

GLOBAL EDUCATION FUND

Improving the lives of children living in poverty around the world through education

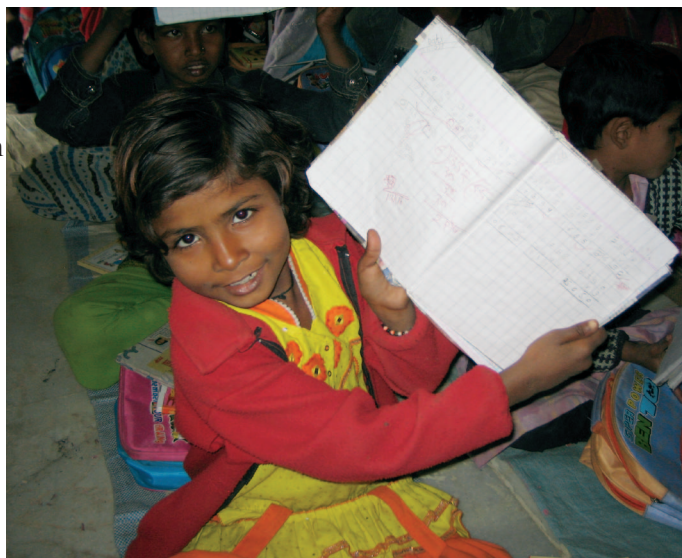
Innovative Teaching Models Strengthen Education in India

Earlier this year, several members of the Global Education Fund (GEF) team went to India to listen to leading educators, NGOs and funders and begin to gain an understanding of what is needed for children living in poverty there to become better educated.

While India has significant pockets of success, it is also home to millions of impoverished children. Bonded labor, forced early marriage for girls, disease and poverty are hard realities for many children.

After the listening tour, GEF decided to award grants to several partners working in India. One such partner is Project Vision, led by Dr. Geetha Narayanan. Project Vision is currently being implemented at three learning centers for children from seven urban slum communities in Bangalore, India.

Dr. Narayanan developed Project Vision with MIT Media Labs based on the question “*What would it be like if every student was given the same*



Young girl learning in India

cognitive tools and advantages?”

Dr. Narayanan inspired us all with her trailblazing approaches to educating children living in poverty. She has taken the education curriculum she developed at traditional schools she founded – with learning through art, design, and environmental sustainability – to teach critical thinking and problem solving to children living in slums.

The curriculum takes “children where they are, now” and educates them in support of national test taking as well as skill building for livelihoods to become self-sufficient in their

Continued on page 5

NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

India Update	1/5
Kenya Scholarships	1/4
GEF Mission & Vision	2
Guatemala Update	3
India Student Spotlight	3
Guatemala Student Spotlight	5
In The News	6
Donation Form	7
Why I Give	7
Mission Statement	8
Board/Staff List	8
Contact Info	8

GEF Scholarships Make Big Impact in Kenya

Global Education Fund sponsors a scholarship and leadership program serving students from several slum neighborhoods in Nairobi, Kenya. To promote literacy, Global Education Fund also provides books and exam preparation materials as well as library support to learning centers in Kenya.

Your support has helped over 100 scholars stay in school and participate in literacy, leadership and mentorship programs that will help them prepare to be leaders in their communities.

All of Global Education Fund scholars live in extreme poverty and have no ability to pay for tuition. The Kenyan government does not pay for students to attend school after the 8th grade. The opportunity to stay in school instead of dropping out is life changing for our students and you helped make that possible. Not only are they doing well academically but they are also learning practical skills that will enable them to make the world, and particularly Africa, a better place.

Continued on page 4



1105 Spruce St
Boulder, CO 80302
Tel. 303-415-9935
e-mail: info@globaleducationfund.org
website: www.globaleducationfund.org

Getting to Know Global Education Fund...

Mission

Global Education Fund improves the lives of children living in poverty around the world through education.



Vision

Global Education Fund (GEF) is committed to helping children see possibilities beyond what they experience every day and we work to give children the opportunity to make a difference in their lives and communities. Through education, we envision each child having access to the greater world and the opportunity to participate in it.

