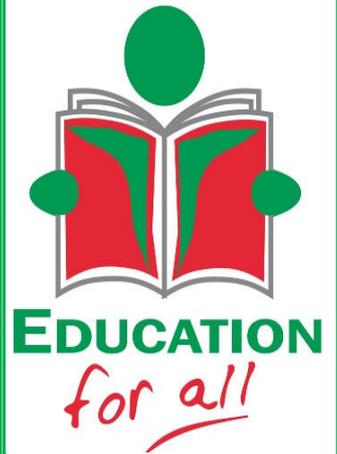


# NEWSLETTER



## Official opening of the 4th house



### Reorganization of the houses



A 4th house means changes and an expansion of the staff of Education For All.

### Next event



The Marrakech Atlas Etape will take place on April 27th 2014. Join us in this friendly adventure!

### Donations and volunteers



We still need your help with the four houses!

## Official opening of DAR ASNI II, the 4th house

Thanks to your support, we are not only managing to maintain our current three houses but also take on a fourth house which was opened on Monday 30th September. This new Lycee-specific house will give the opportunity for 36 girls to study for their baccalaureate, a requirement for University. After the success of the exam results this year which saw 5 girls being awarded university places, we are delighted to open this opportunity to more girls from the surrounding villages. We were honoured to have the house formally opened by the British Ambassador, Mr Clive Alderton, as well as have many supporters, staff, trustees and of course the girls themselves joining us to celebrate the day.



### Charlotte from 'Global Giving' shares her story of visiting our 4th house in Asni :

This Monday saw me visit the mountain town of Asni for the third time in my month long stay in Morocco. As I stepped out the taxi onto the busy side of the road, I immediately met with the same eager questions as the previous times, about where I was going to, and where I was from. Normally, I would answer them as quickly as possible and get down to negotiating the cheapest taxi fare for the next leg of my journey in the Atlas Mountains. But this time I was in no rush, and as I sat down for lunch in a café full of locals I was interested to see how they would respond to the reason for my visit.

"I'm here for the opening of the girls' boarding house", I explained. The response was always the same - an "Ah" followed by the repetition of the term in Arabic, a respectful smile, and directions for how to get there. I was surprised and thrilled that these men, who I thought would have little knowledge of, or interest in, a boarding house for teenaged girls from remote, rural villages in the mountains, replied so enthusiastically.

They say excitement is infectious, and if this is true, then it is little wonder that the locals responded so positively about the day's event. The atmosphere as the girls and staff gathered outside the house's front door, in eager anticipation of the British Ambassador's arrival, was simply electric. The girls couldn't stop giggling and chatting, and when the four girls who are now at university in Marrakech arrived and saw their former housemates, you would have thought it was the reunion of long-lost sisters. The two groups raced towards each other and continued hugging and kissing and laughing until the Ambassador and his wife arrived to cut the ribbon hung across the door, and unveil the plaque commemorating the event.

We then all piled into the entrance and up the stairs to begin our grand tour of the newly renovated premises. The bunk beds, with their brightly coloured pillows, blankets and sheets, would be the envy of any child growing up in England, and the modern, spacious kitchens the envy of any cook or house keeper. The large roof terrace, with its spectacular views of the Atlas Mountains, and of the surrounding town and countryside, sealed my impression that it would be impossible to find a more tranquil - and a more fun - place to spend your teenage years. As the girls proudly lined up to have their photos taken with the Ambassador, his wife, Education For All's staff and trustees, and the commune leader, I and other guests tucked into the delicious spread of patisseries, tea and coffee on offer, discussing what a success the day - and the scheme - was.

The British Ambassador's speech temporarily halted our admiration of the food and of the view as he applauded Education For All's achievements, dedicated team, and the girls themselves, sentiments that were then reflected in the commune leader's speech. Their kind and passionate words were moving tributes to EFA's achievements in themselves, but it was the young girl translating who truly captivated the audience: a former student herself in the boarding house, and now studying biology at the university in Marrakech, she seamlessly translated from English to Arabic and Arabic to English - and she doesn't even study languages. Her commanding and graceful presence was a wonderful testimony to the calibre of young women that graduate from EFA's boarding houses, and an inspiration to the young girls that will be hoping to follow in her footsteps.

