondary school level. His teachers also stress vocational skills to broaden his job opportunities post-graduation. This young man's development and success is owed to his tremendous perseverance and the great generosity of The Kingiti Fund's donors.