Values

GEF stays true to the following values in deciding which educational initiatives to support:

Locally led. Listen to people in the communities we serve to understand local needs.

Collaborative. Partner with leaders who have the skills and experience to address those needs.

Innovative. Leverage resources to create sustainable, innovative solutions.

Accountable. Demonstrate accountability, integrity and transparency for maximum impact.

Current Programs

Global Education Fund currently focuses on educational programs in three high need countries that also have qualities for success: **Kenya**, **India** and **Guatemala**.



Changing Lives Through Learning



Girls in a GEF library in Guatemala

Country Update:

Guatemala

In Guatemala, Global Education Fund is partnering with grassroots organizations working in rural villages on literacy and girls' empowerment.

The literacy rates are chronically low there, especially for rural indigenous girls. Thanks to your support, Global Education Fund is focused on

literacy support through the provision of Spanish language books and teacher support for reading programs in local communities. As children become readers, they are more likely to stay in school and are exposed to possibilities beyond what they see every day in their communities. *✍*



Map by National Geographic

Student Spotlight

Savita's Story

In 2009, child labor mercenaries posing as education agents, convinced the parents of 12 year old Savita that they could provide her a computer education in Delhi and a good income for their family, with frequent visits home.

Unfortunately, once Savita and several



of her friends arrived in Delhi, they were forced into slavery as domestic servants. When they protested, they were beaten and separated. Neither Savita's family nor the girls received any income and the so-called "agency" pocketed all their earnings. Sadly, this type of child slavery is all too common in India, as well as in other developing countries.

Thankfully, the Movement for Child Rights to Childhood (MCRC) raided the agency, rescued the girls and re-united them with their families. MCRC is working with Savita and her friends to catch them up on their education so they can re-enter school.

Thanks to you, Global Education Fund supports teacher training for the school that MCRC runs for children. With this support, Savita and others like her can be children again, get an education and become productive members of their communities. Savita also educates families not to believe these agents who come and depict rosy dreams. Savita is living proof that education gives children the chance to make a difference in their own lives and communities.

See a short video about Savita on GEF's YouTube channel www.youtube.com/user/GlobalEducationFund *✍*

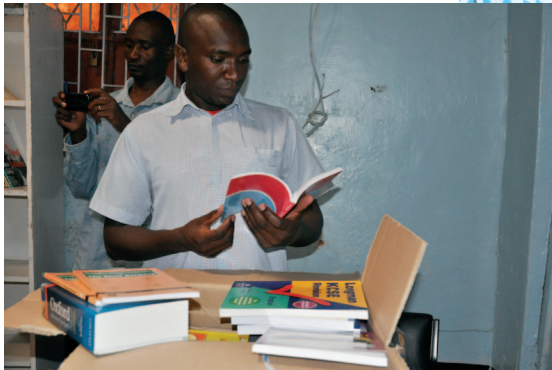
Changing the Odds, One Student at a Time

Continued from page 1

Thanks to you, over 100 children from the slums of Nairobi have stayed in school, are getting a quality education, and are excelling academically and personally. And thousands of children and families are able to access books and other literacy materials at learning centers supported by Global Education Fund. *✍*



LEFT:
Surveying a shipment of new books



ABOVE:
Happy students who have been able to extend their studies thanks to GEF

BOTTOM LEFT:
Students learning in an upgraded classroom in Kenya



By the Numbers...

In Kenya:

- **8.5 %** of students complete high school
- **Just 5%** of graduates pass the national qualifying exam to attend a university
- **Only 5%** of those are awarded government scholarships

Global Education Fund Results:

- **100%** of Global Education Fund's scholars complete high school
- **60%** of the students passed the most recent national exam
- **16%** received university scholarships!



Map by National Geographic

Adapting Teaching to Fit Local Needs

Continued from page 1
communities when they become adults

Dr. Narayanan recently visited GEF in Boulder, Colorado, where she led a roundtable discussion with local education reformers and community leaders and shared her expertise on educating children living in urban poverty.

She visited education innovators at a local school and was the guest speaker

at GEF's annual gala in October.

