

Education for
All
Morocco

Education for All



German Ambassador Visits Dar Asni

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.

Highlights

- Visit from the German Ambassador
- EFA Open Day
- Activities
- School Visits and sponsoring
- News from the volunteers
- Spotlight on...

On Wednesday 10 March 2010, the German Ambassador to Morocco, **Ulf-Dieter Klemm**, visited Dar Asni.

Having heard about the work of EFA he insisted on visiting the house to see for himself the great work we are doing.

We were honoured by his visit as he had taken time out of his busy schedule especially to visit us.

Thanks to housemother Latifa, 'la cuisinière' Latifa and all the girls, the house was once again in tip-top condition, ready to welcome guests.

The ambassador, his wife and team were welcomed with a delicious spread of tea, cake and crepes, and

it was a surprise for the Ambassador and his team that they had been made to feel so welcome.

Their anticipated 1/2 hour visit soon turned into a much longer chat over the delicious breakfast laid out for them and they were all very impressed by the house and of the progression of the EFA project since its beginnings.

We are still in contact with them and were pleased to welcome them once again when they returned for our Open Day (see Pg. 2)!



EFA Open Day

This year the second annual EFA Open Day took place on April 25.

An event anticipated by everyone.

Lots of guests, lots of girls and of course lots of fun! Have a look at the second page for more details about this wonderful day.

EFA Open Day

A big day for EFA and a lot of preparation to welcome our expected guests and friends. The girls of Dar Tinmel (Talat N'Yacoub) woke up early in the morning to meet their new friends in Dar Asni. They were all so happy to meet again (first met on April 11th see pg.5). So this year there were 30 girls from both houses to enjoy the big day!

The morning began in Dar Asni with a reunion of the girls and with Liz Toole (first volunteer of this year) who left us in February but who came back especially for the Open Day and to visit the girls.

Guests of varying nationalities were welcomed in the morning with a sumptuous morning tea. All the EFA committee, housemothers and volunteers were there to welcome the guests, show the house and explain the EFA project.

The girls were introduced to the visitors and had a wonderful time serving drinks to all the guests and relaxing in the garden.

After many questions and 'un tour de la maison' the rather large entourage of guests and girls headed to the Kasbah du Toubkal for lunch.

Highlight of the morning was the excitement of the Dar Tinmel girls as they visited the valley and village of Imlil for the first time!

A big lunch prepared by the capable staff of the Kasbah du Toubkal was enjoyed by all. A delicious menu of mixed salad, traditional Mechoui, excellent couscous and fresh fruit for dessert.

It was a lovely lunch with lots of fun, speeches and myriad photos. We even had a sun shower! You can never plan the rain and thanks to the Kasbah staff, everybody was quickly sheltered and continued to enjoy the celebrations.

Mike McHugo thanked all the supporters without whose efforts EFA wouldn't be where it is today. He also thanked the hardworking housemothers, volunteers both past and present and congratulated all the girls on all of their hard efforts throughout this school year. Thanks were also given to Hajj Maurice who unfortunately couldn't be there on the day.

Surprise of the afternoon was a delightful performance from the girls of Dar Tinmel. Unbeknown to all but a few, the girls wowed everyone with a performance of their newly practised house anthem! Shy at first to appear in front of such

an expecting audience they only needed a little encouragement in the form of volunteer Nicola by their side to boost their confidence. The song, sung in the girls second language Arabic (even by Nicola!) expressed the girls pride in their house and respect for each other.

A fabulous way to end a fabulous day. Thanks to all who participated!



Career Talk

Sunday 18 January



A special careers talk was held in Dar Asni by 3 hardworking professional women. A web designer, hotel receptionist and even a massage therapist!

All based in Marrakech they came to share their experiences with the girls and to discuss with them what they can achieve in the future now that they have the opportunity to complete their formal education.



Damien Durand's Delicious Delights!



Damien Durand held a special cooking class for all the girls of EFA at Dar Asni on April 11. World renowned Durand and his team delighted everybody with a world class menu; allowing the girls to get stuck in on all things delectable!

Thank you Damien and team for a real treat!

Asni Girls Invade the City



Sunday 7 March the Dar Asni household visited Morocco's exciting city of Marrakech.

The premier visit for many of the girls and a world away from their mountainous homes, it was a whirlwind visit packed full of new experiences and a visit to the city's many interesting sites. Djemaa el Fna, Souks, La Ville Nouvelle and Menara Gardens.

