

Education for All Morocco

Education for All

WE WANT TO GIVE GIRLS THE CHANCE OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION IN MOROCCO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT IF YOU EDUCATE A GIRL, YOU EDUCATE THE NEXT GENERATION AS WELL.

"Alone we can do little, together we can do much"



2008 - All systems go!



Mary and Latifa shopping for books for the girls in Marrakech

Welcome to the December edition of the Education for All newsletter, as we review the major events of what has been a ground breaking year.

The house was opened in April of this year, with the ten original girls echoing through its halls for the last part of the school year.

However, come October with the start of the school year, silence was to become a rarity! The girls are full of life as they embark on this exciting adventure to finish their college education.

There were a few tears as the girls became adjusted to their new living arrangements away from their families. As well as this challenge, most of the new girls only speak Berber.

A testament to their desire to complete their education is the fact that they have remained in the house, and made the best of every opportunity.

An added thrill for the girls has been the addition of Linda, an Australian volunteer, to the house.

The house is now a bustling hive of activity with 6 more girls set to join us in September.

The application process for admission to the house will get underway this month. Each prospective girl must apply with a dossier showing her achievements at school, her family's financial status, as well as the distance that the family live from the school and transportation options.

The process will be well advertised, and Latifa (the house mother) and Linda intend to spend a couple of weeks visiting remote villages to encourage applications.

The house will be open to parents on Saturday 7th February at 2pm, and applications for the 6 positions will close in March 2009.

Throughout the year, the money raised has been spent on school books and reading books for the girls, items for the house such as blankets and kitchen equipment, and the everyday expenses. As always, we rely heavily on your support of the girls to ensure they complete their education.

From the team ^ش
at Education For All



Highlights of 2008

- The house was opened in April
- 18 girls are now living in the house
- The girls have reading books and school books
- The washing machine and oven are making life much easier
- The girls are doing very well in their exams

Get involved!

Want to get involved? Here are some ideas:

- Visit our website at <http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/donate/index.html> for tips on how to donate.
- Are you a company looking to support us? Join our corporate sponsors.
- Financially adopt a girl to ensure that she has the opportunity to complete three years of college education.

- Are you participating in an event and looking for a charity to donate your funds to? Visit <http://www.justgiving.com/efam/> to make a page where your funds go

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Do you support EFA?
Come to our sponsors' **Open Day** on **26th April**.
Have coffee, meet the girls and see the house. For those that wish, continue on up to the Kasbah du Toubkal and join us for a Mechoui lunch! (places are limited).
Time? 11am Cost? £10 (£40 with Mechoui lunch)
All funds raised go to Education for All Morocco.
Sign up by going to:
www.justgiving.com/opendayspring09

www.educationforallmorocco.org

Aussie antics appear in Asni

Taking a break from my usual post as a secondary school teacher, I decided to plunge right into the deep end and stay for a few months in the house in Asni.

Despite encountering a myriad of new experiences everyday, from eating hearts to having the groceries delivered by donkey to gutting fish (still not my favourite household chore), I have loved every minute of my time here in Morocco.

Everyday, I assist Latifa with the cooking and the household chores. I also

'From eating hearts to having the groceries delivered by donkey to gutting fish, I have loved every minute of my time here in Morocco'

spend time in the morning teaching Latifa English, and time in the afternoon teaching the girls English and Technology.

These lessons have included some basic skills as well as some practical skills they can take home with them. With the Eid holiday coming up, I'm sure there will be a few families who will be treated to an Australian style cake.

But don't think it's just me doing all of the teaching! I have learned so much already from being in the house. My cooking skills have rapidly expanded (along with my waistline) and I am becoming a better housekeeper everyday. Although, I'm still not used to the flood that goes along with the daily house clean!

I am also learning to read and write Arabic, and I have discovered a lot about Islam and the Moroccan culture. Latifa



and I have a lot of conversations about the differences between my regular life and life here in Asni. We both shock each other with our (mis)conceptions!

I have been so lucky to be so warmly welcomed into the house!

If you would like to catch up on the finer details of my time in the house, you should check out my blog at <http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/blog/>.

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Daily timetable

Every day the house runs smoothly, with a regular timetable. The girls all come home for lunch from 12pm until 2pm.

However, each girl has an individual timetable which means that she is responsible for getting herself to and from school, as well as planning her time.

Most girls have one day a week off school. They all have Sundays off school as well. Every second weekend, the girls go home to visit their families.

Here is an idea of what happens each day in the house.

7.00	Wake Up
7.30	Breakfast
8.00	School
12.30	Lunch
14.00	School
18.00	School finishes
19.30	Dinner
20.00	Homework
22.00	Bed time

Of course with 18 girls in one house, we have a lot of jobs that need to be completed. To do this, we have a number of rosters. Each girl is rostered on to:

- Clean the upper level once a week
- Clean the lower level once a week
- Wash up after meals twice a week
- Contribute once a week to the washing of the clothes (not all of their clothes are washed—they still have to clean some items on the terrace)

Other duties are completed when necessary.

