

Tanzania Teaching Foundation 2022 Annual Report – Approved 3/30/23

Mission

The Tanzania Teaching Foundation (TTF) began as and continues to be a mission of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. TTF is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities in Tanzania through a targeted education program. Our “Pre-Form 1 English” program enrolls students who are about to enter secondary school (high school), where the medium of instruction is English. The program gives students the necessary skills to succeed and excel in secondary school. The Pre-Form 1 English program is “*teaching them to fish*” – so that they will develop culturally appropriate solutions for the challenges facing their society. TTF works to sustain long-term relationships with members of the Manow community and to enrich the lives of both Tanzanians and our American volunteers.

Conduct successful Pre-Form 1 English for 40 Tanzanian Students

In October 2022 TTF returned to teach the Pre-Form 1 English program after a 2-year Covid hiatus. The joyful reunions with community friends and former students were plentiful and were filled with love. The Executive Director sensed a deep gratitude to God on the part of the community for enabling our mission of providing English education youth to continue. This sense of a loving and welcoming community sustained me through the intense work and challenges of the program.

TTF trained and sent four American volunteers to teach the Pre-Form 1 English course in Manow. As in previous years the volunteers selected 40 students from over 80 applicants based on the results of an entrance exam. However, one notified the teachers after day 2 that she would not be attending, and one dropped out after 2 weeks due to health considerations. The remaining 38 students ranged in age from 11 to 18 years old. Most of them lived within a 6-mile radius around Manow. This year one female student who lives about 25 km away from the school stayed in the dormitory of Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary so that she could attend the course.

Prior to our arrival, TTF contracted for some needed classroom maintenance – patching and painting. This gave our classroom a fresh new and inviting look (picture right).



Each day students arrived ready for class at 7:30 am and worked hard for the next seven hours. The first few weeks focused on vocabulary-building, grammar, and sentence construction. Based on inputs from previous volunteers, the updated curriculum incorporated recitations to improve pronunciation and listening skills as well as reading comprehension work into the curriculum. Beginning in week five of the 10-week course, the course transitions into life skill units, while continuing to hone vocabulary, grammar writing and speaking skills. The more rigorous units include healthy living, practical first aid, sustainable farming, and STD prevention. To provide more individualized learning, the class was divided into those who were prepared for the more rigorous curriculum and those who needed additional practice with the basics.

Some program milestones this year.

- This was the first year that a girl out-performed the boys. In fact, six of the top 10 students were girls. While this is only one year's data point, it appears that the Tanzanian education system and society have made progress in valuing the contributions of girls equally with those of boys.
- Two aspiring young astronauts graced the Pre-Form 1 English program this year. These were also the highest performing girl and boy in the course.
- The Executive Director added a tree-planting event to the curriculum to reinforce the concept of planting trees to help reduce the impacts of climate change. On our last day of the program, the student planted 124 trees on the hillside that had been clear cut for the timber revenue by the Head Master. Based on the popularity of this hands-on experience, it will be repeated as part of the curriculum in future years.
- Thanks to a number of very generous sponsors, TTF was able to support six new scholarship students for their 4-year secondary education at Manow Lutheran Junior Seminary (MLJS), currently a boarding school of 70 students. One of those sponsors is a Tanzanian woman. That brings the number of TTF scholarship students enrolled at MLJS to 20 beginning in January 2023.

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, but had gone on to fund other projects. The tuition the parents paid supported only supplies and food for the children. In 2019, the pre-school teachers approached TTF asking for support. The pre-school teachers and Executive Director 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 local pre-school program has increased from 45 to 70 students since 2019. The classroom (originally designed for 30 Pre-Form 1 English students) can no longer hold all 70 children, so the students are being taught in the adjacent church and outdoors. Ngwitika, the lead pre-school teacher, says they are on-schedule to become self-sustaining by the end of 2024.

Raise up to \$30,000 or more to support the program

TTF exceeded its goal raising a total of \$34,815. This includes net income from the July 9th fundraiser. Of the total, \$10,804 was dedicated to the four-year scholarship program, \$12,300 was Adopt-a-Student contributions (a fundraiser auction ask that sponsors one of the Pre-Form 1 English students at a cost of \$300/student), and \$8,210 in undesignated donations.

In addition, TTF received in-kind donations of books valued at \$440 (plus \$732 raised by donations primarily from GDLC Pre-School children), and donations of jewelry, a quilt, and many Tanzanian souvenirs valued at approximately \$5360.

Reach out to the Manow and Olympia communities

Manow

Since there were four volunteers this year, one of the Executive Director's focuses while in Manow was to strengthen ties with members of the community. The highlights are bulleted below:

- The Executive Director spent time each week with new Head Master Mwambapa, who had been Second Head Master several years ago. Discussions included his plans for the school, his projects (timber sales, bee-keeping for the sale of honey), and a fundraiser sponsored by the Konde Diocese to help the school get back on its financial feet.
- The Executive Director met with the new Konde Diocese Bishop Mwakihaba, and the new liaison, April Trout, between the Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS in central PA) and their companion Diocese. The discussion centered on the status of MLJS, lack of consistent teacher pay at MLJS, the upcoming fundraiser for the school. The Bishop predicted that the school would be back to 150 students by next September.
- Manow had also been afflicted by Covid and had lost one of the community leaders, Mr. Mwasamola and long-time supporter of the Pre-Form 1 English Program. The Executive Director spent time with both his sister and his wife.
- The Executive Director met with Joshua Mwalukosya, who facilitates the email communications between the scholarship students and their sponsors. Joshua and his family invited the Executive Director and other 3 volunteers to his son's (Reign's) confirmation celebration. At least 25 people packed into the small living room for the celebration of this "right-of-passage" into adulthood in the community.
- The volunteers were invited to share meals with the following members of the community:
 - Mwaikema (retired teacher at MLJS), his wife (Mama Heri, one of the two pre-school teachers), and his son (Emma, a 2014 Pre-Form 1 English program graduate, scholarship winner, and now a second year student at the university in Dodoma in Computer Technology).
 - Reverend Mwasamwaja, the founder of MLJS, who is now over 80 years old
 - Elieza Mwalwiba, (a 2009 Pre-Form 1 English program graduate) his family, and his fiancé, Elizabeth.
 - Owden Mwabuluma, brother to Mwaikema and Pre-Form 1 English program supporter.
 - Juma, former Head Master at MLJS and Pre-Form 1 English enthusiast.

Olympia

- TTF planned and conducted Super Tanzania Sunday on June 19th to celebrate Gloria Dei's support of this mission. Interim Pastor Dan Wilson whole-heartedly supported this event.
- TTF did not make a presentation to Olympia West Lions Club because they were still not meeting in-person.

- Laurie and Burnell Schaetzel-Hill gave an engaging joint presentation at the July 9th fundraiser. Ivy Metz, who could not travel from New York for the event, prepared a presentation which was brilliantly delivered by her niece Corrie.

Gratitude

TTF is successful only because of the financial, spiritual, and emotional support as well as hard work of each and every supporter. To each of TTF's supporters, the Executive Director expresses deep gratitude (*Nashukuru sana*). The Executive Director is also indebted to the work of TTF's current and former Board of Directors (Joe Boyer, Ernie Malick, Bryan Marenstein, Ivy Metz, Victoria Metz, Jacob Mwaipaja, Martin Mwakaje, Kathy Roberts, Kirsten Rue, Laurie Schaetzel-Hill, K Seiler, George Spencer, Ginny Stern, and Martin Werner.)

Blessings and gratitude to the many people who make this mission possible,
Nancy Winters
Executive Director