



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

P.O. Box 11613, Albany, NY 12211-1613

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Supporters,

2015 has been an incredible year for Engeye and the Engeye Scholars Program. We are grateful that you remain a part of the Engeye Scholars family and we are excited to share some of the many successes of the past year. We also wanted to let you know that we will be sending the invoices for the Scholars sponsorship program by email within the next week. The email invoice will provide you with the option to quickly pay online by credit card or mail a check to continue your support. If you would prefer that we send our newsletters and invoices by mail rather than email, please contact us and we will do so. Thanks again for your support and for making a difference in the lives of so many.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Engeye Scholars Holiday Party**

Last year over 1,000 children attended this amazing party and it has become a highly anticipated annual village event! It truly "takes a village" to plan and host a party of this magnitude. Generous donors like you, along with the village families and Scholars all come together to help make the day very special for the entire community. If you want to spread the holiday joy, and/or support our other educational and community programs, you can make an additional gift for the holidays. For sponsors we have added an extra line on the invoice to make holiday giving easy. For our other supporters, simply click here <https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=76670> to make your donation and note Scholars support in the memo section. ***As our gift to you, for each additional \$50 donation you make beyond your usual sponsor amount, we will send you a special thank you gift handcrafted by our own Engeye Artisans! If you are a sponsor at a \$250 level or more and you simply want an Artisan Gift based upon your past and current support, simply email us and we will send you one.***



### **December Volunteer Visits and Letters to your Scholar.**

As in the past, we have asked that in lieu of gifts, our Sponsors consider using scholar gift funds to support the holiday party so your sponsored student's siblings and other village children can share in the holiday celebration. Elaine will be traveling to Engeye this year in December along with one of our Scholars sponsors to help with the party and several Scholars initiatives. If you would like her to hand deliver a letter or card to your Scholar, please send your letter or card by December 1<sup>st</sup> to the Engeye Scholars, PO Box 11613, Albany, NY 12211-1613. Receiving a letter in Ddegeya is a special treat and the students treasure the personal notes from their sponsors. ***Don't forget to include an updated photo of you and/or your family.*** Also if you have any interest in joining the journey to Ddegeya this December or some time in the future, please contact us and we can work with you to see if we can make it happen. Our Engeye onsite volunteer program continues to grow and is starting to offer new opportunities for visitors and volunteers.

### **Scholars Program, School Support, and St. Gertrude's Update**

Our current scholars continue to work hard and are doing extremely well. The Engeye Scholars program continues to individually support 23 students at boarding school, along with 30 annual scholarships for day students at St. Gertrude's Primary School. This year we had the exciting opportunity to learn more about the history of St. Gertrude's school and about Gertrude, the woman who set things in motion. We had the chance to Skype with Gertrude's daughter and granddaughter in Germany and they shared photos and stories of how the school started. They prepared a nice surprise for Gertrude at her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party sharing information and photos that showed how her initial gift of education lives on. She was thrilled to learn that the Engeye Scholars Program, with the help of its supporters, continues to work to improve conditions and expand educational opportunities at the school for local children and families. We hope to provide a more detailed update of the St. Gertrude's story on our webpage next year. The Engeye Scholars Program recently applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 grant from St. Thomas Church of Delmar, NY to build much needed teacher housing at the school. We know that recruiting and retaining good teachers is critical to the overall success of any school. So as we see an original photo of the construction of the school on the left, it is exciting to see that progress continues and the gift of education keeps on giving (recent photo on right).



Construction of St. Gertrude School -30 yrs. ago



Growth and hope continues today!

### **Engeye and Engeye Scholars Updates**

Engeye and Engeye Scholars has launched several new social media initiatives to help keep you informed and to help us stay connected with our current sponsors and friends. The Engeye website continues to be updated and serve as a communication tool for general organizational information and of course an easy link for donations ([www.engeye.org](http://www.engeye.org)). If you are on Facebook, please be sure to "like" Engeye (*Engeye Scholars is now posting on Engeye facebook page and not a separate page*). We are also expanding our use of Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest over the next few months so please help by following us. It is a great way of being reminded of the great things happening in this world and how your support truly makes the world a better place. You can follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest through the following links:

<https://twitter.com/engeyescholars/> <https://instagram.com/engeyescholars/>  
<https://twitter.com/Engeye/> and <https://pinterest.com/engeyescholars/>.

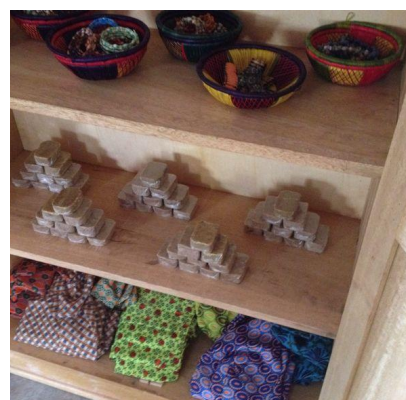
### **Our Newest Minerva Fellows**

Union College Minerva Fellows, Charlotte Bloom and Joe Hinderstein have arrived in Ddegeya and have hit the ground running. They are already teaching at St. Gertrude's, working on several new projects, and making a tremendous impact on the Engeye community. You are invited to follow their blogs found on tumblr at <http://charlotteinddegeya.tumblr.com/> and <http://joehinderstein.tumblr.com/>



### **Engeye Artisan Program and Volunteers at Ddegeya**

Late last year, Engeye Scholars initiated the Engeye Artisans program to provide women in the village with the means to earn income for their families. We are currently seeing the benefit of that program and have many Artisan products to share at upcoming events and we are working to have online offerings by November of this year. The project has expanded through the efforts of Minerva Fellow Ilyena Kozain's soap making initiative, donations of sewing machines and supplies, instruction offered by volunteers who visited the village, the purchase of Artisan works and the volunteer transport of goods back to the US. Engeye Scholars sponsors, the Rody-Wright family recently helped with the Artisan program when they traveled to Engeye to volunteer and visit their two sponsored students, Susan and Harriett. They have returned with many Artisan products, a full heart and a lot of ideas to help grow our programs. The opportunity for the family to meet their scholars was truly a special gift for both the scholars and their sponsors. If you would like to learn how you might be able to volunteer and visit your sponsored student, please reach out to Elaine or Theresa.



### **Lastly, Thank You (Webale)**

On behalf of everyone with the Engeye family, the Ddegeya community, thank you for your continued support. Your donations have made such a difference in the lives of the scholars, their families and the entire community. As always you can email or call us with any questions: Elaine Pers Hickey at [elaine.pers@engeye.org](mailto:elaine.pers@engeye.org) (518) 462-4975 and Theresa Weinman at [theresa.weinman@engeye.org](mailto:theresa.weinman@engeye.org) (518) 439-4806.

Very Truly Yours,

*Elaine & Theresa*

Elaine Pers Hickey and Theresa Weinman  
Directors, Engeye Scholars

