

Tanzania Teaching Foundation 2020 Annual Report

Mission

The Tanzania Teaching Foundation (TTF) has been dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities in Tanzania through a targeted education program since 2009. During non-pandemic years our “Pre-Form 1 English” program enrolled students who are three months away from entering secondary school (high school). The program gives students high functioning English proficiency that will give them the skills to successfully progress through the secondary education system. We are “teaching them to fish” – so that they will develop culturally appropriate solutions for the challenges their society faces. We also strive to develop and sustain relationships with members of the Manow community and to enrich the lives of both Tanzanians and our American volunteers.

Pre-Form 1 English Program Not Conducted in 2020

Every year since 2009, except this year, TTF has trained and sent American volunteers to teach a rigorous English course in the south central highlands of Tanzania. Our 40 students range in age from 12 to 16 years old. Most of them live within a 6-mile radius around the small village of Manow (pronounced with a short “a” and a long “o”). Our volunteers have included people from all walks of life from communities from Olympia, Spokane, and as far away as New York. But in 2020 we could not travel due to the Corona virus pandemic.



Flash cards for math language skills before tea in non-pandemic times

An Alternative Program for 2020

Instead, we supported 80 students to attend a 10-week program designed to prepare them for their coursework in secondary school. The “Pre-Form 1” course was offered by Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary. In accordance with a 2015 Tanzanian national policy, this course is required of students to better prepare them for the vocabulary and study habits needed for secondary school. The program consists of one teacher who specializes in a subject (e.g., biology, history, chemistry, Swahili, and English) teaching the students. The TTF Board of Directors decided that this would be a way to demonstrate our continued support for education in the Manow community.

Near the end of the course, the highest performing five girls and five boys were selected to compete for scholarships supported by American sponsors and TTF. Students were ranked based



on their academic achievement in their Pre-Form 1 course work, and on their leadership qualities by their teachers. To assess their English proficiency, each student submitted an essay describing how a secondary education would serve the student, his/her family, and the community. Executive Director Nancy Winters, and 2019 volunteer teacher Laurie Schaetzel-Hill scored the essays. These scores were added into the leadership and academic rankings, and scholarships were awarded to two girls and two boys. The students and parents met with Martin Mwakaje to learn about TTF’s policies surrounding the scholarship.

Right: Former scholarship student writing thank you letter to her sponsors

What became very clear from the scoring of the essays is that our Pre-Form 1 **English** program provides the students with a much more robust proficiency in English. This is due to the fact that our students get 35 hours of instruction per week, whereas the program offered to meet the national policy provides five hours per week. Since all secondary coursework and the national exams are conducted in English, English proficiency gained through our “Pre-Form 1 **English**” program has served the students very well in the past. We look forward to the opportunity to return to teaching English in 2021.

The Pre-School Program

A German Pastor introduced the concept of teaching pre-school to children from 2 to 6 years old to prepare them for primary school. She supported the school for 10 years by paying for the salary of the two teachers. The tuition the parents paid supported only supplies and food for the children. While Nancy was in Tanzania in 2019, the pre-school teachers approached her asking for support as the German Pastor had decided to fund other projects. Nancy and the Pre-school teachers developed a plan for gradual self-sustainability over a five-year period. The teachers would gradually raise the tuition over five years, and TTF would support the teachers’ salaries over the next five years gradually diminishing as tuition increased. The TTF Board of Directors approved the plan, and TTF continued its five year support this year. We look forward to visiting with the teachers to get a status report in 2021.



Pre-school students and teacher Ngwitika

Get Involved

TTF is successful only because of the financial, spiritual, and emotional support as well as hard work of each and every one of our supporters. To each of our supporters I say *Asante sana* (thank you very much)! You can get involved in a number of ways:

- Volunteer to teach Pre-Form 1 English – a three month commitment that will enrich your life. We are looking for volunteers in 2024 and beyond.
- Adopt a student for the Pre-Form 1 English Program. A donation of \$300 per Tanzanian student will cover daily lunch and school supplies for the students, and travel and living expenses for the volunteers.
- Sponsor one of our top students to receive 4-year scholarships to attend secondary school MLJS. This is a 3-year commitment of approximately \$700/school year.

To get involved, contact Nancy Winters at wintersnl@comcast.net or (360) 943-3053.

Blessings and gratitude to the many people who make this mission possible,

Nancy Winters, Executive Director
Tanzania Teaching Foundation