

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

MORE THAN 150 GIRLS COME FOR HELP

The revolution is spreading throughout Tanzanian Maasailand! More than 150 girls came with their parents to Isaya and Nguvu's home in June to express interest in attending school rather than being sold into marriage. This number has increased from the 119 girls who started school with support this year. Osotuja Foundation is working to end the practice of forced childhood marriage and is changing the thinking of the Tanzanian Maasai. Here are some of the girls and parents that came in June.



Below are photos of 4 of the girls and parents who hope to start secondary school in January, 2025.



Generous donors enabled us to get the 119 girls to school this year, but that support is not guaranteed for 2025. Our first priority is to keep this year's girls in school. Support for each girl is \$600/ year, which provides for uniforms, supplies and other required fees. Sponsorships optimally are pledged for 8 years, which will provide for secondary school and beyond.

LISA AND PAULA VISIT IN JUNE

Lisa Leaper, who was able to visit Tanzania in June, is shown below with the 2nd year girl that she sponsors, Anneth. Lisa was so overwhelmed with compassion that she pledged to sponsor another girl, Dada, coming to seek help for 2025. Lisa's sister, Paula, writes to 3 girls who she got to know below while in Eluai.



Lisa and Paula were greeted with the usual warm welcome in Eluai and then helped with registering the more than 150 girls who expressed interest in attending school in 2025. They want to come back to help with this in future.

SEMINARS ENCOURAGE GIRLS

In June, while the girls were on their mid-year holiday, four seminars were held to encourage them in their schooling and life. Sponsor Lisa Leaper and her sister, Paula DMello, joined Tricia Allenby on this trip to Maasailand and shared their life experiences with the girls. They each wrote down questions and challenges that they were facing. These issues were incorporated into the following 3 seminars. Also, a Maasai nurse was able to join Tricia to help with discussions concerning marriage and pregnancy questions in Swahili and Maa.



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OLDER GIRLS SERVE YOUNGER STUDENTS

In addition to education, the goals of Osotuja Foundation for Maasai girls include building confidence as valuable community members and becoming leaders. Older girls tutoring and assisting the younger girls is an example of this. In June, 14 older students helped the younger girls in writing letters to their sponsors (below). With 119 new first year students, this was a big help! It also encouraged the younger girls as they now have role models.



The older girls learn the importance and satisfaction of serving as they have been served. Noloiboni and Tumaini (below) helped Nguvu with record keeping.



NAINI'S STORY



Naini has completed 6 years of secondary school (advanced study). She has taken her National Exam and is awaiting the results in order to apply for university. She hopes to study economics in order to help society. Naini is passionate about helping the younger girls overcome challenges as a role model.

In addition to academic challenges, she faced opposition within her family, but her mother always supported her. Her father was very much against her attending school and had arranged for her to get married. He was very upset for the first 4-5 years of her secondary school experience. As you hear Naini tell in this link: <https://youtu.be/k89iwaxnsNM> her father's attitude has changed and he sees her success and the value of her education. This is the story of change in the Tanzanian Maasai people. Osotuja Foundation is showing the Maasai elders that educated girls with hope of a future are worth much more than the cows that they would get by selling their daughter into early marriage.

PLEASE HELP US IN OUR MISSION TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH EDUCATION. Go to osotuja.org to learn more and e-mail us at osotuja@gmail.com if you would like to donate directly to avoid fees.