



October 2016
#20

NEWSLETTER

EDUCATION
for all

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR HAS BEGUN

Have a look at last year's results and follow the staff during the girls' selection for this new school year.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Help us to celebrate our
10 year anniversary
in 2017!

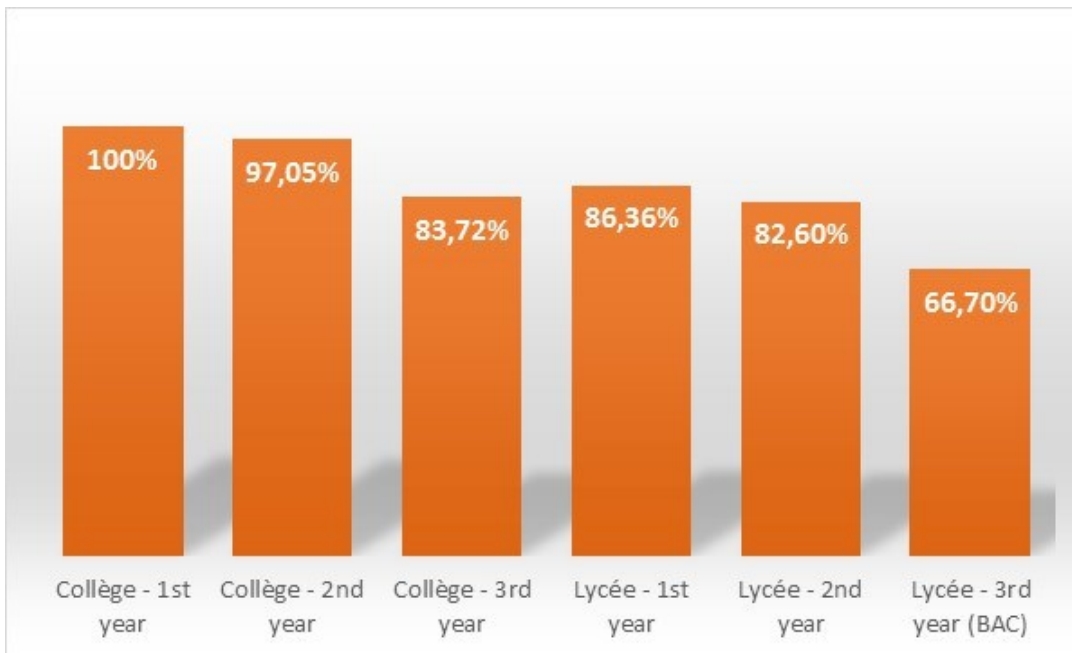
VOLUNTEERS

Discover this
year's volunteers'
profiles.



2015-2016: Another excellent year

The results of the previous school year have been more than positive : they indicate **86,07% of all the EFA girls succeeded at all levels.**
The graph below represents the results per level :



The best score of the baccalaureate goes to **Sanna who obtained 14/20.**

Regarding the baccalaureate, **the rate represents 12 girls.** The **national rate** of success reached 55,36% this year. The girls represents 51% of the total number of successful candidates in Morocco .

It was only in 2013 that we had our first ever BAC passes from girls who had started the first year of EFA coming into existence. Now only 3 years on and we have 31 girls in total at University! These girls are the future leaders for their communities and country and we wish them all well in reaching their dreams and contributing to society in their chosen professions.

Congratulations to all our girls; these results are a great achievement!

And a huge thanks to the house mothers who pushed the girls to succeed during all the year!

If you would like to sponsor a girl through her school year (£800) or sponsor a girl's living allowance at University (£300) please contact us on info@efamorocco.org



2016 - 2017: The girls' selection



On September 21st, we had the pre-selection for Dar Asni I and we selected **12 girls from 42 girls** who came from different villages (douar).

