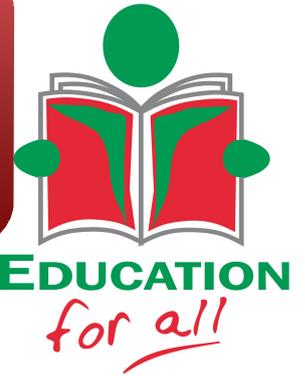


Education For All

Newsletter—April 2012



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.

First semester has gone by!

How time flies... last time we left the girls of the boarding houses for the holidays and now we're already in April. The first semester is finished and lots of things have happened since the beginning of this school year...

Highlights

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Changes in the houses

Thanks to the donations and your support we were able to welcome more girls for this school year and we took advantage of the summer to do some work in the houses.



EFA Support

More and more of you are supporting us and visiting us at the boarding houses. Let's see who they are.

School results

We give them a chance to continue their studies and they work hard to succeed. Let's see the results of the first semester.



International volunteers

The volunteers are always here to make the difference in the boarding houses. Besides helping the girls with their school work, they share their cultures with them thus opening their eyes for the world around them. Let's meet on this semester's volunteers.



Visit our website www.efamorocco.org
and follow us on Facebook :
www.facebook.com/educationforallmorocco

Changes

Girls

Dar Asni : This is the first year that the boarding house reached its maximum capacity ! **36 girls** live in Dar Asni ! And that means much more work for our lovely house mother Latifa.. full days and no time to be bored ! Fortunately Latifa the cook and two cleaning women are here to help ; and of course the volunteers !

Dar Ouirgane : Our last built house welcomed more girls this year : there are now **23 girls**.

Dar Tinmel : The second built house is full as well ! To take care of **30 girls**, Khadija the house mother is helped by Khadija the cook, one cleaning woman and the volunteers.

Which means **89 girls** who have the chance to continue their studies... **thanks to you** ! Big thanks to all of you from all the girls.

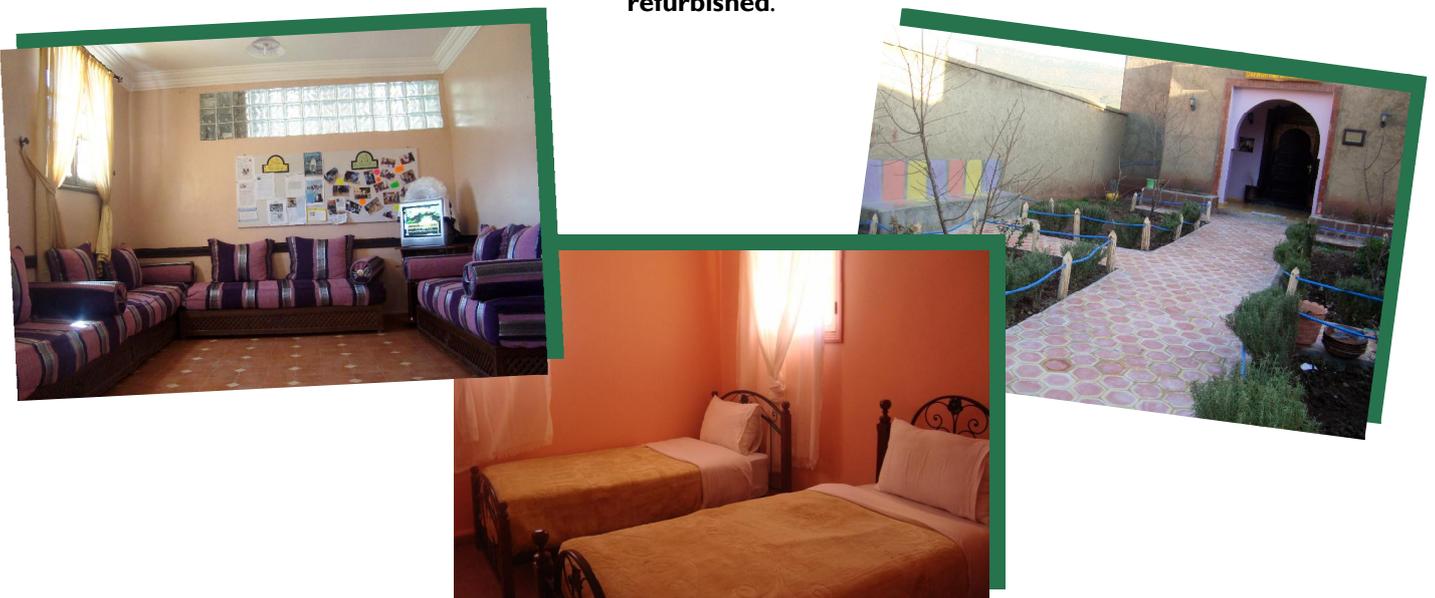


Houses

And to welcome these beautiful people we've made some changes in the houses :

