

September
2010

Education For All Newsletter



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

- ◆ New house
- ◆ Girls' results
- ◆ Aniko M.E. Bohler
- ◆ School visits and fundraising
- ◆ Girls' activities
- ◆ Things to look forward to

The new house!



Thanks to your generous donations, a third house is under construction at the moment in Ouirgane. Ouirgane is situated between Asni (Dar Asni) and Talat N'Yacoub (Dar Tinmel). If you have already visited Dar Tinmel, or taken this road (the road to Tizi n'test), you have probably passed Ouirgane, the village located around a lake.



We chose Ouirgane because it has a real need in the region. Too many children there need somebody to give them a hand to allow them to continue their studies.



The house will be able to welcome 36 girls and the architecture will be similar to Dar Asni. but we believe even more functional, thanks to the improved design by British architect John Bothamley. There will be a rendezvous in October/November to see the new house!

The construction of the house began in May and will finish in October to welcome new girls from villages situated in this area.

And a new house means new girls, and new house mother! Let's meet our future house mother, Mina, on page 2.

End of the school year

Join us on page 2 to see the girls' results for this school year and see the girls' selection process for entry into our houses for the next academic year, 2010/2011.

New member on the committee

Recently, Aniko Bohler joined Education For All. We are happy to welcome this amazing woman who I'm sure will be really helpful for the girls, as she was by organising the tree planting day in Marrakech (see page 6).

See page 4 to find out more about her and her life journey.

Summer holidays far from Moulay Brahim

This summer, Latifa, house mother of Dar Asni, had the privilege to be invited to spend almost 3 weeks in England. After a long and tedious procedure she had her visa and was ready to go off in search of adventure in a country really different from Morocco.

Follow us on page 4 to read more about her first ever travel outside of Morocco...

Results for the academic year

Most of the girls went on holiday at the beginning of June but we had to wait until the end of June to have all the girls' results. In fact, the girls who studied in the third year of college had exams during June. All the girls were stressed; they worked hard from early in the morning to late at night. Latifa stayed in Dar Asni to help them and Khadija and Karima also came to help.

And so D-day arrived. Some of the girls were confident, others were nervous and scared that they might fail; but Latifa was a real mum and always there to encourage them.

Results for Dar Asni:



First year of college: All the girls passed!!! And first place went to **Zahra Ait Rami** who passed this year with 14.41.



Second year of college: Again everyone passed and **Ikram Ahouli** was the best in this year with 13.90.



Third year of college: Unfortunately 3 of the 7 girls failed their exams and they will have another chance next year. The best results came from **Mouna Ben Choubou** with 13.40.

Results for DarTinmel:



All the girls were in the first year and it was a hard year for them but they made a huge effort to succeed. And it was a worthwhile effort because only one girl failed and all the girls improved their marks during the year.

Loubna Ait Bouihia had the best result with 11,62.

Congratulation to all the girls who must be proud of themselves!

Spotlight on :



Name: Mina HADOD

Age: 24 years old

She lives in: Moulay Brahim

Her job with EFA: Ouirgane's house mother

Her qualities: Optimistic, hardworking, active and respect everybody who advise me and shows me my mistakes.

What she was doing before EFA: I studied English literature in Marrakech university for three years. After that I worked with Afak Association in Moulay Brahim and at the same time I helped the students of the college with their homeworks.

Why she joined EFA: I always wanted to help for the improvement of the Moroccan women's life; cause some of them still not have access to their own rights, and Education is one of them. EFA and me have the same goal.

So, working together was obvious for me and I will do my best to help them and bring light and happiness to so many girls.

Girls' selection process



As one girl from Dar Tinmel this year won't continue her studies, we decided to welcome 11 more girls for next year. We had to choose these girls according to our criteria: the motivation of the girl (if she wants to continue her studies for at least 3 years), her marks at primary school, the financial situation of her parents (if they are not able to pay the Moroccan boarding house) and if the girl lives far from the college.



During one week, Khadija and I visited the villages and the primary schools around Talat N'Yacoub which allows us to meet the teachers and the directors of the schools and to do a first selection of the girls. It was also interesting to visit these villages and to see how the locals live so far away from everything.