The pre-selection was a lengthy and overwhelming process but we are happy with the results. We had **so many girls** come with their parents, eager to take the test and also eager to see the results afterward. We gave the girls a written exam and an oral exam to be better at selecting them fairly. After all of that, we decided to select one girl from each different village that's far and has a high rate of poverty, **now we have 36 girls in Dar Asni I.**



On September 23, 2016, we had another pre-selection for the boarding house in Talat. The process there was well done and well supported by about 7 teachers from the area, the housemothers, and the volunteers. They gave written tests to the girls and supervised them as well. The situation there was a bit different from Asni I because **most of the 32 girls who came for the exam were from very poor villages, not well educated, and also far away.** On the other hand, we also had girls who came from nearby villages and scored well on the exam. So, that made it hard for us to choose who can come to EFA.



Nonetheless, and after a long discussion and debate on which girls to choose, we were able to **choose 10 girls** that were from very far and poor vilages. We also **gave 3 girls** the chance to have access to the house during the day and to transport that will cost about 50 DH monthly for each. Overall, the total of the girls that will be staying in the house day and night would be **30, and 3 during the day.**



This is always a challenging day, as our wish at EFA is to give places to all the girls. Who knows, maybe there is someone out there who will give us a big donation so we can build a new house!

We will keep going until all girls in this area have an education.



Supports and fundraising

Matt Streete walks the cornish coast for EFA!



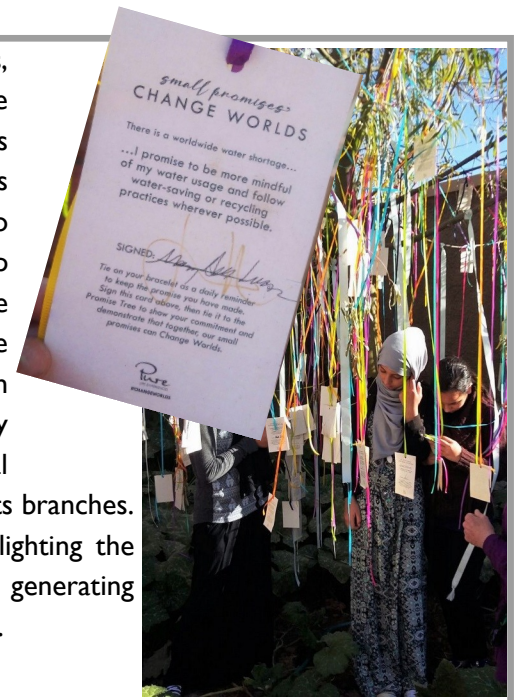
Matt Streete, head of Sixth Form at Wadebridge College, a long-time supporter of EFA, decided to walk the whole of the Cornish Coast (UK) to raise awareness and money for EFA. He put on his boots, his EFA Shirt, and walked over 300 miles whilst all his friends, families and students supported him on JustGiving. He had many blisters, and at one point had to pull out of the walk because his feet were too damaged; but he didn't give up. He came back, completed the challenge and raised a whopping £1600 for EFA! Do you feel like taking on a challenge for EFA? Why not join us for the Marrakech Atlas Etape on April 30th 2017! www.marrakech-atlas-etape.com

Pure's Promise Tree



From generous donations to Promise Trees, PURE are one of EFA's most loyal and creative supporters! This year at their Change Worlds conference, they were able to raise awareness of the work of EFA. This year, in addition to their financial support which helps us to keep a house running for a whole year, we were also gifted a mature tree which now has pride of place outside our new boarding house in Asni! The new tree offers shade and majesty to our new house, and carries environmental pledges from the conference participants on its branches. A big thanks to everyone at PURE for highlighting the importance and impact of our work, and for generating participation and debate on issues that matter.

