

**Tloma Giving**

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December 2020

In This Issue:

- [Oh what a year it's been!](#)

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## Oh what a year it's been!

We all know the challenges, but hopefully have had the opportunity to reflect on the “silver linings” from this difficult year as well. We’d like to share a few of the highlights of 2020 that have been made possible through the hard work and generosity of many friends of TlomaGiving:

**January** marks the start of a new school year in Tanzania. Generous donors to TlomaGiving continued the sponsorship of 15 students for their second year of boarding school. Of the new class who finished primary school in Dec. 2019, four students were sponsored for boarding school, one for vocational school, and thirty students were sponsored for secondary day school. The sponsorships included school uniforms and supplies for the year – there’s nothing like the smell of those brand newly sharpened pencils!



**February:** As many of you noted when visiting Tloma Primary School, desks are always in short supply, with children squeezed together to share what's available. Thanks to the generous efforts of former visitors Dennis and Lauri Winge and their friends Mark and Karen Jackson, **65** greatly needed new desks were built or refurbished for the school.



**March:** The fear and lockdowns that struck us all spread to Tanzania as well.

In addition to border closings, all schools were shut down to prevent the spread. Unfortunately, the Corona Virus arrived on top of a season of excessive rain which led to crop infestations and failures. This was more than an economic problem for families in Tloma; hunger and starvation resulted. Thankfully, generous friends of TlomaGiving donated over \$2000 in emergency food aid which saved many families.



However, looking for the silver lining, we'll find Tloma Teacher Bertin Sulle who took the initiative to round up a group of students to begin an experimental gardening project at the school to grow salad greens, cabbage, and pumpkins. The plan is to teach the children vegetable gardening to supplement the typical diet of maize and beans. Furthermore, they plan to sell seedlings to individuals in the area to increase family nutrition levels.





A second silver lining of the pandemic was the unexpected economic boost for a group of women entrepreneurs in the Tloma area. With assistance from friends of TlomaGiving, the women had just begun to make liquid soap for sale prior to March. The emphasis on hand-washing to battle the corona virus was a boon to their business. The women began making face masks for sale as well. These ladies, some of whom are single mothers, are now able to provide some support for their families while they practice their new entrepreneurial skills!



**June & July:** TlomaGiving received approval as a 501c(3) Non-profit and all donations from the start of 2020 onward are eligible for tax exemption!

Schools reopened June 29 after more than 3 months of lock-down. Donations were received to build handwashing stations for each classroom entrance.

The women's business continued to grow through soap making and mask sewing.

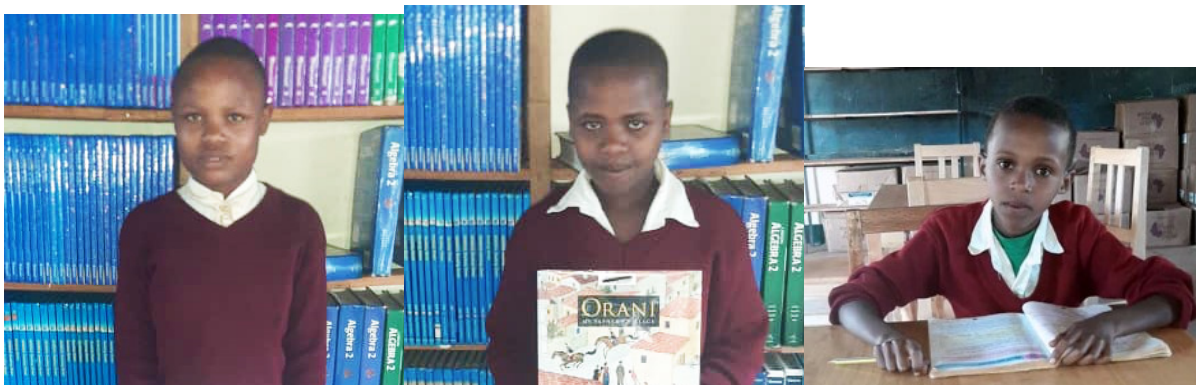
And Tloma Primary received 70 boxes of primary and secondary school books from Books for Africa!



**November:** The question was finally answered “Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?” An entrepreneurial young Tloma woman named Happy knows that it’s the *hen house* that needs to come first! Thanks to the generosity of Winona and Bob Perry, Happy’s dream of starting an egg business is becoming reality.



**December:** Seventy-eight Grade 7 students finished primary school, most of whom have no means to pay the fees necessary to attend secondary school. We need your help for these students to reach their potential and create a successful future for themselves and their families. It only takes \$425 to sponsor a child for boarding school that will enable a child to lift themselves out of poverty. Can we count on you to be the silver lining for one of these bright kids?



To all of you who have donated this past year, our gratitude cannot be expressed in words. Looking back on all we've accomplished makes us proud as well as thankful. However, much work is yet to be done. We know that you are receiving many year-end requests for support right now, and we would not be doing our job for the children and families of Tloma if we didn't add our pleas to the list. We ask you to look in your heart for those who are most in need and consider a 2021 donation to TlomaGiving. The life, health, education and future will be changed through your generosity.

Visit our website: [tlomagiving.org](http://tlomagiving.org)

[Donate with PayPal](#)

Or mail a check payable to: **Tloma Giving** and send to

James Swallow – Treasurer  
PO Box 1009  
Mendocino, CA 95460


With gratitude and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year,  
The TlomaGiving Board

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