I feel honoured to have been a part of this wonderful day, and to have gained such a direct insight into an organization that is fighting so passionately for the future of some of Morocco's young women, and through this the future of Morocco itself.



## Christmas Appeal

Most of us were lucky enough to receive a full education, but if you live in the very remote villages of the Moroccan High Atlas Mountains, you really would see an education as a gift; especially if you were a girl. Education for All Morocco is making this dream come true for more and more girls by building safe and nurturing 'homes away from home' so that girls in the most hard-to-reach villages can get a precious education. We have just opened our fourth house which will give 36 girls a warm bed, hot showers, access to a computer and 3 healthy meals a day so that they can focus on studying for their baccaureate and maybe even get a place at university. The best Xmas present they could have is the opportunity to be here. If you would like to make a difference to one of these girls lives, maybe you could 'donate' a gift this year to buy something for the house. We have made a 'wish list' so you can see what is needed and what is possible to give. Thank you so much for making this special time of year count for these incredible girls.



It costs 1000€ to fund a place for a girl for a full year: (This includes 3 meals a day, nice bed, hot showers and is worked out on percentage of the full running costs). Other costs are detailed below:

Individual items	(in € Euros)	
Computer:	600	
Washing machine:	450	
A new fridge:	300	
Learning resources (books, stationary)	200	
A bed and comfy mattress:	200	
Blankets, pillow, towels, (per girl):	60	
Wardrobe and hangers:	50	
New uniform and shoes:	30	
<b>Annual Running costs for new school:</b>	<b>month/year (€)</b>	
Salary of the Local head house mother:	400	4800
Salary for cook and cleaner:	500	6000
Household items (food, equipment, household:	350	4200
Rent:	260	3120
Utility Bills:	125	1500
Internet/phone/mail:	60	720

## EFA support

### EFA receives funding for core costs



We are happy to report that we have been successful in receiving funding from the **Four Acres Trust** for the next two years. This funding will go towards our core costs meaning that we can continue to forge ahead with the new house in Asni as well as cast our sights to the future 5th house. We are fortunate to have the support of the Four Acres Trust during this exciting period of growth and would like to thank John Bothamley and the grants committee for this timely support. We will keep you all up to date with how we are using this funding and the impact it is having on the girls and their communities in the following months.



COMMUNITAS

We are delighted to have the support of the **Communitas Foundation** as well who are contributing \$10,000 towards our core funding until September 2014.

### Our top schools:

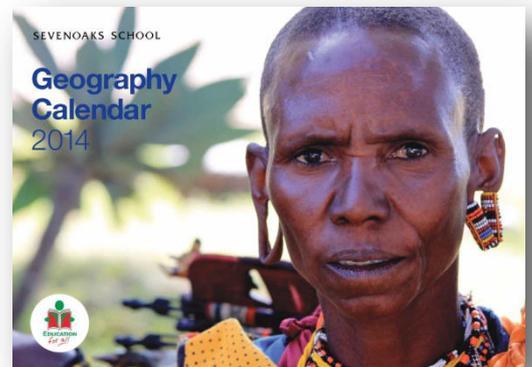
Super Schools! We are so lucky to have the support of many brilliant schools, who understand that education matters and that they can step up to make this a reality for those with less opportunities than themselves. This month we would like to give a gold star to:



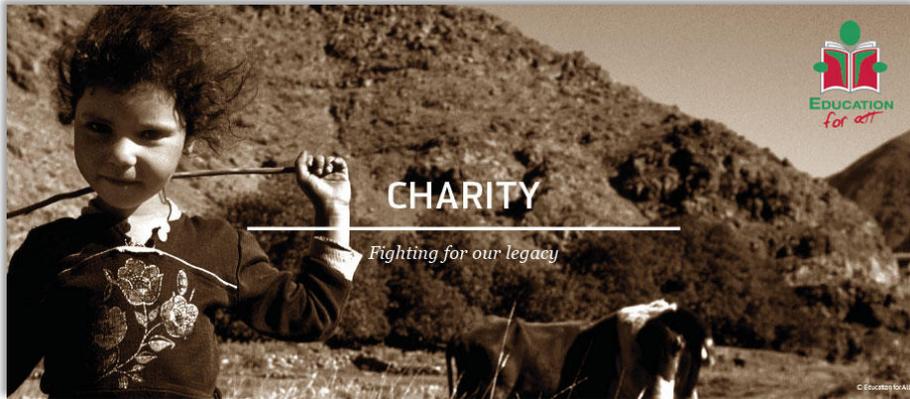
1. **Berkhamsted** has raised a staggering £7000 for EFA this year and next month they will bring a group of girls to exchange friendship and activities with the EFA house girls. We would like to thank the school for this great donation and we will update you on their trip in the next edition.

2. **Sevenoaks School** raised £2000 for the sale of their charity calendar. They have been regularly raising large amounts of money for EFA through the sale of their calendar which we think is a brilliant idea for other schools to take on!

If you are interested purchasing next year's calendar and raising money for EFA, you can contact them to order one here: [geogcalendar@sevenoaksschool.org](mailto:geogcalendar@sevenoaksschool.org).



3. **Fulham Cross Girls School** raised £700 in a sponsored dressing-up day. This will provide sponsorship for a girl for a whole year at our new house, so she can study for her A Level equivalent and have a future to look forward to.



The Education For All Morocco team and the girls who benefit from the charity wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for the significant amount of money that both **Pure Life Experiences and the attendees (Pureists)** of this year's conference have so generously donated.

This money will go a very long way to helping young girls complete their college education whilst away from

their families and homes. Thank you very much! More information on Pure and their charitable giving can be found here: <http://purelifeexperiences.com/Charity.html>

### **Date for your diary: registration open now! 28 April Marrakech Atlas Etape**



This April EFA held it's very first Marrakech Atlas Etape! The cycling challenge, rumoured to become a much anticipated international event boasts great cycling, dramatic views and the chance to spend some time in this enchanting part of North Africa. It is also the chance to raise much needed funds for EFA. Registration for next year's event opens this October 14th. It is a cycle for all levels, so whether you are a hard-core cyclist or simply want to enjoy a great day out for a good cause, follow this link for more details: <http://www.marrakech-atlas-etape.com/register/>



Would you like your Christmas shopping to bring the gift of an education to a girl in Morocco? EFA has signed up to **givingabit** [www.givingabit.com](http://www.givingabit.com) , an online shopping platform that donates money to good causes at no extra cost to the shopper. All you need to do is select us as your charity of choice, shop online from their wide range of high street stores, and they will donate money to us so we can support more girls next year to continue their precious education.

There are many ways you can take part in making sure girls from remote areas of Morocco can enjoy a full education and all that it brings to their lives and the lives of their communities. Follow this link to find out how to make one off donations and organise fundraising activities in your school, workplace or home: <http://efamorocco.org/donate/>

## Education For All staff

We are excited to announce the new Education For All house staff .

**Khadija** (the last house mother of Dar Tinmel) is now the house mother of **Dar Asni II** and **Fatima Abouzouhour** replace her at Dar Tinmel.

**Mina** (the last house mother of Dar Ouirgane) is on maternity leave for one year. **Fatima Bahmmou** replace her at Dar Ouirgane.

**Latifa** (house mother of Dar Asni) has a new responsibility in EFA, she is now the **communication coordinator** between the 4 houses and she has an assistant, **Souad**, who will help her to manage DarAsni additionally to her new function.



Fundraising and Communications Coordinator **Sonia Omar** joined EFA in July 2013. 'She specialises in human rights and has worked for many organisations such as Amnesty International, Education Action International and the British Institute of Human Rights on various international and national projects with a focus on equality and advocacy. Her 10 years working for NGOs gives her a broad range of skills, perfect to support EFA as it grows, and she is focussed on finding the necessary funding to ensure that we maintain and increase places for girls at our special 'home away from homes' . She is passionate about social justice, access to education and empowerment. She is of mixed British and Middle Eastern parentage, speaks French and Arabic in addition to English and enjoys exploring the world's cultures.