Dar Asni : Previously the **volunteers' bedroom** was on the second floor with the girls bedroom. But now all the bedrooms on the second floor are occupied by the girls ! so we've built a new one for the volunteers on the terrace, furnished with two beds and one bathroom. The volunteers really appreciate having the sun shining on their bedroom all day long.

A nice **living room** has been converted in the main dining room and the **painting and the garden have been refurbished**.



Dar Tinmel : Since the house hadn't been built for EFA purpose, we had to create some space before welcoming the 30 girls. Thanks to the **new pavilion on the terrace**, which was built during the summer, the girls now have an extra room to use, sheltered from all weather conditions. You can always find some of them up there, working on their homework, revising for exams, playing cards or just soaking up the warmth of the sun. With its great view and fresh air, the pavilion is a wonderful addition to the house !



Two other things which were really useful this winter are the newly installed solar panel on the terrace and the fireplace in the house ! Both are REALLY appreciated by those that live there !



In progress

We are happy to announce that a **fourth house is going to be build in Asni** ! As the other villages (Talat N'Yacoub and Ouirgane) don't have any lycée, the girls will have to go to Asni to continue their studies after the collège.

So we need a new house for them and **thanks to donations and to the government which gave us the building plot (400m²)** we are able to begin the work soon.



Results of the first semester

Dar Asni

1st year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Asmaa AIT TALEB: 16,57
	Average .../20 *		9,63
2nd year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Khadija ID HAMMOU: 15,70
	Average .../20 *		10,89
3rd year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Khadija TALAOU: 14,57
	Average .../20 *		12,30
1st year lycée	Best student of the semester .../20		Fatima AZTAT: 13,98
	Average .../20 *		12,04
2nd year lycée	Best student of the semester .../20		Sanaa AIT TLAOU: 13,38
	Average .../20 *		11,28

Dar Tinmel

1st year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Hafida AKHOUDAN: 15,72
	Average .../20 *		12,22
2nd year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Hanan ABKHAR: 14,84
	Average .../20 *		11,73
3rd year collège	Best student of the semester .../20		Loubna AIT BOUIHIA: 12,36
	Average .../20 *		10,25

Dar Ouirgane

1st year collège		Sara ERRADWANI: 16,90
		12,65
2nd year collège		Zineb BIDARI: 17,22
		12,73

* the average has been obtained with the EFA's girls marks.

EFA support and visits

Saxion University



Saxion University—Exercising for Education

During our studytrip 2011, 20 students and 2 lecturers visited the EFA boarding houses, were happy to meet the girls and saw a presentation by the initiators of this project (Cees and Marijke van den Berg). This was quite a special experience for both students and lecturers and sparked the initiative for a fundraising event. Subsequently the EFA project won the ‘battle of the fundraising events’ during our annual Christmas staff diner, implicating a 3 year commitment by the academy. We aim to raise 1000 euros per year, depending on the goodwill and efforts of our colleagues and students here at Saxion.

To fulfil this commitment a fund raising sport event was organized in January by our students. Both students and staff cycled and danced to raise an amazing 1000 euros in only a few hours. After this success a group of lecturers decided to put in their efforts as well, this time during a mid-winter marathon, which raised a total sum of 1500 Euros, topped up by our academy board with yet another 500 Euros. So in the first quarter of 2012 **Saxion Hospitality Business School is proud to have raised a total of 3000 Euros for EFA !**

Collaborating with EFA is a clear win-win situation for Saxion ; it implicates improvement of quality of life by education in combination with hospitality ! We fully subscribe EFA’s vision and hope to make difference with our support.

“We may not individually be able to change the world but we can help to make a difference to a person’s life and indirectly many more.”

More information about Saxion: www.saxion.edu



American School of Marrakech

Last October, the first contacts were established with the American School of Marrakech (**ASM-www.asm.ac.ma**) and beginning of March, Maryk arranged a visit with Erin Jenkins (one of the 4th grade teachers and also co-running the Outreach Program) to all 3 boarding houses to have a first impression and to meet the housemothers and the girls.

Erin also organized a first fundraising for EFA at the ASM by selling ribbons for international women’s day and with this they raised 8.100 Dhs for EFA !