Read more about Pure's support of EFA [here](#)



Read about one of our corporate sponsors: Sun Trails



Sun Trails Boutique Tours helps educating girls from Morocco's rural areas

Fundraising for Education For All Morocco Ltd

40%

€4,087.32

raised of €10,000 target

by 25 supporters

Donate



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Education For All Morocco Ltd

We build and run girls' boarding houses to enable girls to get an full education

" Around 2007 I first saw the black and white photo of Education for All taken by Alan Keohane. I found it very profound, the way he'd managed to capture the children together. A few years later, I researched to find out what it was all about and that is how I found out about Education for All and their work. In 2009 we started Sun Trails, initially offering just day trips outside Marrakech to then a couple of years later, having grown into a travel agency, we began offering private tailor made tours around

Morocco. I started to travel more and more around the country and was touched by the humbleness of its people, the diversity of its landscapes and cultures. On my travels, I also realized there were many inequalities in Morocco. That thought sparked the idea of donating some of our revenues towards trying to make a difference and helping those less fortunate. We studied different possibilities but concluded that educating people, especially young girls from rural areas, is more efficient than buying them clothes, food or medical care. I remembered about Education for All and contacted Mike McHugo, the founder, who then put me in touch with Maryk and her husband. I called them one day and they kindly invited me to have lunch with the first promotion of girls in their riad in Marrakech so I could witness first- hand the work of the association. I was fortunate enough to meet the girls in person and be able to talk to them. I realized how much difference the boarding school made in their lives and it then became clear that this was a cause certainly worth supporting."

Cristian

International School of Lyon



The international school of Lyon (France) came to Dar Asni 1 for a quick introduction on EFA and the association's establishment. We then went to Dar Asni 2 because that's where the students were promised some community service. They were so excited and happy to help in any way they could. They loved the houses and their provided mission for the girls. The students' job was to build a pergola to give the patio we have in Dar Asni 2 some shade. They measured, cut, and painted wood. We all worked together to get the final job done. It was a day full of hard work in the sun but good refreshments, food, and the usual afternoon tea with cookies, were provided by the cook and the housemother of Asni 2. In the end they thanked us so much and enjoyed meeting and working with everyone and they especially enjoyed the food and the hospitality that was provided for them.

If you would like to **enter your school into our 10 year anniversary** challenge next year, contact sonia@efamorocco.org

Fundraising Update- the benefits of small, regular donations



As EFA's fundraiser, I have the amazing task of generating support for our work. As EFA grows, so do the costs! And I see, just like with personal finances, spreading the costs out with regular donations is so helpful. Did you know that you can sponsor a girl for £65 per month? This option is favoured by many who might not be able to find £800 in one go. Simply set up a standing order with your bank and know that your regular donation means we can focus on the daily running of the houses and researching the bigger pots of money! You can also make one-off donations by text if you have a sudden opportunity to give £5 or more. text EFAM50 plus the donation amount (£5/10/15 etc) to: 70070 .

To make a one- off donation, please visit our [donations page](#)

10 year anniversary- help us celebrate

We can hardly believe it, but **EFA will celebrate 10 years next year!** We have lots of fun plans to celebrate all the successes and achievements of the girls, our amazing staff and team, including publishing amazing stories and updates and holding fundraising events so we can raise as much money as possible to enable us to dream big for the next 10 years! **We would love to reach our annual fundraising target of £150,000!** We hope you and your friends and families will join us. More details to follow over the next months.



Enjoy this great feature in [The Guardian](#) newspaper! "EFA's solution is to bring the girls to the schools, an approach which is beginning to **change the lives** of Berber girls in a way that could transform the region's future."

Follow [this link](#) to read the whole article.



The remoteness of many villages meant that secondary school was not an option

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About this content

Nicola Slawson

Sunday 19 June 2016
00:05 BST

152 Shares 48 Comments

In Morocco's Atlas mountains, Berber girls find the way out of rural poverty: an education

The remoteness of many villages meant that secondary school was not an option

THEGUARDIAN.COM | PAR NICOLA SLAWSON

Thank you to [L'economiste](#) for this great article. The more awareness about girls education and the work of charities like EFA, the more we can provide a solution to this issue in Morocco and worldwide!

Follow [this link](#) to read the whole article.



L'ECONOMISTE

EVENT ECONOMY BUSINESS FINANCE BANKS DBS OTHER

Education For All
Let's give a chance to girls too

By Sabrina Belhouari | Edition No: 4859 Le 09/20/2016 | Share

- 5 homes now host 170 girls in three areas
- Rigorous monitoring of schooling builds trust of parents and donors

"I do an hour to walk to the village school, and time to go home. Some of my friends who live ..."