Spotlight on: Nezha

Name: Nezha

اسمي نزهة

Age: 17

Father's occupation: Agriculturist

Mother's name: Aisha

Favourite Subject: Islamic Education

When I am 20, I see myself: studying to become a doctor at university and I hope to be married and be able to work as well.

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Latifa: meet the house mother

My name is Latifa Aliza. I am 28 years old. I am from Moulay Brahim which is just 5 km from Asni. I studied linguistics at university in Marrakech.

I am responsible for Dar Asni, the boarding house for girls. There are 18 girls between the ages of 12 and 17. The girls are from the region of Imlil and Ourigane.

Every day I wake up at 7am, then I wake up the girls and I cook the breakfast. After cleaning the home at 8.30 I learn English with Linda. At 10 o'clock I cook the lunch with Linda and 12.30 pm we eat the lunch.

After we have free time from 1 pm to 2 pm. In this time I go to do my prayers and read Qu'ran. At 2 o'clock I study the homework with the girls who haven't got school.

At 6 o'clock I go to the kitchen to cook the dinner with Linda. At 7.30 we eat the dinner and wash up and after I do the homework with the

girls until 10 pm.

After the girls go to sleep I use the internet for 1 hour before I go to sleep.

When I was 11 years old I went to live with my aunt in Marrakech to finish my school because we didn't have the college in my village.

For me it was difficult to live with another family but I wanted to finish my school and I stayed with my aunt for 16 years.

I am one of only two girls from my village who are educated and who go out to work.

For these girls I believe they are lucky to be in Dar Asni because they



have all of the things I wanted to have when I studied.

I think for these girls they have the help to study very well because we have a nice home with the Internet, showers, washing machine, a big kitchen with every thing and every girl has her own bed and cupboard which they do not have in their home. And it is good that they live close to their family.

But the BEST thing is that they have me!

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"It was difficult to live with another family but I wanted to finish my school"

Spotlight on: Hayat

Name: Hayat

اسمي حياة

Age: 13

Father's name: Habib

Mother's occupation: Home-maker

Favourite Subject: Islamic Education

When I am 20, I see myself: working in a boarding house for girls, just like Latifa.

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Support from the Souk

As always, we have received huge financial support from our partner school Bristol Grammar School.

On 27th November, the school held a Moroccan souk in their school hall to raise an amazing £3385.63 for the girls. This money contributes greatly to the running of the house, as well as ensuring the girls have a great chance of completing college.

The girls are thrilled with the link to BGS and are so excited about the successful souk!

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Education for All

www.efamaroc.org

Morocco

Volunteer Required



Education for All have opened a house for girls in Asni, 45 km from Marrakech. We are seeking a volunteer who would be willing to work in the house to support the house mother in both house and administrative duties.

- Your work in the house will involve cooking, sharing cultural experiences and teaching basic English and computer skills.
- You should be open to trying new things and willing to share your own customs and recipes.

Do you have 3 or 6 months to give to help girls in rural Morocco?

- Your working conditions will be flexible to accommodate the aspects you would like to focus on during your stay.

Recruiting now for February and April 2009.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist the girls in Morocco, please contact info@educationforallmorocco.org





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**EDUCATION FOR ALL
MOROCCO**

*If you educate a girl, you
educate the next
generation.*

Upcoming Events:

BIKE TRIP MARCH 2009



Sat 28th March to Sat 4th April 2009.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Would you like to spend a week in Morocco staying in some wonderful riads, hotels or even the Kasbah du Toubkal?
- Would you like to engage in some healthy physical exercise with like minded people?
- Or would you prefer to spend lazy days by a pool and engage in some sightseeing?
- Would you like to be actively involved in raising funds to help young girls get a chance of secondary education?
- Would you like to join a group and cycle some amazing routes in and around Marrakech?
- Would you like to have lunch on the roof terrace of the Kasbah du Toubkal?

If you are able to answer **yes** to any one of the above questions, this **IS** for you.

More information here:

www.kasbahdutoubkal.com/education/bikeholiday.html

OPEN DAY AT THE HOUSE APRIL 26TH AT 11AM

Lunch at Casa Taos

Join us for a look inside the house and enjoy a light afternoon tea as you meet Latifa and the girls. Reservations can be made at

www.justgiving.com/opendayspring09 Tickets cost £10 (£40 with Mechouie lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal).

TOUBKAL ASCENT MAY 30-31



May 2009 Toubkal summit expedition...this is not a doddle but achievable by anyone who can walk and is reasonably fit.

Come and join us...anyone who lives in Marrakech and has not been up to the top of Toubkal, now is your chance, and anyone else who would like to join us and summit North Africa's highest peak.

For more information, visit our website:

www.kasbahdutoubkal.com/education/toubkalascent.html



www.educationforallmorocco.org