Latifa, Khadija (one of the students at Lycée) and Maryk were invited to the ASM for an assembly on March 15 to receive the cheque and to give a small talk to the students and teachers who were present about EFA.

This was followed by a meeting with a.o. Jean Brugniau, the Director of the ASM and a tour around the campus where we met many teachers and some of the parents.

During the meeting with the director, it was decided that after the school holidays, there will be a meeting with teachers who like to get involved and arrange a visit to the houses.

The idea is that teachers will spend a weekend with the girls and we were also invited for a day at the ASM for the elder girls. All in all a great success and hopefully the start of a long and fruitful cooperation and support by ASM.



Pure life experience



PURE Life Experiences was born from a passion to provide a truly constructive platform for business networking within the high-end Experiential Travel community.

« **PURE is proud to announce that the £5000 donation in December 2011 to Education for All is being used to build accommodation for the volunteers who work there.** »

Read the entire article about the donation on their website : www.purelifeexperiences.com.

Charity bike holiday



It was from **31st March to 7th April 2012**. (we'll talk more about it on the next newsletter).

Mike McHugo and EFA ran the 5th annual bike-fest to raise funds for Education For All. Find more info on the website and be ready for the next one if you missed it this year!

Sponsors

Thank you to **Richard, Rita, Rogier & Yasmine de Jeu** from Holland who are sponsoring one of the girls in Talat N Yacoub.

Thank you to **Hans Gulseth and Ragnhild Hovengen** from Norway who are sponsoring one of the girls in Ouirgane.

Thank you to **Zoë Ouwehand and Roger and Brenda Thorne** who are sponsoring EFA since the very beginning with many donations and presents for the girls.



Bags and t-shirts are on sale, get yours!

Get your t-shirt for **15E-150DH** to support your favourite cause education !
On sale at **Dar Asni** EFA boarding house in Asni & **Kasbah du Toubkal** in Imlil !

And all the girls already have theirs!



The eco bags are on sale at the Kasbah du Toubkal for **15E-150 DH** for the Biker Bag and **20E-200DH** for the Cabas XXXL.

Bristol Grammar School UK

Another regular visitor is BGS. The students came late October to Dar ASni and Dar Ouirgane and made masks and jewellery with the girls. They also talked a lot (using signs and pictures from time to time !) about the differences between them, starting with the English and Moroccan schools.



Fulham Cross Girls' School from London

The students from Fulham Cross Girls' School came to visit Dar Asni and met the girls. They had a lot of fun learning to the Dar Asni's girls how to dance the Macarena !



EFA at Al Akhawayne, Ifrane



Al Akhawayn University (www.aui.ma) in Ifrane is an independent, public, not-for-profit, coeducational Moroccan university committed to educating future citizen-leaders of Morocco and the world through a globally oriented, English-language, liberal-arts curriculum based on the American system. The University enhances Morocco and engages the world through leading-edge educational and research programs, including continuing and executive education, upholds the highest academic and ethical standards, and promotes equity and social responsibility.

Mike McHugo, Aniko Boehler & Latifa Alizia representing Education for All, Kasbah du Toubkal & Mountain Propre were invited to give a talk to Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane in late November :

- Seminar 2 of AUI Community Service requirement, *the Role of Civil Society in Moroccan Development*
- *Moving mountains in the High Atlas: a collaborative regional development model.*



IMSKER - January 2012

Aniko & her research assistant Ahmed went up in the High Atlas to do some anthropological fieldwork and met with two families of Dar Asni (Khadija and Fatim-Zahra Ait Hmed) and were very welcome ! greetings & a warm thank you again.



A very big thank you to Latifa from Dar Asni for all her assistance !

Aniko & Ahmed

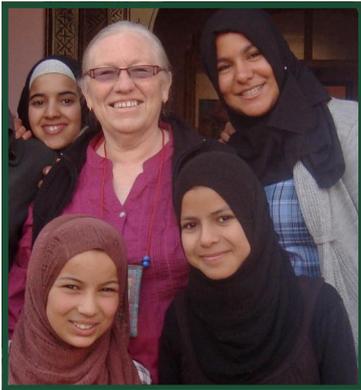
A huge thank you to all the schools, our sponsors, and everyone else who gets involved with EFA by fundraising.

