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April 15, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In early March of 2009, we brought 18 high school students from Cairo American College to Morocco as part of our school's Week Without Walls program. The intent of this program is to provide our students with opportunities to experience culture, adventure and service learning in different parts of the world. This was our second year bringing students to the Imlil Valley. In our previous year we interacted with children from the region in rather hastily arranged gatherings. This year we were most fortunate to be paired with the Girls Boarding House in Asni. This pairing with the boarding house is fortunate in a myriad of ways. First, it provides our students access to interacting with youths of the same age group in a wide variety of possible activities. Our students are interested to know more about the lives of young people in other locations on the globe. We believe that this interaction is fundamental to inspiring our students to envision new possibilities, empowering them to achieve their aspirations, and inspiring them to serve a global community and contribute to a sustainable future. Having the opportunity to partner with the Girls Boarding School in Asni gave our students the opportunity to learn more about the lives of young Moroccan girls from a rural area. Our students come from 68 different nationalities but most of them come from urban settings, and none of them are from Morocco. So getting to know more about the rhythms and concerns of youth in a rural Moroccan community was extremely educational. Our students also had the opportunity to find common ground as they played games, had informal conversations, learned a bit more about each other's language, and prepared a meal together. Due to the interaction our students were given the opportunity to reflect on their own lives by examining the lives of others. This year we had one student who, due to his experience on this trip, profoundly explored the question of where happiness is found in life. He arrived at a rather startling answer to his own question when he came to realize that happiness is crafted by each of us based on the things we value most and very often it is shaped by the cradle of our community. Many of our other students learned more about themselves as they interacted with and learned more about the girls at the school. We feel that this partnership with the Girls Boarding House offers extended future possibilities that we look forward to exploring in an effort to inspire our students to use their hearts and minds as global citizens.

Trip Sponsors,

Dr. Peter Duckett

Dr. Heba Farouk