



Published by Africa Education Partnership

99 Sand Hill Road

South Windsor, CT 06074

www.africaep.org

Winter 2024

President's Message

On behalf of the Africa Education Partnership board (AEP), we want to wish you very happy holidays! We are so appreciative for your continued participation in the AEP mission. As you will see in these pages, we now have several ways that you can help AEP and our beneficiaries improve the education and resulting quality of life for the very poor in the northern Nigeria region. We are grateful for any and all donations that you can send during this holiday season!

There has been great progress made with the schools that we support in both Gusau and Kafanchan. The work you have so generously funded has positively impacted hundreds of students. We are currently completing renovations of the Kafanchan junior/senior school, our largest project to date in that region. See page 3 for more information.



Last year we started a significant funding initiative to pay for some students' tuition with our Educa-

tion Fund. In the year since it started, we have funded scholarships for 47 students, none of whom could attend school without this assistance. Each donor has been provided with names and photos of their supported student(s) and received grade reports to see student progress. There are always students in need, so please check that out!



Our latest program, and one that we are quite proud of, is our Empowerment skills training program, targeting the adult population. We recognize that not every individual wishes to pursue or is capable of pursuing a traditional academic degree. Some may come from troubled backgrounds, or simply see the benefits that can be gained by pursuing a trade. Many are young adults who just didn't have an opportunity for a traditional education but yearn to work and contribute to their local economy. The AEP Empowerment program helps to offset the cost of skills training and equipment for these budding entrepreneurs. This is an exciting new opportunity to make a difference!



As we reach the 15-year mark of this wonderful journey, we celebrate it with you, our donors, and invite you to continue along with us. Your support continues to reach individuals, making a huge difference in the lives of real people.

With gratitude,

Don Ghostlaw, President

Africa Education Partnership





Time to Grow

Africa Education Partnership has been building and renovating schools since 2009. Buildings have been provided, boreholes for clean water dug, toilets constructed, security walls built, and educational supplies made available. After many years working on capital projects, it was time to grow in a new direction. For several

years, our partners have shared with us the economic challenges faced by many families, especially as a result of the global pandemic. During that time, the bottom dropped out of the country's oil based economy and it has yet to recover. With double digit inflation, rising food and fuel costs, and a lack of employment opportunities, paying school fees adds an extra layer of stress.

Meeting a Need

To help meet the growing need to assist families in paying school fees, AEP launched into a new initiative in 2023. The Education Fund was established after consulting with our partners, and started with a list of about 100 students needing financial assistance. Now, 12 months later, we have provided scholarships for 47 students. Our sponsors have been extremely generous, starting with the congregation of Trinity Church, Tariffville. Additional churches and individuals have stepped in and agreed to sponsor a child with the gift of an education. It is our hope that relationships will be established between sponsors and their students, ensuring support beyond a year's duration.

The Cost of an Education

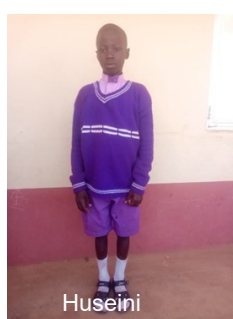
It is truly eye-opening when comparing the educational costs for one child: in Connecticut, +\$20,000 per child per year; in Nigeria, \$300 per student per year!



Princess



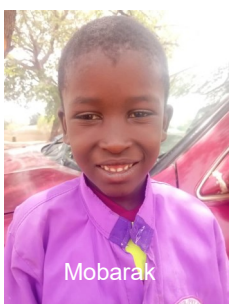
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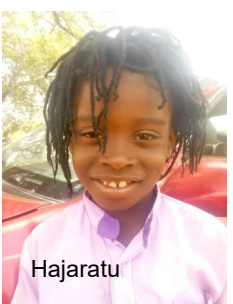
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Ziborah



Mobarak



Hajaratu

\$300 Per Student Per Year

\$300 is the average educational cost for a student. This includes tuition, books, uniforms, fuel for busses, and room and board for students living on campus. While the actual cost for each student varies depending on grade level, day student versus boarding student, and if bus transportation is used, the average is sufficient to cover the expenses of all students.

