

Greetings to the SJS community;

I am soon off to begin my new adventure as I take this coming academic year to explore East Africa, and more specifically, the Maasai community of Ilkurot close to Arusha, Tanzania.

For those of you who followed Team Kilimanjaro's journey, you will remember that we spent time in the areas surrounding Arusha, as it is home to the Mount Kilimanjaro tourism region. Our school building project with Free the Children was located in a Maasai community in the Kenyan countryside. After that deeply rewarding experience, I was seeking an opportunity for SJS to establish a long term partnership with an East African community that would benefit both communities through sponsorship and cross cultural sharing. It was through this search that I was put in touch with the Ilkurot School, located in a Maasai community 30 kilometers north of Arusha.

Maasai Wanderings (www.maasaiwanderings.com) is a successful guiding company in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania owned and operated by Donna Duggan and her husband Naseeb Ismail. From their experiences guiding in this region, Donna and Naseeb have recognized the desperate needs of the local school in Ilkurot. Through their generous efforts, they have begun to do what they can in using their guiding company to assist in meeting the needs of Ilkurot school. They have made great gains in their initiative, however the needs of the school are staggering. Please read more about the Ilkurot and the efforts of Maasai Wanderings at; <http://www.maasaiwanderings.com/projects.htm>.

During my time in Tanzania, I will be immersing myself in the rich beauty of the tribal culture, teaching where I am most needed, and working to establish a relationship between SJS and Ilkurot that is based on friendship, trust and sharing. Throughout the coming year, I will have internet access periodically. My hope is to update the SJS community as regularly as possible with pictures and stories of my experiences from Ilkurot. I would also like to hear updates from the SJS community and encourage you to write me at; shannonhowlett@hotmail.com.

As you will discover by reading the mentioned links on Ilkurot, their needs are tremendous. I will be posting lists of needed school supplies on the SJS website.

Donations may be sent to:

Attn; Shannon Howlett
C/O Donna Duggan
Maasai Wanderings
P.O. Box 14035
Arusha, Tanzania

Thank you for you interest and on-going support in this very worthwhile cause. I wish you all the best in the coming year and look forward to seeing you in September 2008.

Ms. S. Howlett



Students of the Ilkurot School



Classrooms