To support the girls in their continuing education and if you would like to get involved, visit the website at :

www.efamorocco.org/get-involved/index.html

Volunteers! thank you and goodbye

Dorothy Evans



Volunteer Dates : 24th September 2011 to 28th October 2011

Age : 69

Home Country : south west England

Occupation: retired French and English teacher

Boarding house : Dar Asni

I am a retired French and English teacher with more than 30 years experience in secondary schools. My placement in Dar Asni was my second as a volunteer with People and Places. (I worked in a township school in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in 2010) .

I found my time at Dar Asni very rewarding, as I really enjoy the contact with young people. It was a real challenge to try to plan a programme to be used with mixed age/ability groups without a timetable, which would not be simple repetition of the same old things. I tried to

create a programme which contained aspects of grammar and vocabulary which should have been covered in the primary phase, and I did this with reference to primary school French text books. I advised that pupils should have access to good quality dictionaries in Arabic/French, and French/English, and I hope that my donation went towards the purchase of these dictionaries. I was also asked to advise Latifa on the setting up of a pupil record system and a monthly report from the house to Education For All.

I found the girls to be charming, cheerful and hard-working, and admire their determination to progress on their studies. I felt it was a privilege to get to know them, and wish them all success in whatever they plan for the future.

Dorothee Goerl

Volunteer Dates: September 2011 to December 2011

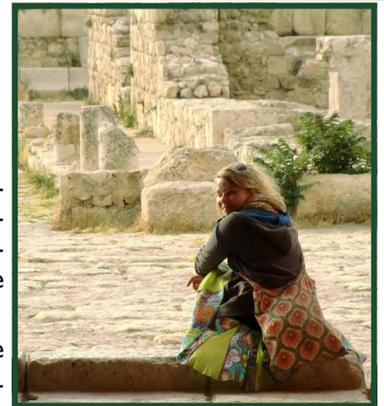
Age: 19

Home Country: Germany

Boarding house: Dar Ouirgane

After finished school I was for a social year at a school which teaches after the main principles of Maria Montessori and then for 2 months at the German-Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan. Voluntarily I gave extra lessons for children with migration background in topics like German, math, history and biology and was part of a group which cares about the rights of refugees in Leipzig and Saxonia.

During this time I've recognized that education is one of the most important values to save the future of a child. I decided to participate in "Education for all" because education is necessary for children and I was very lucky to be selected.



Dar Ouirgane is a lovely place and a very well organized house. The girls, the housemother and the cook are very friendly and open-minded. Together we taught the girls French and English in very different ways. Also we played football, went for walks and had during the day a lot of fun. I felt really welcomed there and this was a wonderful feeling.

Let's get some fresh air

Even though the wind can be very strong and the sun sets early during winter, the volunteers regularly put on their coats and go for walks around the villages. The girls love these little breaks since they give them time to leave the house, clear their heads and spend time as a group.



Luise Dahmen



Volunteer dates: 4th October 2011 to June 2012

Age: 21

Home country: Germany

Occupation: Student

Boarding house : Dar Tinmel

When I first discovered EFA, I was taken in by its philosophy and felt the urge to participate and encourage the girls in their studies.

So here I am, trying my best to get involved, to help the girls with their homework and to interest them more in French ! I give French classes to everyone and sometimes teach English to the older girls. Already, they like English way better than French, but as we all know, French is so much more important if they want to succeed in school. So I see it as my volunteer task to relight their interest in French and make them feel more comfortable with it. Together we read, write and conjugate.. besides that, we go for walks around town several

times a week, play games or share the daily chores.

I've also enjoyed visiting some of them at home and staying with their families during a weekend. It always is such an interesting time, being in these tiny, simple villages, almost cut off from the rest of the world, communicating with gestures and smiles.

The families are lovely and over feed me with wonderful tajines, homemade bread, fruits as well as the obligatory Moroccan tea. The girls enjoy taking me to the places of their childhood, their parents' gardens and deep into the mountains. The simple, challenging yet so fulfilled way of life in these Berber villages humbles me time and again.

I'm grateful for this once in a lifetime experience and my time with these wonderful, keen and open-minded girls. And even though I can't be sure that my work with them is going to make any difference, every day here feels right and I'm so lucky to share these months with them.

Souhayla Taiai

Volunteer Dates: 1 January 2012 until 8 January 2012

Age: 19

Home Country: Morocco

Occupation: Student

Boarding house: Dar Asni

I am an undergraduate student at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane. I first heard of Education for All when Mike, Aniko, and Latifa held a seminar at our university. I became instantly interested by the association and by becoming a volunteer for EFA. My experience at Dar Asni, although a short one, is one of the best ones I ever had in my life. I liked everything about it, except the distance from my hometown that prevents me from going there whenever I want to. From day 1, the girls, Latifa, Khalti, and Khalti Mina made me feel at home. The welcoming was very warm and enthusiastic. Seeing the girls so eager to learn and to understand made me more enthusiastic to work with them and to give them the best I can.