In addition, AEP considers routine building maintenance and equipment replacement as part of the educational costs per student. AEP and our partners have worked so hard to complete and renovate these facilities, it is responsible stewardship of those funds entrusted to us by our donors to ensure the buildings and equipment are well-maintained. In addition to the 47 students provided for this past year, we have been able to meet funding needs to replace 15 aging computers, repaint and replaster buildings, replace desks, purchase new library furniture, replace broken doors and shutters, and repair a water storage containment tank.

Keeping Donors Connected

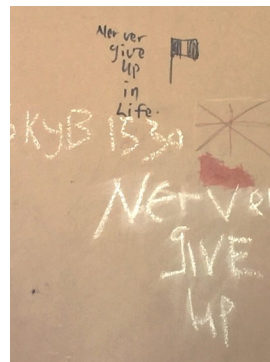
Our goal is to have sponsors renew yearly as their financial situation allows. For each gift of \$300 to the Education Fund, the sponsor(s) will receive a photo with information about the student. Every trimester, a student report card is provided. Now, donors also have the option of communicating with their student through indirect email. Short sponsor notes are sent to AEP Project Manager Elaine Chagnon, who then forwards them to our contacts at the school. The notes are then passed to the children, who can respond.

Is Sponsorship for You?

Providing a full scholarship to sponsor a child is one of the ways you can support our work. If \$300 is not a manageable amount, we will work to pool donations in order to provide a complete scholarship.

Sponsorship is also a great opportunity for schools to engage students by providing a unique global perspective. Service clubs, individual classes, or grades of students can find creative ways to sponsor a child.

Please call or text Elaine Chagnon at (860) 930-8703 will be happy to discuss in person or by phone and provide more details.



Please give what you can to help give hope for the future.



To donate, scan the code or mail a check to: AEP
99 Sand Hill Rd.
South Windsor, CT
06074

Left: Photos of some students still in need of scholarships

General Fund: Construction and Renovation

Our Journey

When the board members and partners of Africa Education Partnership first started their journey together, it was to ensure that students had access to a safe learning environment. In the beginning, this meant new construction projects. As the organization gained a foothold, projects began to expand into the renovation of existing buildings.

Security walls were built around newly finished buildings. Next came boreholes for clean water, toilets, and hand-washing stations. New desks and educational equipment are purchased when funding allows.

AEP considers a school project complete when the items listed above have been provided. Below is a sampling of completed projects:

- ◆ *New construction: 5-building, K-12 campus, accredited, in Gusau* *Approx. \$495,000*
- ◆ *Renovation: 4-building, K-9 rural school in Jagindi Tasha* *Approx. \$34,000*
- ◆ *Renovation: 5-building, K-6 rural school in Godogodo* *Approx. \$54,000*
- ◆ *Renovation: 2-building, K-6 rural school in Kogum River* *Approx. \$45,000*
- ◆ *Shipment of 2 school buses to Kafanchan* *Approx. \$15,000*
- ◆ *Desks and equipment for all schools* *Approx. \$45,000*

Current Work

Our latest project is the complete renovation of the secondary section of the Kafanchan Junior/Senior School. This is a massive undertaking, encompassing a large, L-shaped block of 17 classrooms and offices, girls' and boys' dormitories, several smaller classroom lab buildings, and construction of a dining hall/kitchen complex.