Nicola and Latifa joined us for this fabulous adventure too!

was The more we moved away from Talat N'Yacoub, the more difficult it was to find a girl who wanted to continue her studies.

But at the end of the week we had a first list of girls who matched our needs.



We organised a session at Dar Tinmel during two days. The girls that we had selected came with their parents for an interview and to pass a test (French, Arabic and Maths). We didn't know but following our visit to the villages, the locals talked about us and during the day's selection in Dar Tinmel a lot of applicants came, more than we expected. This is very encouraging as news of what EFA is doing spreads. It was a real success and after our tests and interviews and a long reflection with Khadija we have selected 11 new girls for next year!

At the same time we had the opportunity to visit the girls' homes (girls of this year) in their villages too.



After this, we did the same around Ouirgane and we have our first list of girls. Unfortunately most of the schools were closed so we agreed to continue the selection for this new house in September.

Concerning Asni, as the house has been running for 3 years, it was not necessary to follow the same procedure. Latifa already knows the schools around Asni and the directors so the girls for this house have been selected with their help.

We tried to be fair with our choice; we wanted to give the chance to all the girls who really need it. And thanks to you, the donors, there will be a further 11 girls in Dar Tinmel, 10 in Dar Asni and 12 girls in Dar Ouirgane who will have the chance to go to the college and have the access to an education. So THANK YOU.

Karima TARGAOUI—volunteer since November 2009.



News from volunteers

- ◆ Nicola Johnson who joined us in January 2010, stayed with us until June and returned to England. But she fell in love with Morocco and can not live away from this country. So she will be back soon, not as a volunteer with EFA, but we hope that she will visit the girls! Thank you Nicola for your help.
- ◆ Karima Targaoui, volunteer since November 2009, spent the summer in France and she will be back in October for a new period of volunteering.
- ◆ And two new volunteers will come in October to offer their help to the girls. We will introduce them on the next newsletter.

To know more about the daily life of the volunteers, visit the blog at:

<http://volunteers.educationforallmorocco.org>

Spotlight on :



Aniko M.E. BOEHLER

Anthropologist

Aniko is an anthropologist, film-maker, curator as well as a creative & social entrepreneur. She is an expert in the cultural and socio-institutional aspects of Sustainable Development, specializing in hands-on and participatory heritage and sustainable development programs with local populations and institutions as well as international organizations.

For the last 8 years she has been working in Morocco as an expert consultant on heritage conservation and sustainable development, cultural engineering and communication for Agriconsulting, collaborating with the Moroccan Ministry of Tourism - Rural Tourism Development project 'PAT' (Pays d'Accueil Touristique), the Moroccan National Office for Tourism, the UNDP, the Moroccan Agence du Sud / Project Oasis Sud, the FM6e (Foundation Mohamed VI for the Protection of the Environment), with DVD productions for the INDH (Initiative National de development humain).

Actively involved in the civil society, she is a founding board member of the OPM (Observatoire de la Palmeraie de Marrakech) serving as president of Communication & PR for the OPM, a founding active member of the 'Save Skoura Initiative'.

Prior to Anthropology, she studied Film-making, Philosophy, History, Art History, Literature & Comparative Religions.

She is a gifted and outspoken communicator, a lucky fund-raiser, a charismatic leader of multicultural and multilingual teams working on Heritage conservation & sustainable development projects.

She says : «The reason i joined EFA is inspired by my Gandhi favourite quote : “Educate a boy, you educate an individual; educate a girl, you educate a woman, a wife, a mother, a country!” »

Latifa's visit to England

The aim of this trip was first of all to know more about the English culture and understand the British volunteers who did a real good job with EFA. I had the opportunity to visit the UK thanks to Ilaria PIGNATELLI (volunteer from Feb to March 2010), who invited me to spend the holidays with her and her family, and thanks to the EFA's members who helped me to get my visa.

First of all my trip began with a strange experience : the plane! it was the first time for me and I was frightened to death during all the flight!

