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Georges Malaika Foundation

by TOK DALANG on May 9, 2012 • 7:07 am



Photo Courtesy of Oliver Kienzi

The Georges Malaika Foundation (GMF), is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the goal of "empowering African girls through education" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The vision is to nurture sustainable communities that can provide fertile environments for young girls to become the next generation of women leaders.

GMF's first accomplishment was successfully sponsoring a group of at-risk young Congolese women from the village of Katanga. Sponsorship of these orphaned and abandoned girls included school tuition and all associated costs. This vision expanded into building the Georges Malaika School for Girls, a tuition-free accredited campus educating 104 young girls in the village of Kalebuka, near the city of Lubumbashi in southeast DRC.

The teachers follow a highly specialized and competitive curriculum based on the Belgian and Congolese schooling system, preparing the students for a lifetime of success. Two wells have been installed as a collaborative effort with the Voss Foundation, one on the school grounds and another for the village of Kalebuka. Besides being a key component in the construction of the school, providing a reliable source of clean drinking water for the community will prevent the spread of water-borne illnesses and promote a healthier lifestyle throughout the community. Removing this serious obstacle makes it much more feasible for the girls to succeed in school and pursue higher education.

The school has already had a major impact on the community, offering contracting jobs in building and maintenance of the school as well as the teachers and support staff holding full-time positions. Additionally, GMF promotes a holistic and supportive family environment by encouraging the parents to take part in vocational training, basic math and reading courses all taught at the school by our substitute teacher. The next phase of the school's expansions will be the construction of three additional classrooms to welcome more students into the school.

- Noella Coursaris Musunka