**Fatima Bahmmou** is the house mother of Dar Ouirgane for this year as Mina is on maternity leave. She is 26 and she is from Tahanaout (45 minutes from Ouirgane). She studied at the university and got a BA degree on secretarial studies. She has always been interested on education (especially education access for children in rural areas) and she made many social work around Tahanaout. She heard about Education For All by Mina and was immediately interested on the project. "Working with Education For All in Dar Ouirgane will give me the chance to be in the reality of the job to help girls continue their studies."



**Fatima Abouzouhour** is the new house mother of Dar Tinmel. She is 24 and from Ait Ourir (almost 3 hours from Dar Tinmel). She studied tourism and has a diploma on hospitality professions. She began to help students to do their homework in her village and then worked on giving extra classes to them. Seeing the students of her village improving their levels at school thanks to her, made her realize that this was her purpose in life; helping children in need. When Khadija (who is from Ait Ourir too) talked to her about the EFA project she was really interested in helping and motivating the girls from the remote villages to continue their studies and give another future to their lives and to the next generation too.

## Volunteers



*Mohamed ELFADILI is one of the teachers from the college of Talat N'Yacoub who comes regularly at Dar Tinmel to give to the girls extra lessons.*

*We talked with him about the Education in the remote villages :*

**What is your name :** ELFADILI Mohamed

**What do you teach :** I'm teaching Arabic at the college of Talat N'Yacoub.

**Where do you come from :** Marrakech.

**Do you speak Berber :** No, unfortunately.

**Do the students understand Arabic :** Not very well as their mother tongue is Berber. It's hard to teach a language to someone who doesn't understand yours. I only speak Arabic in the classroom and I try to be understood as best as I can. I have been teaching Arabic for 3 years.

**Why education is so important in this area :** To develop the local area. Unfortunately the development in this kind of area, remote villages, is too slow and the resources used to change things are almost non-existent.

**What kind of difficulties prevents people to take things further :** Illiteracy and ignorance. Most of the inhabitants are illiterate and they are not aware of how important education is , they don't know what power you can have if you are educated. I'd say that only 10% of the population participates in the education of their children. We need to sensitize people on the importance of education.

**What do you think about Dar Tinmel and Education For All :** EFA can be a pilot for other organization. It's obvious that Dar Tinmel is positive for Talat N'Yacoub and its area. It participates in the development of the area. Everyone respects it and is grateful for the job that you are doing. We know that you take care of the girls and that you give them everything to succeed in their studies and in their lives, if they have the support of their parents. The girls are half of society and they are able to educate the other half if they are educated first.

### Here are the coming volunteers for the first semester of this school year :

**Marie-Ange DILLIS :** She already volunteered last year with us (see newsletter Jan 3013) and she came back in late September. She is based I Dar Asni II to work with us and with other Associations in Asni.

**Alexandra TOTH :** she is 22 years old. She is from Austria where she Study French and International Relations BSc (now second year) at Aston University in Birmingham, UK. She arrived on September 29th and will help Fatima at Dar Ourigane. She'll stay 6 months with EFA.

**Tessa BUCHANAN :** She is 35 years old. She is from New Zealand. She worked as a private secretary and policy analyst. She has experiences on voluntary work, teaching English to foreigners. She will come to join EFA at the end of December, after almost 3 month in Fes, to learn Arabic. She'll stay 3 months in Dar Asni II with Khadija.

**Sarah Campbell :** She is 67 years old. She is from UK and she used to be a teacher. She came on 10th November and she will stay until 14th December 2013 in Dar Asni.

They will talk more about them on the next newsletter. And you can follow them on the volunteers' blog.

<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 <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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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 2014 and it costs 250 euros per person.**

Follow the link for further details:

<http://www.efamorocco.org/get-involved/events/toubkal-ascent.html>

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



*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 four boarding houses for girls, two 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 2014-2015.**

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

[info@efamorocco.org](mailto:info@efamorocco.org)