



A non-profit organization, dedicated to improving living and learning conditions of secondary/high school students in rural Cameroon.

It is **501 (c) (3) charitable organization.**

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NEWSLETTER

<http://oregonstate.edu/~hirschn/EduCareAfrica/>

November 2007

8th Trip to Cameroon

+Thanks to kind donors basic school supplies were given to the **58 best students** from G.H.S. Tatum & G.S.S. Nseh. Donated clothes and a few other donations were distributed to **33 students**. **125 students** benefited from donated pens & 5 Joy & Success Clubs in various schools received donated spiritual books & Daily Word magazines. **56 students**, including several university students, received financial assistance for their immediate needs such as school fees, G.C.E. registration fees, rent, kerosene, food, school uniforms and shoes. **69 staff members** from 3 schools received pens for encouragement. **19 secondary and high school textbooks and 16 Bibles** were purchased as well as more science equipment, thanks to our kind and generous donors. Funds for 26 students on our priority list were set aside for September to pay their schools fees directly to their various schools. Two Wellesley College Book Awards were given to the two best female science students from G.H.S. Tatum & G.B.H.S. Kumbo.

+This year G.C.E. results show that **82.5%** out of all students who sat for the ordinary level and **68.6%** who sat for the advanced level exams succeeded.

+I met our new executive field coordinator, Mr. Kevin Mbile and I also visited our new office. We need office equipment and furniture. We ordered a photocopy machine during my trip. Thanks to Ludwig Teichgraber from Canada, we received donations of 4

computers, 29 boxes of university level textbooks and some wood for bookshelves. +As a **side project**, I brought a few collars, leashes, flea collars and kind donations of vitamins, de-worming tablets and flea treatment from the Reid Veterinary Hospital in Albany, Oregon to give to Justin Tagne at the Cameroon Baptist Center in Bamenda. He assisted over 22 dogs with these in addition to assisting the owners with the bathing of the dogs and advising them on exercise, food and places to stay. I took photographs of all these dogs. Justin has also been helping stray dogs. I met a local veterinarian, Dr. Munki Julius Nfor, who is a coordinator for a non-profit group **SPALE**, P.O. BOX 5170 NKWEN BAMENDA, CAMEROON; TEL(237)75 14 92 85, which also assists stray dogs and always appreciates any financial or in-kind donations. In Cameroon most people do not know how to take proper care of animals and many are afraid of dogs and do not respect any animals.

UPCOMING ASSISTANCE:

We want to assist over 140 students this academic year. About 90 are secondary/high school and the rest university students. Approximately **\$18,000** would take care of these **students' essential educational needs.**

New School Year Started

New school year started in Cameroon the second week of September. The hundred and forty plus students we chose now need our assistance in order for them to stay in school or to register at universities. People who would like to help them can choose one

student (secondary/high school or university) to sponsor or contribute more to send two, ten, twenty or thirty students to secondary/high school. Either choice will make a difference in the lives of these students.

News/Updates

1. The P.T.A. of the high school in Tatum built the **Science Lab** building, which is almost completed. Much more science equipment is needed for the lab to be fully functional. Everyone is very grateful to **Octavia MacNamara**, 12-year old daughter of Dr. Brook MacNamara, who set up a website and raised almost \$1,600 for the science lab equipment.

2. **Educare-Africa Center** in Tatum - We concluded that for our work to be more efficient, we want to build an Educare-Africa Center in Tatum which will consist of a public library, computer and internet lab, our office, a few guest rooms, a small girls' dormitory, a housekeeper's house and a guest family apartment for rent, a farm, garden, poultry, fruit trees, animals, several dogs and a garage. We have paid a first installment on a piece of land above the school farm.

As soon as we will have a project proposal and an estimate for our Center in Tatum, we will inform you.

3. We also have an estimate for a **vehicle** since transportation is essential for our activities. MIVA in Switzerland assists non-governmental organizations with half of the funds for a vehicle. Our number one choice is a used **Toyota Hilux double cabin pickup**. I have a photograph available along with the estimate. We will need about \$8,500 to purchase the vehicle and \$2,800 for registration, necessary documents, insurance, tires, fuel, maintenance and unforeseen expenses for the first year.