This will take several years to complete due to its scope and expense. To date, the small building pictured below has been renovated to use as swing space for students to move into as the main classroom block is renovated in phases. Construction is ongoing.



by Elaine Chagnon, Project Manager

Needs for the General Fund

AEP will continue to build and renovate school sites as the needs arise. Our school populations are on the increase and additional classroom space will eventually be needed. In the meantime, the Kafanchan School has some large ticket needs:

Classroom renovations:	\$4200/classroom (7)
New kitchen/dining hall complex:	\$12,000
Renovation of boys' dormitory:	\$29,000
Renovation of girls' dormitory:	\$44,000
Renovation of small buildings:	\$10,000 each (3)

Other needs:

Desks:	\$55 each (500)
Teacher furniture:	\$60 each (25)
Office cabinets:	\$75 each (10)
Router:	\$375
Heavy duty printer:	\$600 each (2)
P.A. System	\$585
Projector and screen	\$700
Solar Power installation	\$6900



Left: New classroom interior

Left Center: New desks stacked

Left Bottom: New toilet building

Top Right: School bus delivered

Bottom right: New water storage tank cover



New Initiative: Empowerment! by Rev. Shaw Mudge, AEP Board Member

Education Comes Full Circle

We are excited to expand our vision! The major purpose of the Empowerment Centers is to promote opportunities for adults to develop trade skills. These skills will be a gateway to provide viable services resulting in gainful employment and steady income. By donating to the Empowerment Fund, you provide widows, disenfranchised young adults, and those forgotten by society with a chance to become contributing members of their communities.

In addition to training classes, the centers are investigating the possibility of broadening their outreach to other organizations, allowing them to rent and utilize part of the space for workshops and retreats. This will help generate some income as part of a sustainability plan.

Working on the "How"

Part 1: While these programs are still in their infancy, there is hopefully a bright future ahead. The centers are working out the details of program management that will work successfully in their respective areas of Nigeria. Skill training will be intensive, lasting for months to ensure that trainees master the skills necessary to earn income. To start, skill training in tailoring, sewing, leatherworking, weaving, barbering, and soap/cosmetic making will be offered.

The centers have a bank of teaching kits for the various skills that participants use as they train. While participants have the opportunity to choose the skill for training, their progress is closely monitored throughout their classes. If the instructor determines that the participant is not progressing, they may steer the student into another area of concentration. Participants must master their class skills to meet established standards before being declared ready to graduate and set out on their own.

Part 2: When students graduate from the skills program, they are presented a starter kit complete with the tools and raw materials to start out on their own. At that point, our partners are working on how best to monitor and support these adults after graduation. Once a location for their business has been established, it is proposed that an oversight committee provide ongoing support, greatly enhancing the chance for success.

Education Comes Full Circle, continued

Part 3: Continued sustainability is necessary if the program is to succeed long-term. Some suggestions under consideration include participants paying an application fee and/or paying for at least a portion of their room and board while training. In addition, collecting rent from organizations using the space and accessing the local women's organizations for financial assistance may be options in addition AEP funds.

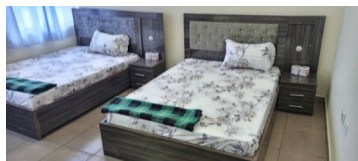
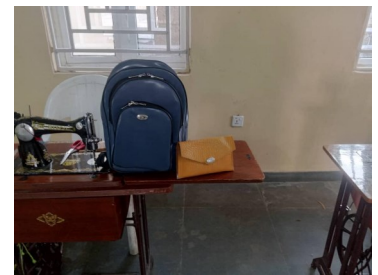
Each site has its own governing board and will develop the policies that will best serve their populations. We will continue to provide updates as the programs develop.



Needs for the Empowerment Centers— How You Can Help

One way to help is to provide funding for a kit. The kits ensure that graduates have the means to begin to earn income on their own. This affords them the choice of working in an established business or starting on their own. The menu of options from which to choose includes the following:

Sewing machine kit— sewing machine and supplies	\$175
Leatherworking kit— filing machine and supplies	\$200
Barbering kit— rechargeable clippers and accessories	\$125
Soap and cosmetic kit— materials and packaging	\$100
Bead and jewelry making kit— beads and wire	\$125
Catering kit— small oven, mixer, oil, flour	\$200



To donate, scan the code:



Or mail a check to:
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