It will never regret going to Asni and meeting everyone there. I would like to thank all those that contribute to Education for All for the great efforts they make in order to help the girls in that region continue their education and for providing them with all what they need to succeed.



Always ready for a party !

The girls from the three houses always agree to have parties ! Birthdays, end of the exams... or just the end of a stressful week-there will always be a reason ! All together they chant Moroccan songs and create fantastic rhythms to which no one can resist moving their feet.



Gretchen Wesche



Volunteer Dates: 14 February 2012 until June 2012

Age: 22

Home Country: The United States (Ohio)

Occupation: Recently graduated from university

Boarding house: Dar Ouirgane

I first learned about EFA about two and a half years ago while doing a research project on girls' education in rural Morocco. At the time, I noticed, too, that they accepted volunteers to work in the houses.

After graduating this past May, I was looking to take some time before joining the work force or starting graduate school. Volunteering for EFA seemed perfect—I am passionate about their goals of extending educational opportunities to more young women and I would not only get to go somewhere I'd been dreaming about visiting, but I'd also be experiencing

first hand some of the things I spent several semesters learning about in university. Being able to use skills I had, particularly in French and teaching English, was also a plus.

Since I arrived, I've really enjoyed getting to know the country, the girls, and everyone else working in the houses.

Everyone's been so warm and inviting and the girls are very enthusiastic and open to learning (and even teaching me some Tashelhit) ! Time with the girls is always fun, whether we're doing a French or typing lesson, playing games, or a taking a long walk through the mountains. I'm so excited to see what the next few months bring!

Ann Lopata

Volunteer Dates : February 2012 — April 2012

Age : 63

Home Country : Berkeley, California, United States

Occupation : Retired university administrator and counselor

Boarding house: Dar Asni

I am a lifelong traveller and seeker of experiences which challenge me and force me to expand my view of the world. I have worked with young adults for many years, helping them to find their direction, confront their stereotypes and find their passions. I have a daughter who lives in California and a daughter who lives in Chennai, India. I also have two wonderful young grandsons with whom I will share my many unforgettable experiences here.

After traveling to Morocco last year, I realized that I wanted to come back and work with women and children rather than just being a tourist. I found Education for All and realized that it's mission was exactly what I was seeking. I knew from the first day that it was the right choice and that this was an important program. And I fell in love with the girls and the two Latifas and Mina right away.

I have learned so much from the girls about resilience in the face of adversity. They work so hard at school and at home but they manage to enjoy themselves so much. I thought that I would be the teacher but I have also been the student. I've learned lots of words in Tashelhit and Arabic. I've learned how to make tea and tagine and eat with my right hand from the two Latifas. I'm impressed each day with the girls dedication to school and to each other and their deep religious faith. One can truly see the future of the country in these girls and I feel honoured to be able to help in some small way.



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

<http://volunteers.educationforallmorocco.org>

Things to look forward to...

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 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 at www.efamorocco.org/donate for tips on how to donate.
- Are you a company looking to support us? Join our corporate sponsors.

- ♦ The **Annual Charity Bike Ride** takes place for one week. Next year it will take place from **30 March to 6 April 2013**, based in and around Marrakech and the High Atlas Mountains.

Visit our website for further details

- ♦ The next **EFA Open Day** will take place on **Sunday 29 April 2012**. **Visit the houses** and join us and the girls for a Mechoui lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal. The lunch is 500 DH per person and **all proceeds go to EFA**.

For more details and to reserve your place, contact Mike McHugo at:
info@efamorocco.org

- ♦ 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!

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 of EFA!

The next trip will be in June 2012 and it costs 250 euros per person.

Visit our website for further details.

If you would like to organise an annual fundraising event for Education for All

EDUCATION FOR ALL

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

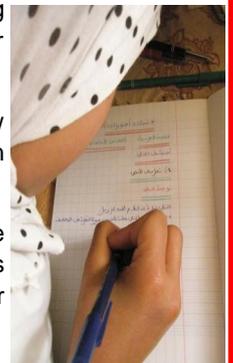
If you educate a girl, you educate the next generation

Volunteers Required

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

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.



Recruiting now for **2012 and 2013**.
If you are interested in volunteering to assist the girls in Morocco, please contact
info@efamorocco.org