



Maasai American Organization

*An international partnership for the promotion of education
and community health*

February 2, 2010

Dear Friends of Bright Ideas Charter School,

I am writing to you, my friends and family, to share exciting news of a great opportunity that I have been privileged to encounter while at Tulane University/LSU. Tulane University/LSU is an institution that is very focused on volunteerism, and as you may know I have been a member of a community-service program that focuses on problems faced by the local Latino community. I find great pleasure in helping those who have not been as fortunate as I and have hoped to expand my volunteer activities during the past semester. I have become very interested in service trips to underdeveloped countries because they seem to be exotic in their locations and therefore enlightening in their travels, but more importantly provide aid to areas and populations that are in dire need of assistance. Fortunately, I was accepted into a service trip to Kenya that sounds ideal for me. The selection process was very competitive, and to be selected as a freshman is a great privilege.

For eight weeks this summer break I will be traveling to the rural Maasai community of Losho located in the Siana Location of Kenya to take part in this service trip. I am part of a group including students from Tulane and LSU Schools of Medicine, Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, Tulane undergraduate, and Teach for America volunteers, as well as Dr. Lea Pellett, one of the directors of the Maasai American Organization. While in Kenya we have three main objectives: (1) to increase access to and quality of education for young Maasai girls, who are traditionally circumcised and married away to an older man in their early teens, (2) to improve the quality of education at Losho Primary School by expanding an immersion program for the preschoolers in English, the language the Kenyan school system is centered upon, and (3) to help ensure the provision of adequate primary health care in the community through continuing efforts to establish Losho Clinic as a self-sustainable Community-Based Organization and a variety of public health programs. My team and I are very enthusiastic about this opportunity; and with the many resources available to us we hope to create a lasting and noticeable difference in the lives of these struggling people.

This service trip is being run through the Maasai American Organization, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on working alongside local community members to establish sustainable improvements in the quality of education and community health in the Siana Location. For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.maasaiamerican.org/>. Because the organization is non-profit, it relies on private donations. Consequentially, all of my transportation, medical and other project expenses will be up to me to secure. The estimated cost for the team is \$55,000. As a team we have thought up numerous creative fundraisers that we plan to implement next semester. However, a large portion of the trip will still not be covered, and my personal goal for this letter-writing campaign is to raise at least \$3000. I invite you to become involved in supporting this project. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to contribute to these efforts, please make out a check to *Maasai American Organization* (individual funds will be recorded) and send it to me at my school address:

204 S. Saratoga #538
New Orleans, LA 70112

I will ensure that any check will aid hundreds of people in the most effective ways possible. Our team is very dedicated, and I hope to do all that I can with this opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns about the trip or donations toward the trip, they can be directed to Alex Sledd, the trip leader, who can be reached either at asledd@tulane.edu or 804-543-7648. Thank you very much for your support and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Sarah C. González