Because of your support, Global Education Fund continues to seek out innovative approaches like Project Vision to educate children living in poverty. *G*

RIGHT:
Young students learning in a classroom in India



Map by National Geographic



LEFT:
Dr.
Geetha
Narayan

Student Update:

Meet Mardoqueo

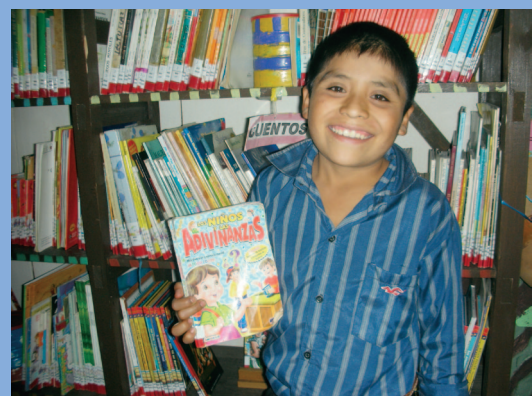
Every day fifth-grader Mardoqueo visits the library that Global Education Fund, with your support, helped establish in his village in Chajul, Guatemala. He reads story books or completes research assignments with textbooks and educational materials unavailable outside of the library.

Like his father, Mardoqueo aspires to be an agronomist. He loves reading about animals and plants in other parts of the world.

Mardoqueo was amazed to learn that much of the United States is dedicated to corn agriculture just like Chajul.

While library members have access to the internet for less than \$1 per year, other students have to pay more than \$1 per hour to use internet cafes, which are the only other alternative in Chajul!

Mardoqueo is well on his way to completing his studies and eventually becoming an agronomist - an expert on crops in this agricultural economy. He



Mardoqueo holding his favorite book

says that Global Education Fund is always welcome to visit. He'll be sure to provide the tortillas! *G*

Kenya Board Member Earns Graduate Degree

Salim Mohamed, a member of the GEF Kenya Board of Advisors, recently earned a Master's Degree in International Development and Management. Behind this distinction is a remarkable story.

Mohamed is an orphan who grew up near, and later lived in Kibera, one of the largest, sprawling slums in the world -- with over one million people, half of them children, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Faced with the barriers Mohamed has endured, most people with no college or even a high school education would have not dared to dream, nevertheless dream big. Not Mohamed. With a high school certificate and no undergraduate degree or diploma certificate but hard earned practical experience and leadership



Salim Mohamed at his recent graduation

skills, he enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. He graduated with a master's degree.

Mohamed is modest, saying he owes everything to the communities he worked with which taught him humility and values he could have never acquired at school.

"There are always alternatives in life. I took the alternative of not playing soccer and ended up spending a lot of time on leadership. There is

need for young people to give back in terms of knowledge. Every young person is a change-maker."

Today, Mohamed is mentoring young people to achieve their dreams. He encourages them to never give up, even when things look bad. Global Education Fund is proud to have Mohamed as a friend and colleague, along with other local leaders, in support of our work for children in Kenya. *g*

Why Global Education Fund Works

Global Education Fund is unique because its focus on a community's actual educational needs, innovative ideas, and locally-led solutions ensures more successful outcomes for improving access to education.

GEF excels at identifying local partners with sustainable solutions, working with the local community to implement these solutions, and then sharing the learning in peer-to-peer exchanges.

GEF works with local communities to find and share new models that break down barriers to education and then ensures that these solutions are delivered with integrity, efficiency and accountability. We believe that grassroots advocacy helps create change in each community.

Know that you are truly helping make a difference through education for children living in poverty around the world! *g*

GEF Staffer on Loan to Kenya Program

Global Education Fund program officer Suzanne Mieko Thomson is spending a year in Nairobi, supporting the Global Education Fund scholarship, leadership and literacy programs and working closely with the GEF Kenya Board of Advisors. She is helping us stay true to our value of listening to local leaders and building our programs through local partners. She is also becoming well-grounded in Kenya, its people, and culture, and having the opportunity to work with Kenyans to develop our programs on the ground. A mutually rewarding exchange! *g*

I want to make a difference through education for children living in poverty!

I am interested in (check as many as apply):

India _____ Guatemala _____ Kenya _____ Leadership Skills _____

Teacher Training _____ Girls Empowerment _____ Literacy _____ Other _____

yes!