ET SI UN COMPTE SUR CARNET FAISAIT DÉCOLLER VOTRE ÉPARGNE ?

Volunteers

Volunteering with EFA is an amazing way to support our work and contribute to the empowerment and equality of girls in Morocco. It is also a wonderful window into the world of the berbers who inhabit the magical region of the High Atlas, and will give you further insights into why our boarding houses are so essential. Placements can last from 2 to 12 months and are also a popular choice for gap years- see the relevant article in the Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/aug/17/more-than-one-way-to-fill-a-gap-year>

For more information, contact Karima on karima.targaoui@gmail.com.

Read (below) the story from Emily of teaching music lessons and finding hidden talents amongst the girls...

Discovering hidden talents

an extract from the diary of Emily Potter, former Volunteer from the UK



Life in the boarding house is pretty intense. I have never met a group of people that work so hard and moan so little. They work from 7am until 11pm, and yet somehow still manage to make their beds every morning, and keep their rooms tidy, usually with a smile. I think they all realised that they had this great opportunity, and so didn't want to waste it, but they also seem to genuinely enjoy their studies. Another part of my job therefore was to do things with them that weren't just homework and revision. I was quite keen on doing music with them, so I bought a keyboard in Marrakech and tried doing a bit of singing. Over the course of the three months, we worked on

Someone Like You, by Adele – one of the few western songs that have made it to the Atlas Mountains - until we had it not only in 2 part harmony, but also with one of the girls playing the piano part. The girl who learnt the piano part was called Farida, and she turned out to be extremely musical. She had never seen a piano before in her life, and yet in three months managed to learn quite a few pieces, including the Adele and the beginning of Fur Elise.

Towards the end of my stay we had a party for all 5 houses, and each house had to do a couple of performances. One of the girls, Maryem told me she loved the song My Heart Will Go On and sung it all the time but didn't know the words or really the actual tune, so we worked on it and sung it together at the party! She has an amazing voice and was very excited to be able to try singing with the piano, and in public, which she'd never done before. A week after the party she sang the song again for her entire school and some visitors they had with them.

Read more about Emily's Gap Year at EFA in the Guardian Newspaper [here!](#)



A special **thank you** to **Paula** who stayed two months in Dar Asni 3 last spring. She organised English lessons for the 4 house-mothers from Asni. She also had some great memories of the Moroccan way of life...:

« One of my funniest experiences was going to the hammam two nights before I left Asni. The girls in Dar Asni 3 had finished their exams and gone home, so Khadija and I joined the staff at Dar Asni I for iftar with plans for us to go with Latifa to the hammam later. Anyway, we walked to the haamam by flashlight in complete darkness after 9:00 PM, and started our bathing routine. After 15 minutes, I told Latifa that I was done. "Done?" she laughed loudly, like that was the biggest joke in the world. "Paula, why do you think we stay here for two or three hours?" And with that, she took my bath mitt and began to scrub my arms. And scrub. And scrub some more! I watched in horror and fascination as layers of skin scaled off, took back the mitt, and worked on the rest of me for another 40 minutes. "I'm done," I exclaimed again, obviously still not having learned my lesson! We then moved on to a more heated room, where Latifah told me to stand up and put my hands on the wall. I thought she was going to wash my back, but before I knew it, every inch of skin was given a thorough scrubdown! At that moment, I had to laugh at myself... There I was, a 67-year-old woman in not-great-shape, the only non-Moroccan in the room, standing up with her hands against the wall getting a lesson in culture and cleanliness! I said, "Latifa, I have never been this clean in my life, not since birth, nor has anyone washed me since early childhood," and she replied, "Don't worry, Paula, I do this all the time for my mother!" »



Alison worked with us for 2 weeks in September. She came from the US (San Francisco, California). She is a retired nurse and hospital administrator.