Then I arrived in UK and all was really different from Morocco. I was attracted and surprised by the architecture of the buildings, the big roads, avenues, shops and the drivers because I didn't know that in UK they drive on the left!



I tried to make the most of my trip. I visited Bristol with Ilaria and her family who explained me the history of the city. I also visited the cities around Bristol (OXFORD, BATH, WESTBURY) and of course LONDON.

It was really amazing and different from what I thought!! The taxis, two floors buses, phone boxes and the crosswalk used by pushing the button, the automatic cashiers in the supermarkets... the technology is used everywhere. But the most surprising thing was the underground trains... funny to see that there's a life underneath :)

It was really interesting so see how the space can be smart used, how the technology can help in people's life...

I noticed that in UK everyone is in a rush, too busy and too serious. The social relation is different from Morocco where people take time to know and talk each other.

I'll will always remember this gorgeous trip far from Morocco, far from Moulay Brahim. And I have a lot of stories and experiences to share with the girls.

Latifa Aliza—Dar Asni's house mother.

During her trip Latifa went to visit **Bristol Grammar School** (the group supports and visits EFA since 2007).

Andrew Dimberline from BGS says:

“Latifa was impressed with the range of facilities, particularly the technology block and the number of computers 'your school is like a city' she observed. Showing her around also opens our eyes to just how impressive the facilities we use every day really are. Ilaria was also impressed with just how much had improved in a year. Latifa was impressed with the 'Bristol Grammar School' written in Arabic script in the RS department and took many photos of the site to share with the girls in Morocco-including a photo of the Edwards' House notice board (the girls in Morocco being distant members of Edwards' House).”



First school visits for Dar Tinnel



The **International school of Madrid** visited on June 16th to spend the day at Dar Tinnel. As it was the holidays, the girls came back from home as they wanted to spend the day with them. The girls were excited to have more than 20 people coming to see them; the house never saw so many people!

So they cleaned the house and prepared the lunch with Khadija the cook. When the students from Madrid arrived, the girls were a little bit shy, it was difficult and funny in the beginning to try to understand each other but after a little time everything went well. During this

big day, the girls with the students from Madrid played games on the terrace, installed the computers that the school bought for them and did a big mural painting.



The second visit was on July 11th with some students from **Marlborough College in England**. Unfortunately this time the girls couldn't come back to welcome them. So Khadija the house mother, the cook and Karima the volunteer welcomed them for a big delicious lunch. They then continued the mural painting, started by the students from Madrid, and varnished the new computer tables.

Fund raising

A fundraising evening was generously organised by our favourite «chef français» **Damien Durand** on June 11th in his **restaurant «le zinc»**. Damien already came to Dar Asni for a cooking class with the girls (see our last newsletter) and he wanted to do something more for EFA and raise money. It was a lovely evening with a delicious buffet which finished with a chocolate fountain!



On July 3rd a **choir group** came to Dar Asni to visit the boarding house. The house welcomed more than 70 people that day!!! This group of 52 young **singers** came from **Chicago** and they had organised concerts in the USA and Casablanca to raise money for EFA. At the end of the visit we had the privilege of a private concert in the garden and their gorgeous voices were awesome and very emotive.



A **charity walk to the top of Toubkal** was organised in May to raise money for EFA.

On their way to Imlil, the group who came from Gibraltar, stopped at Asni to see the boarding house and they were welcomed by Latifa and a visit of the house.

All the group was successful in their ascent of Toubkal. Julian Triay, one of the walkers, says: "We all feel tired, but have a sense of quiet satisfaction at this achievement; whilst the target of reaching the top was always achievable, it was by no means a foregone conclusion. It was only achievable by reason of hard training, and particularly in respect of the weaker climbers, considerable fortitude."

Another Target was also reached and surpassed a very important target, the fund raising target.

So a huge thank you from EFA to you all.

Let's go to the cities!!!