Check enclosed for \$ _____
(make check payable to Global Education Fund)

Name: _____

I would like to make this donation on a monthly basis.

Address: _____

I would like information on how to include Global Education Fund in my estate plans.

City, State, Zip: _____

Please charge my (circle one):

E-mail address: _____

Mastercard Visa AmEx

Phone: _____

Card number

Exp. Date

Signature

Today's Date

For more information about Global Education Fund or to make an online donation, go to www.globaleducationfund.org.

Return to: Global Education Fund, 1105 Spruce Street,
Boulder CO 80302. Or email us at info@globaleducationfund.org

WHY I GIVE Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Begins with Education

By Dave Mackenzie

We've all heard it -- probably since our very first holiday seasons: *"It is far better to give than receive."* But that's hard to believe when you're young (or waiting in line to see Santa).

What I've found personally over the years is that I get an almost guilty pleasure in learning that just one of my actions is truly improving the life of someone else. Even if it's in the form of a small, gentle gesture.

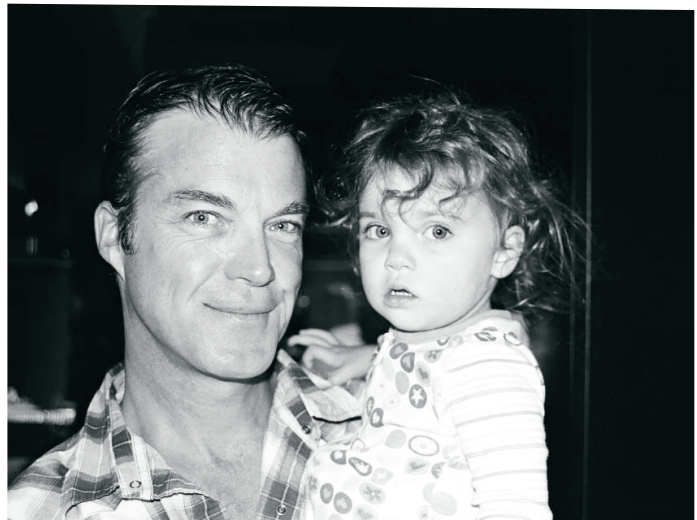
Having always tried to surround myself with like-minded individuals, I now feel as close as ever to the Global Education Fund - and to its mission of "improving the lives of children living in poverty through education." It has become increas-

ingly clear to me that a major factor in breaking the cycle of poverty begins with education.

This is what GEF does, and does well. And humbly: putting books, school supplies, and even libraries in places where they were once absent.

With a nod toward community leadership and guiding mentors. I admire this style: one that respectfully listens to needs of key local voices in the areas in which GEF assists; then goes straight to work.

To be able to trust outright an entity, especially a lean non-profit, to do the right thing with the money and resources it receives, is priceless. As



Dave Mackenzie with his daughter

someone who's served on the GEF Board, I can say with equal parts pride and conviction that this group truly cares about at-risk youth, worldwide. This care, and worthy focus, is why I have and will continue to support the GEF cause for years to come. *G*



*Return Service
Requested*

**U.S. BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

Meg Porfido, Chair

Bart Crawford, Vice
Chair

Eliza Woloson,
Secretary

Lee Strongwater,
Treasurer

Amy Beringer

Susan Drake

Claire Joyce

Julie Maier

Boli Medappa

Todd Woloson

**KENYA BOARD
OF ADVISORS**

Mary Ann Burris

Jane Kiragu

Shadrack Kirunga

Salim Mohamed

Pamela Mudhune

Kaari (Betty) Murungi

**GLOBAL
EDUCATION
FUND STAFF**

Julie Shaw

Karen Ashmore

Suzanne Mieke Thomson

Sabina Mackay

MISSION STATEMENT

Global Education Fund
improves the lives of
children living in poverty
around the world through
education.



Keep Up With the Global Education Fund



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Watch us on YouTube

CONTACT INFO

Global Education Fund

1105 Spruce St.

Boulder, CO 80302

Telephone: 303-415-9935

Email: info@globaleducationfund.org

Website: www.globaleducationfund.org