Why do we need a vehicle? For security reasons, for the past two years we have often used private vehicles for transportation which was very expensive. Public transport is time consuming because the vehicles do not

leave unless they are full and overloaded. To make it profitable drivers put too many people inside and children, bags, heavy bags with potatoes, beans, corn, containers with palm oil, kerosene, live animals, etc. go into the trunk or on the top. There is no way one can safely carry science lab equipment in such conditions. In addition, drivers often go too fast on bad dirt roads. It will be cheaper, faster and more secure to have our own vehicle, with which to carry books, school or building supplies or whatever else we need.

4. On September 24th, Pavla sent **\$7,300** to assist many students at the beginning of the school year.

5. You can now donate to Educare-Africa using your credit card on line. Go to www.JustGive.org and type in Educare Africa as your charity of choice and proceed from there. They give 100% of your donation to each group you choose.

Wish List

- **Digital video camera** to document our activities especially in Cameroon
- **Stamps** 41 & 84 cents
- **Office paper** & business envelopes
- **Ink** (BW and Color)for HP Deskjet 855Cxi

What your \$\$ do for students

\$1 - 4 pens or about 20 pencils

\$15 - school uniform or school bag or school shoes

\$18 - scientific calculator

\$35 - secondary school fees or House rent for 10 months

\$40 - high school fees

\$45 - GCE exam registration fees

\$60 - secondary textbooks

\$80 - high school textbooks

\$350 - helps to register at a university (One year costs about \$1,000.)

These prices were calculated when the exchange rate is \$1=460 CFA francs.

Exchange rate fluctuates.

Holiday Fundraising

1. We are planning for our sixth **Christmas Tree** at the Heritage Mall from November 25th to December 25th. Pavla will make the ornaments with help of the Calapooia Middle School leadership class.
2. We are also planning to have a **display table at the Heritage Mall** in Albany on the following days: Saturdays, **December 15th and 22nd**, Sundays, **December 16th and 23rd** and Monday, December **24th**, 2007. If you are interested in keeping Pavla company for an hour or two on any of these days, let her know. She will be very grateful.
3. Starting on October 22nd, Pavla's **photographs and greeting cards with her photos will be sold** at the Heritage Mall inside of Cameron Blagg store.

Sponsoring students

There are many ways we can assist the students. Interested individuals or groups can sponsor individual students and will receive letters from the student, updating them on her/his progress in school. Or, people can send monthly donations, which will accumulate to assist many students. Or, a donation can be made once a year, either for an individual student or to assist several students. It depends on what each donor prefers to do. Any donation is always greatly appreciated!

Other possibilities

- *We have CDs for sale. About 35 copies of "Voices of Cameroon" and 15 copies of "Suffer Boy" by **Stephen Njodzeka**, a musician & native from Tatum. The price for each is \$15.
- *Greeting cards with Pavla's photographs for sale. It is another ongoing small fundraiser.
- * **Remembering Educare-Africa in the last will** is another way how to provide more support for the children in Cameroon. For more information you can contact Mike Reddy. Mike's phone: (541) 485-6676
Mike's email: mike@tiplace.com ;
- *Pavla is also looking for more **opportunities for presentations** to interested groups such

as Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, Zonta, Altrusa International, Women's and Youth groups, middle, high school or University classes, and other groups.

Cameroon dresses for sale

We are helping a **women's group** from Tatum. They make beads and simple but beautiful and comfortable dresses and sell them to raise funds to help themselves and their children. Each dress costs \$35. If anyone is interested in buying either beads or dresses, contact Pavla.

Volunteers and ideas are always welcome and greatly appreciated!

Educare-Africa

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All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you all very much on behalf of the children in Cameroon for your continuing kind and generous support. It is appreciated tremendously!

We will look forward to hear from you at the right time.

Have a richly blessed Holiday Season, filled with much joy & unconditional love.