A trip to supermarket chain 'Marjane' was an eye-opener with the girls browsing the many aisles in wonder at just what was on offer.

An amazing day out for the girls, EFA hope to continue giving these exciting opportunities to the girls in the future!

Dar Tinnel Visits Namesake

In April the girls of Dar Tinnel, EFA's second boarding house based in the rural town on Talat N' Yacoub, visited the incredible mosque of Tinnel.

Situated in the quiet village of Tinnel, the mosque is a real jewel based in a stunning setting surrounded by the majestic High Atlas Mountains. Once the spiritual and artistic capital of Morocco during the Almohad dynasty it is a fine example of Berber Islamic architecture.

Just a 3km walk from the house the girls enjoyed a picnic among the grounds of the mosque and posed for a myriad of photos with their beloved housemother Khadija and volunteer Karima!



A huge thank you to all the schools, our sponsors, and everyone else who gets involved with EFA by fundraising to support the girls in their continuing education. If you would like to get involved, visit the website at:

<http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/get-involved/index.html>

School visits

Girls Guides 7-8 April

Celebrating their 100th anniversary the British Girl Guides were once again welcomed in Dar Asni. Making sock monkeys and beaded friendship bracelets among other fun activities we look forward to seeing them in the house next year.



Bristol Grammar School



One again welcoming B.G.S, the girls of Dar Asni enjoyed a great afternoon of arts & crafts with them. It was funny for the girls to get stuck in with their hands instead of the usual paintbrushes! Latifa and the girls were able to personally thank them for their continued support and incredible fundraising ; and B.G.S was able to congratulate Ikram Ahouli and Souad Bounbaden who won an award from the school for their improvement in school last year.

Cairo American College

The Cairo American College once again visited Dar Asni as part of their Week Without Walls programme.

Building fantastic and very much needed study desks for each of the girls bedrooms, C.A.C not only raised the funds for materials but oversaw the completion of the work themselves!



SottoGrande International School



SottoGrande International School of Spain visited us in April donating musical instruments, teaching the girls some new skills and enjoying arts & crafts with them.

We hope the girls keep up their newly found musical skills!

Thank you Zoë



Once again Zoë Ouwehand came to visit along with her friend Anne. This year they visited our second house Dar Tinmel situated in Talat N' Yacoub. Zoë was able to see the wonderful Econo panels, donated by her son Paul Ouwehand being put into use. Really useful when you spend a winter in Talat N'Yacoub!

Zoë sponsors, Zahra Ait Rami, a first year student in Dar Asni, enabling her to continue her studies to a senior level.

Thank you Zoe and Paul.

Annual Charity Bike Ride



This year's Annual Charity Bike Ride took place for one week beginning on Saturday 27th March 2010 and was again enjoyed by all who took part. For those that like hills the trip included climbing the Tizi-n-Test (2100m) with its spectacular scenery and of course Oukmaiden

(3200m) the biggest hill in Morocco. Come and join us in 2011 from the 26th March to 2nd April.

Tombola



A tombola was organised by IFALPA (International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations) to raise funds for EFA at their annual

congress which was hosted this year in Marrakesh in March. We would like to thank particularly Captain Mohamed Jalal Yacoubi (AMPL President, Moroccan ALPA) and Madame Djamilia Cherif-Berrada (Company "Autograph", Casablanca) for their enthusiasm and interest in our project.

Volunteers Welcomed/Volunteers Farewelled!

Nicola Johnson



Australian expat Nicola came to be with EFA after being introduced to the organisation through Liz Toole (volunteer Sept 2009-Jan 2010) whom she met whilst on tour during her first visit to Moroccan shores in early 2009.

After returning to Morocco in the Summer, meeting with various committee members, house mum Latifa and Dar Asni itself, she says "I was deeply impressed by the goals of EFA; to promote the advancement of women in Morocco through access to education and, through default, the promotion of the Amazigh (Berber) people of Morocco's High Atlas Mountains."

Nicola began volunteering with EFA in January of this year, splitting her time between the 2 boarding houses. "My time has been spent not only teaching the girls English/I.T skills but, hopefully, empowering the girls to think and act independently and to draw up their own ideas of what they can achieve in the future!"

