



Opportunity Education®

Opportunity Education Sister School Newsletter

January 2008

Opportunity Education will offer a raffle for a trip to Africa this summer (2008) for a teacher or administrator participating in the Sister School program! The winner will accompany Alan Barkley, Opportunity Education Executive Director, and Patti Davis, Director of Education, on a working trip to Ugandan schools in the summer of 2008 and the trip will be at the expense of Opportunity Education! I hope that got your attention. Before I get into the details, let me update you for 2007 and 2008 on the Opportunity Education Foundation.

2007 was definitely a year of growth. 330 schools were added to the program and Opportunity Education now serves well over 400 schools. In addition to the African countries of Uganda, Republic of South Africa and Tanzania, the Asian countries of India and Sri Lanka were added. We expanded the storage at our warehouse in Omaha.¹ Staff was expanded to include a Director of Education here in the US and associates in Uganda and Tanzania. The goal for 2008 is to add another 500 schools and, in addition to more schools in the existing countries, our hope is to add schools in Sierra Leone, Ghana and Nepal. That is an ambitious goal, so your participation is appreciated.

Patti Davis was hired as the Director of Education. Patti holds Masters Degrees in Gifted Education, Special Education, and is a Doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Instruction. As Director of Education, Patricia supervises all aspects of the educational program including curriculum development, assessment, and purchasing.

Joseph Kawuzi and Mbaki Mutahaba were added as oversees staff. Joseph represents Opportunity Education in Uganda and Mbaki in Tanzania. Their duties are to facilitate school supply deliveries and communications to schools in their respective countries.

The website was redesigned in 2007. Please check out www.opportunityeducation.org. Lori Lynn Ahrends (one of the teachers on our educational DVDs) was inspired by the work of Opportunity Education to write a song and this song, performed by Lori Lynn and a group from her church, is on the home page of the website.

¹ The pictures attached are of the Omaha warehouse in January 2008. Schools supplies were received in the fall of 2007 for delivery for the new school year of 2008. You are welcome to tour the warehouse. Please email jimricketts@opportunityeducation.org for an appointment.

As you know, I recently contacted you regarding a survey on the letter writing campaign. Several issues were discovered in this survey that we can correct. So, I thank you for your participation in the survey. US schools had issues with the delivery of letters to remote areas and some schools in Africa couldn't afford to mail their student letters to the U.S. We have implemented a procedural change to address these issues:

For schools that partner with Ugandan and Tanzanian schools, please mail your student letters to our representatives indicating the recipient school. Please also e-mail the representative to advise that a package of letters has been sent to him. Our representative will ensure delivery to the school, collect their return letters and mail them back to you at our cost. This will enable us to audit the responses, ensure that letters are returned, and assist in the cost to the sister school in the developing country.

For sister schools located in Uganda, please mail the letters to:

Joseph Kawuzi
P.O. Box 70875
Clock Tower
Kampala
Uganda
E-mail: josephkawuzi@yahoo.co.uk

For sister schools located in Tanzania, please mail the letters to:

Mbaki Mutahaba
P. O. Box 34202
Dar-es-Salaam
Tanzania
E-mail: mtindakaya@yahoo.com

Note: For sister schools located in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa, please continue to mail the letters directly to the school.

Thank you for your assistance in the survey and your input on the issues. On a side note, I toured a U.S. school in December that has communicated with their sister school on a regular basis; their students were energized with the letter campaign. Hopefully the new measures will result in a more secure and more regular exchange of correspondence between the schools and energize your students as well.

NOW - for the exciting news... Joe Ricketts, Foundation founder, has stated he will pay for a teacher or administrator that participates in the Sister School program to visit Africa at his expense. The trip will be to Uganda in late June or early July of 2008. The chosen teacher will travel with Alan and Patti and several other teachers on a working trip to schools. This won't be a tourist trip (you can expand the trip at your expense to tour, should you choose). You will see and experience the true Africa not seen from a tour bus. You will visit African schools. You will interact with African teachers and

students. Your African home base will be a seminary, as the seminarians are on vacation. Yes, there will be beds and a shower, but it will be more in the lines of a hostel than a Hilton.

Mr. Ricketts will pay for the airfare, hotel and food while on the trip and will also reimburse you for the visa and medical shots that will be required. (If you don't have a passport at this time, I'd recommend that you apply for one now as there is a time issue for the government to issue a passport.)

The goal of this trip is to plant the seeds of enthusiasm for the sister school program here in the US. We will pick the school/teacher/administrator from a raffle on April 1st. Terms to qualify for the raffle are below:

- You automatically have one ticket in the raffle by signing up for the sister school program. (Please note there are currently 40 schools that are signed up in the program so these are good odds for you.)
- You will receive five additional tickets in the raffle should you mail student letters to your sister school prior to April 1st. (Please e-mail me that you have mailed letters.)
- You will receive an additional 10 tickets for referring a school to sign up as a sister school. (Please e-mail me the referred school and teacher's name.)²

I hope the possibility of this trip excites you, as we at Opportunity Education are really looking forward to it.

We sincerely appreciate your participation in the Sister School program. As this foundation grows, we hope your school will continue to be part of the growth.

Sincerely,

Jim Ricketts
Opportunity Education

² The raffle tickets are non-transferable and non-negotiable. Opportunity Education will decide on any other outstanding issues at their discretion.