



# Opportunity Education Foundation

"Educating Children Around the World"

**July 2015**

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## WHY GO TO AFRICA?

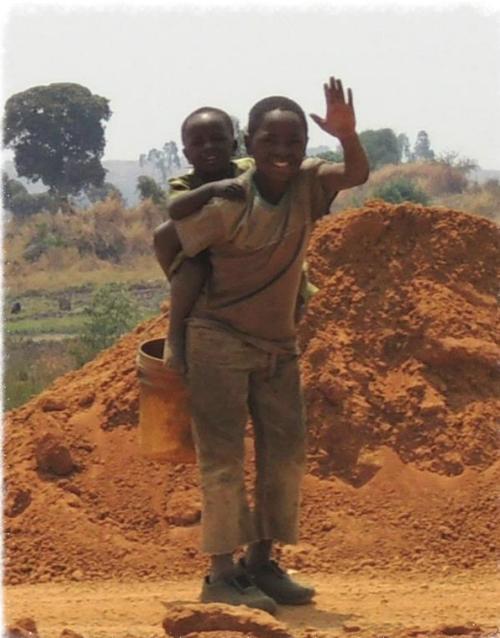
Why go to Africa?

Africa is a huge and highly diverse continent featuring fascinating cultures, spell-binding scenery and of course exotic animals.

Why go to Africa with Opportunity Education Foundation?

Because you can make a difference.

OEF serves over 1,700 schools world-wide, including schools in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, where we will be hosting next year's trip.



This has been a difficult area in which to recruit teachers and get them to stay. Many of the public schools lack teachers because they refuse appointments to an area considered remote, under-resourced and high in poverty. This region feels far from everywhere.

According to the OEF Primary Program Manager, Jamaal Mlewa, "Teachers here have VERY little opportunity for personal development. Teachers are hungry for what we offer. This is an area where OEF can make a deep impact!"

Jamaal was in this area in May to present professional development. All the schools closed for the day as every teacher requested to attend the seminar. In addition, teachers from three other schools that are not currently in the OEF program came desperately asking to be allowed to attend.

At the end of the seminar, Jamaal was pleased to see their desperation replaced by smiles and a sense of hope as they walked back to their schools and communities. He is optimistic that the OEF Education Experience Trip in July 2016 will be yet another opportunity for these schools and the communities to learn more and extend connections.

OEF is eager to invite you on an Education Experience Trip which is open to educators, high school/college students, professionals or anyone willing to share their English skills & experience. The trip includes spending time Monday through Friday teaching, learning and sharing in OEF schools followed by a safari to the incredible Katavi National Park. <http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/katavi.html> or [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katavi\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katavi_National_Park)

The 12 day trip is scheduled to depart the USA on Wednesday July 13, 2016 and arrive back on Tuesday July 26. Specific details and costs will be announced soon. We have been fortunate to share our schools in Uganda, Ghana and Tanzania with exceptional people on previous trips and we encourage you to watch the videos on our website (linked below) to learn more.

<http://www.opportunityeducation.org/watch/video/27>

Interested in making a difference? Please email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) to note your interest. We have a trip participant limit and will honor those most qualified on a first come, first served basis. Stayed tuned for more information in next month's newsletter!



## NEED A MONEY LIST?

Whether you are looking to join us in Tanzania or improve classroom resources – check out the following link. Get a list of educational grants, contests, awards, free toolkits, and classroom guides aimed at helping students, classrooms, schools, and communities. Check this page weekly to get the latest updates!

[http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources?utm\\_content=article&utm\\_campaign=grants-and-resources&utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=socialflow&utm\\_term=link](http://www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources?utm_content=article&utm_campaign=grants-and-resources&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow&utm_term=link)



## WHAT'S NEWS IN OEF SCHOOLS

### OEF India News

John Kandichetla, the South India Program Manager, spent time last month presenting seminars in the Dharmapuri and Ernakulam areas. Topics included maximizing the use of OEF materials and employing innovative teaching methods. Teachers have enthusiastically welcomed OEF materials and methods. They report students enjoy learning with the creative and useful learning resources that accompany the videos and teachers' guides.



John used the new pen pal poster (pictured) to explain and promote the OEF pen pal program. The school year in India has just begun in most regions and deliveries of materials have been made to start the new term. We are excited to welcome the new schools to our program and affirm schools that have been part of the OEF success story.



### OEF Sister School News!

Good news from Uganda Martyrs Primary School in Kampala. They were thrilled to report receiving a generous donation from their pen pal partners, R.M. Marris Magnet Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The school decided to utilize funds to construct energy saving stoves for preparing student meals. Currently, simple porridge lunches are warmed over open fires that are dependent on firewood, a very expensive commodity in the city. A portion of the donation will also be used to help provide supplies for feminine hygiene products. Many girls are missing in classes as they are unable to pay for these products and are embarrassed to come to school. Students pictured are offering thanks by shaking their hands to represent sending flowers to their friends. We applaud students at both schools that have made connections and found ways to learn more and help one another.