A big thanks to her for devoting two weeks of her time to the girls by volunteering and **teaching them about hygiene**. Even though she came during a period where things were a bit hectic with the starting of the school and getting the girls settled with their schedules, we were still able to manage to have her give some classes in Dar Tinmel and Dar Asni I and 3. Her class had a presentation that the girls will for sure remember, from dancing to explain the benefit of exercising to learning how to floss; the class was well developed for the girls and you can see that they enjoyed the information they gained.





My name is **Mariam** and I am a recent college graduate from Sonoma state university. I am 26 years old and I grew up in Morocco until I was about 12 years old and moved to the United States with my family and lived in San Francisco ever since with occasional visits to Morocco. I came across EFA during my last semester of college when I was doing senior thesis project. The senior thesis is a project in which the undergraduate chooses a topic of interest or a project of interest and do extensive research on it and in the end he or she writes a research paper along with a project to present what they have found doing the research. So, my interest and my passion were toward working with underprivileged kids/youth as I have done an internship working with these kids at an underrepresented middle school and I was so passionate about it. I wanted to expand my love for spreading education and my passion of doing humanitarian work with kids who are less fortunate and just show them that they too can achieve great success following their educational dreams. Lastly, during this research project I saw the work EFA does and was so ready to connect with them and help these girls in any way I can!



I work in Dar Asni I since September 20th. My time here has been such an amazing experience thus far. From learning how girls here treat education to learning how they love EFA. The work EFA has established for these girls is beyond my explanation! I have been here now for about three weeks and it has been such a learning experience! I learned how hard the staff here works to develop a better life and a better future for these young girls. I was also part of this selection process that chooses girls from a huge waiting list, which was a process that was not easy at all for the staff here and it was also quite emotional. I also saw within these young girls the hope for a better future through the means EFA provides for them. Everyone wants to be accepted here! Everyone here is so thankful for this organization and what it has been able to do for the girls living far away. It provides such a warming and loving and educated environment for them that no one can bypass!



Christine is a retired nurse of more than 35 years' experience. Her new career is to travel around the world as a volunteer. She has been on the road in this capacity since July 28 of this year. Her motto is, **"It is possible to travel around the world relying on goodness, both her own and that of other people."**

She arrived in Dar Asni 2 on October 7th. We'll know more about her experience with us in the next newsletter.



Hello, I'm **Sophie** and I'm 18 years old. I've just finished Sevenoaks School and am taking a gap year before going to university to study English. I chose to volunteer with EFA as I visited the boarding house in Asni with my school and decided that I would love to help out in any way that I could as the girls were so welcoming and clearly very enthusiastic to learn. My school creates a calendar every year to raise money for EFA so I wanted to explore further the charity that we were supporting. I'm very excited to meet the girls properly and to help them!

Want to get involved?
Here are some ideas:

- 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.
- Visit our website <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.

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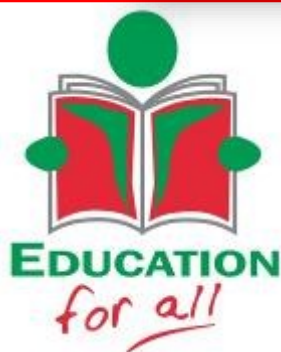
Registration for the 2017 Marrakech Atlas Etape is now open!

For the 2017 event which will take place on **30th April 2017**, you have three choices:

- Become part of the EFA Team and commit to raising £400 for Education For All.
- Turn up and ride and enjoy an early bird discount for registrations made before 1st December 2016.
- Combine the Etape with a stunning ride through the High Atlas Mountains on the Route 666.

To register or to find out more information, please visit the website:

<https://www.marrakech-atlas-etape.com/register/>



Do you have at least 3 months to give to help girls in rural Morocco?

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

Volunteers Required

Education for All have five boarding houses for girls, three in Asni (45km from Marrakech), one in Ouirgane (60 km from Marrakech) and one in Talat n'Yacoub (100km from Marrakech).

We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to live and work in each of our houses to support the girls with their studies.

- **Your main job** will be to help the girls with their homework and give them **extra French lessons**.
- You will also **help the housemothers** with their daily tasks.
- **Help EFA** to be connected with the donors.



Recruiting now for 2017-2018.

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

info@efamorocco.org