◆ Marrakech



As a part of The World Environment Day, the girls were invited to the Marrakech palm grove to plant 100 palm trees. Aniko, who's a member of the OPM (Observatoire de la Palmeraie de Marrakech) had the great idea to organise for EFA a big planting day in partnership with CIMAR la PN, the Wilaya and «le Conseil de ville de Marrakech». Both houses, Dar Asni and Dar Tinnel, participated in this fantastic project, which meant 30 girls took part!



It was a big adventure for all the girls but even more so for the girls from Dar Tinnel as it was the first time that they have left Talat N'Yacoub!

We planted the trees in the morning, under the hot sun. The members of the OPM explained to the girls how to do it, how long it takes to grow per year... All the girls were very attentive to the instructions and then each of them planted their own tree as if they had done it many times before!

After this hard work, Mme Meryanne Loum-Martin offered the girls a picnic in the shade of the Cyber Park where there was an associations' forum presenting their projects. We stayed most of the time with the association Mawarid who talked to the girls about the plastic problem and why they have to take care of the environment.



Then Aniko invited all the girls to her apartment for tea! She never imagined that she could have so many people in her lounge!!

And this long day wasn't finished for the girls of Talat N'Yacoub who wanted to visit this lovely city for the first time. We walked from Gueliz to the famous Jamma El Fna and the girls were amazed to see such a difference between the new and the old city but they loved it.

We stayed in Jamaa El Fna until the sunset where the transport took us back to Asni and Talat N'Yacoub and you wouldn't think so but the girls were happy to come back to their quiet villages, far away from the noise of Marrakech...



◆ Essaouira



On Sunday 9 May 'les filles de dar Asni' spent the most wonderful day – a trip to the beautiful coastal fishing town of Essaouira.

The girls were lucky enough to be invited along by Asni's local Government boarding house for the trip. Our entourage included 30 of them and 23 of us! Travel was by minibus and grande taxi and Essaouira being 4 hours drive away. It was a really special day for the girls in many ways and more importantly, for all but one of the girls, it was their first ever visit to a beach :)



We began the tour of the city with a stroll along the pretty harbour filled with tiny, colourful boats, and the busy fishing port. After this we headed straight into the vibrant medina with its buzzing market atmosphere winding our way through the busy streets, browsing the plentiful art galleries, clothes, music and thuya-wood shops. We were even treated to an explanation of the Gimbri, guitar used by the Gnaoua.

After this busy, and rather hot and sunny morning, we popped into Cafe Triskalla where we were shown warm hospitality by manager and good friend Said Enmili. For the girls, who rarely frequent cafes (in Morocco this is really quite a strong custom for men) it was a chance to experience a funky little cafe full of cushy sofas and groovy artwork.

Next stop was the gorgeous and ancient ramparts of Sqala. With beautiful views and cannons to climb all over the girls relaxed and posed for myriad photos. They sang Berber songs to their hearts content, much to the enjoyment of all who heard us. The music continued all the way to Place Moulay Hassan, Essaouira's main square, to play football, throw frisbess and more importantly, to find lunch.

Our final destination of the day was the anticipated journey to the beach. We rendezvoused with the Asni boarding house girls and had the BEST afternoon playing football, throwing the Frisbee and SWIMMING! I was left with all the bags while the girls rolled up their trousers (in most cases their denim trousers) and headed straight for ocean. I did not expect the return of 10 girls to shore, absolutely soaking wet, fully clothed, scarves and all, with wide grins adorning their faces. We spent almost 3 hours on the beach (including drying time) before it was time to jump back in our taxis for the 4 hour drive home to Asni.



Our day trip to Essaouira was an absolute pleasure for Latifa and me. Activities like this one are a great form of motivation for the girls to continue working hard at their studies. The girls really deserved this day and it was a pleasure to experience it with them :)



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**

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Things to look forward to...

- ♦ To help raise funds for the increasing running costs of EFA... and (because he enjoys doing daft things) Mike McHugo will be trying to **cycle LEJOG**—(Lands End to John O’Groats) he departs Lands End **19th September**.
See www.justgiving.com/efalejog for further details and to donate and help him on his way.
- ♦ 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.

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

www.efamorocco.org

Morocco

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 soon. 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 **2011 and 2012**.

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

info@efamorocco.org