## WELCOME NEW SCHOOLS!

We always welcome new schools to our free, international pen pal program which is a fun and easy way to meet Language Arts, Social Studies and History/Civics standards. Share [this link](#) to invite others to join.



We are pleased to have the following schools join our pen pal program:

Sherman Elementary, Omaha, NE and Mwalimu Primary, Tanzania  
Scott Middle School, Lincoln, NE and Popatlal Primary, Tanzania  
Ralston Middle School, Ralston, NE and GRT School, India  
St. John Lutheran, Kendallville, IN and St. Anne School, Tanzania  
Florence Elementary, Omaha, NE and Sri Sai Ganesh Vidyalaya School, India  
Johnson-Brock Schools, Johnson, NE and Mgezwa Jr. Secondary, Eastern Cape, South Africa

OEF would love to have more international schools. If you have educator friends, anywhere in the English-speaking world, forward their details to us and we will connect their school to one of our outstanding schools in Africa or Asia.

Email today and start writing tomorrow! [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

## THIS SCHOOL NEEDS PEN PALS!

Sri Ujjaini Vidya Nilayam School is located in Punganur in the state of Andhra Pradesh, South India.

This school was established in 1994 and is proud to own a campus and building for the 650 students from pre-school up to grade 10. You can see from the pictures that most of the classrooms open into a courtyard to keep construction costs down and maximize air flow.



The school would like to obtain a school bus to help students make the arduous journey to school. Most of the parents are daily laborers or seasonal farmers who sell tamarind, mangoes, vegetables and flowers. They recently just started their new school year and are eager to practice their English skills writing pen pals!

Joining our pen pal program is easy and writing letters is an excellent opportunity to learn more than textbooks or even the internet can offer. Just email us and we will put a Welcome Folder in the mail to you today!

Email: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) and you can start writing today!  
If you already have a pen pal, refer a friend to our [OEF Pen Pal](#) link.

## FEATURED SCHOOL & GIFT CERTIFICATE WINNER

Congrats to Dan Campbell of Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City, Missouri.

On behalf of all of your pen pals at Mtakuja Secondary School, Tanzania, thank you for sending letters!



Dan, send an email to: [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) to claim your prize!

Want to win next month?

Just email [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) after you mail your letters and you are entered to win!

## START WRITING – RIGHT NOW!

We have the "write" letter lesson plans for maximizing the pen pal program for your students!

While no lesson plan is needed to write to your pen pals, if you want ideas – we have them!

Writing letters is a great activity to keep students productive during homeroom, study hall or downtime.

You can also integrate cross-curricular objectives into lesson plans that we have created to maximize learning through letters.



[Click Here for Letter Ideas and Resources](#)

[Click Here for Letter Lesson Plans](#)

We also have 4 options to stay up to date with our international pen pal program.

OPTION 1: To keep up with our "Friends" – we have a Facebook page just for you!

Visit our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/OpportunityEducation>

OPTION 2: Unable to get on Facebook? No worries.

Visit our Pen Pal Blog. <http://opportunityeducation.wordpress.com/>

OPTION 3: Pinterest. <http://www.pinterest.com/opportunityed/>

OPTION 4: Twitter. <https://twitter.com/OpEdFoundation>

Check out our social media for interesting ideas, stories, and links to help generate enthusiasm and discussion about education plus lesson plans to integrate pen pal letters into your standard requirements.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### Write Your Pen Pals!

Even if it's been a while, now is still the best time to write. The name, address and mailing instructions are available on our website. Start by [clicking here](#).



You can also email: [Schools@OpportunityEducation.org](mailto:Schools@OpportunityEducation.org)

### Get Others to Write!

We have 386 schools very eager to have English speaking pen pals.

Share the following link – and make sure you CC [schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org) – to get a gift certificate.

[Click Here to Refer A Friend and Get a Gift Certificate!](#)

### Visit an Opportunity Education School!

Take a life-changing trip to teach, share and learn in an Opportunity Education school in Africa or India. [Click Here to Learn More.](#)

## SAVE \$ ON SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Playtime/Schooltime Inc. has a long history of helping teachers equip their classrooms and locate hard-to-find or discontinued items.

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### Picture of the Month: A Tale of Two Pictures

These shots were taken at Engarenarok Lutheran Tetra School in Arusha, Tanzania. While they are proud of their 4 desktop computers, these are to be shared among 540 students. The computer picture contrasts with the "kitchen" picture where lunches are made for the school. Despite its struggles, the school performs well academically and the students continue to test well, qualifying for highly competitive spots in secondary school.

For more information please contact:

**TERESA ROLL**

**OUTREACH & SISTER SCHOOL COORDINATOR**

**OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

[www.OpportunityEducation.org](http://www.OpportunityEducation.org)

[schools@opportunityeducation.org](mailto:schools@opportunityeducation.org)

402-614-5381

STAY CONNECTED