Ilaria Pignatelli

Ex-Bristol Grammar School student, Ilaria spent 2 months (Feb - March 2010) volunteering for EFA helping teach dance, computer skills and art at Dar Asni. She first heard about EFA through Bristol Grammar School, who have been supporting, fundraising and visiting Dar Asni annually from the start of the project.

She says "After fundraising for the project back in 2008 and visiting the girls at Dar Asni I was pleased to see where our donations were going. Myself only being a few years older than some of the girls, felt like I could help them to see the importance of education and independence of women in 2010 whilst giving them the opportunity to try new things like origami and dancing to Michael Jackson"



Karima Targaoui



We introduced her on the last newsletter, Karima has been with us since November 2009. More than help the girls with their school work and the housemother of Dar Tinmel, she's in charge (with the housemothers) of the selection of the girls and the volunteers for next year. She also organises and coordinates school visits, activities and excursions with the girls.

She says "I'm really grateful to EFA for trusting me. I'm doing my best to help the girls make progress at school and in their daily life. I would like them to open their eyes on the world and show them that the education is the key for a better future and a better world. I hope I can help them more in the future."

To know more about the daily life of the volunteers, visit the blog at:
<http://volunteers.educationforallmorocco.org>

Spotlight on:



Name : Khadija OUKATTOU
Age : 36
Home : Ait Ourir
Function : Dar Tinmel's housemother.

Before EFA : She studied Arabic law at the university of Marrakech for 1 year before working with different social associations in and around Marrakech with aims on improving the position of women in Morocco, the fight against illiteracy and children's education.

Prior to her current position at Dar Tinmel, Khadija spent 2 years working as housemother of Asni's government Dar Taliba (boarding house) where she was the only person in charge of almost 90 girls.

Why she chose EFA : During her time in Asni she heard a lot about EFA and was particularly impressed and touched by all that EFA does for girls' education. When she heard of a job opening in Talat N' Yacoub with EFA she didn't hesitate and wanted to be a part of EFA immediately!

Personality : Khadija is a dynamic and organised housemother, always with a smile on her face and has brought a real surge of energy into Dar Tinmel.



Name: Khadija Askourn
Age: 13
Home: Tamatert
EFA home: Dar Asni
School Year: 1st
Favourite subject: English and Islamic
When I am 20, I see myself teaching Islamic studies!

Get involved!

- 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 directly to the girls.
- Financially adopt a girl to ensure that she has the opportunity to complete three years of college education.

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.

“Alone we can do little, together we can do much”



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**EDUCATION FOR ALL
MOROCCO**

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

Things to look forward to...

- ◆ Thanks to very generous donations from schools, individuals and corporations we are glad to announce that a **3rd house at Ouirgane** (60 km from Marrakech) is under construction and will open in **late September**.
- ◆ **The Annual Charity Bike Ride** takes place for one week. Next year it will take place from **26th March to the 2nd April 2011**, based in and around Marrakech and the High Atlas Mountains. Follow this link for further details:
<http://www.educationforallmorocco.org/get-involved/events/bike-holiday.html>
- ◆ **EFA Open Day** will take place on **Sunday 1st May 2011**. Visit the house in Asni and join us and the girls for a Mechoui lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal.
- ◆ Thought you'd never **climb to the top of Jebel Toubkal**, North Africa's highest peak? Well, now's your chance!
Whilst not a walk in the park, the ascent of Toubkal is achievable by people who are reasonably fit and determined. Many have reached the summit of Toubkal who never thought they would! Even our volunteers!
So, do something you always wanted to do, or something you never thought you would be able to do. Go on see what you're made of and climb Toubkal in aid if EFA!

For more details and to reserve your place, contact Mike McHugo at:

info@efamorocco.org

If you would like to organise an annual fundraising event for Education for All Morocco, we'd love to hear from you!

Education for All
Morocco

www.efamorocco.org

Volunteers Required



Education for All have two boarding houses for girls in Asni (45km from Marrakech) and Talat n'Yacoub (100km from Marrakech) and a new one is under construction in Ouirgane (60 km from Marrakech) and will open late September 2010. We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to live and work in each of our houses to support the house mothers and administrative duties.

- Your work in the house will involve cooking, sharing cultural experiences and teaching basic English, French and computer skills.

- You should be open to trying new things and willing to share your own customs and recipes.

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

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

Recruiting now for **2010 and 2011**.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist the girls in Morocco, please contact

info@efamorocco.org

