

July 2011

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

- ◆ Open Day
- ◆ Support EFA
- ◆ Girls activities & school year results
- ◆ Volunteers
- ◆ Visits

Open Day & Dar Ouirgane official Opening



As we said in the last newsletter, the house was ready to welcome the girls in February. And we decided to make the official opening during our annual Open Day.

So on May 1st we had a big day which began in Dar Ouirgane and then everybody had a lovely lunch at the Kasbah du Toubkal in Imlil.

And of course all the girls were there...which means 60 girls this year!

More information and pictures about this day on Page 2.

Annual Charity Bike Ride

The annual charity bike ride took place from 26th March to 2nd April. Thank you to the courageous participants and let's see on Page 3 more information about the impressions of Derek Workman, a travel journalist.

Girls / volunteers

We all know that the girls work hard to be the best at school (**results on Page 10**), but they also have a lot of fun! Meet the last volunteers on Page 7 and read about the activities they organized with the house mothers for the girls (Page 4).

In this newsletter you will also find more information about us and how you could support EFA.

Visit our website www.efamorocco.org and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Open Day & Dar Ouirgane official Opening



Sunday 1st May dawned with cloud and heavy rain but this did not dampen the spirits of the girls of Dar Ouirgane or Dar Tinmel who all woke very excited and enthusiastic about the last minute preparations before the guests arrived. Floors were washed, rooms tidied and tables laid with trays of biscuits, cakes and msm'n, coffee, mint tea and freshly squeezed orange juice. The guests would not be hungry or thirsty after their mid-morning feast!

Guests started arriving at 10.30 and enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the girls and to have a tour of the house. Mike gave a speech thanking everyone involved in the building of the house at Ouirgane and those involved in the day to day running of the 3 houses.

Two of the girls from Dar Ouirgane also said a few words, in English and in French, to thank everyone for supporting the charity that provides them with the opportunity for an education and a chance to achieve their dreams.

They did this confidently in front of a large crowd of people. The girls from Dar Tinmel entertained everyone by singing four songs. Everyone was very impressed.

Nigel and Anne Parker then cut the ribbon to officially open the house.

We all then headed off to The Kasbah Du Toubkal to meet the Dar Asni girls and to enjoy another feast! Salad, tajine, couscous and fruits were enjoyed by everyone, it was such an amazing spread of food prepared by the staff at the Kasbah. It was some of the girls' first visit and they loved to explore the fantastic buildings and enjoyed the delicious food!

After the meal all the girls sang and danced to the enjoyment of the guests. It was a lovely way to end such a brilliant day and to see the girls having so much fun! The girls finally returned to the boarding houses, exhausted but exhilarated and so grateful for the fantastic day and for Education For All.

We hope you'll join us next year for our next Open Day...with maybe a new boarding house to offer an education to more girls. (See the last page on how to reserve your place from now!)



EFA support

Bike Ride in the high atlas mountains



I first heard of EFA in February at Fitur, a travel show in Madrid - I am a travel journalist. I was handed a black-and-white postcard of a group of laughing young girls, and told the story of Education For All. I was hooked...

When I got back to my home in Valencia, I contacted Mike McHugo, who told me more about EFA and mentioned that their annual fund-raising bike ride was taking place in a few weeks. What he didn't know was that one of my ambitions had been to take a bike ride in Morocco, but, for one reason or another, it had still to be done. Suddenly, I had the chance of doing it.

Here is the diary I wrote of the six-day bike ride and the time leading up to it (<http://bikemorocco.wordpress.com>). I hope you can make time to read it and that it encourages you to join the riders next year. I highly recommend the ride, as not only do you stay in excellent hotels, eat wonderful food, and share your time with great company, it's a splendid way to see the High Atlas Mountains and to meet some of the people involved in Education For All.

If you would like to be kept up to date about the EFA Bike Ride 2012, please send an email to mike@discover.ltd.uk, or click on the link at the end of Day 6 of the diary.

Derek Workman

EFA Charity Ascent Of Jbel Toubkal 2011

Thank you to the group who made it to the summit for Education For All on June 4th and 5th.



Big challenge to support us!



Paul Edmunds from St Mary's School Ascot, who regularly support EFA, is climbing Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, in December in aid of EFA.

Please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Paul-Kilimanjaro-Trek> to give him some encouragement and to support EFA.

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 Imilil !

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.

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:

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

Girls' Activities

Week end at Marrakech



Then we left the medina town, really different from the Medina and less busy!

We spent the night at Aniko's and she offered me a sweet perfume. I was tired and so excited for the next day!

In the morning we visited the beautiful Jardin Majorelle and then we went to the new mall Almazar. It was really nice and big with a lot of shops and big escalators. We had lunch in Virgin and i ate my first hamburger with French fries, really different from the tajine I'm used to...Then a friend of Aniko who was with us was so nice and offered me a beautiful book with pictures of the children all over the world.

My week end was finished, i thanked Aniko and her friend and we took the taxi to go back to Talat N'Yacoub.

I couldn't wait to tell the girls my great week end and show them my presents! Thank you all so much for this special week end!

Sara from Dar Tinmel

Girls' meeting at Dar Ouirgane



On February 26th, the girls of Dar Ouirgane decided to do their own official opening of the house by inviting all their friends of Education For All to spend the day with them.

They organized the day to welcome the girls of Dar Asni and Dar Tinmel, so a total of 60 girls + the house mothers and the cooks of course!

It was a big day for them, they played games, sang, told jokes...had a big lunch and went for a walk in the afternoon to visit the lake. Everybody went back home at the end of the afternoon after a happy day.

Trip to Tizi N'Test



fresh air and to enjoy the view. The singing was quieter on the way there, courtesy of the girls.

On 16th and 17th April, we enjoyed the company of our 3 other EFA volunteers in Dar Tinmel: Kitty, Jenny and Emma! After a great Saturday doing activities in the house, we took the girls out on Sunday. Khadija (the house mother) had the idea of making a big outing to the nearby mountain, Tizi n Test, a popular tourist destination in the Atlas mountains known for its stunning scenery.

It is a long, twisty road to the top, and we had quite a few carsick girls (including me!), so we made lots of stops for extra twisty parts, but we had Berber songs the whole

Finally we arrived at our picnic site, which was a beautiful clearing beside a waterfall. After a couple of hours here, we continued upwards to the forest, where the girls had a long walk and enjoyed seeing some animals. They were very tired when we arrived back at the bus- but not too tired to sing again the whole way back!

It is really nice for the girls to have an outing like this, as they would not often have such a chance with their families or be able to afford it.

Trip to Oukaimden



Some of the girls from Dar Asni and Dar Ouirgane spent a lovely day at Oukaimden- a mountain village which is Morocco's ski resort. We left bright and early to start the 2 hour journey. The girls were all very excited, singing songs as we twisted our way along the mountain roads.

The girls enjoyed time walking in the snow on the mountain sides. A few girls went in the ski-lift to the top of the mountain to have fun skiing and tobogganing. It was cold but bright at the top with plenty of snow to play in.

A picnic lunch was eaten on a nice grassy area before a walk by a small lake. The lake was alive with croaking frogs!

We all enjoyed a mint tea in a cafe before the journey home. Everyone was very tired but still had the energy to sing all the way back to Asni .

Mountain Propre



Mountain Propre is a Eco-citizenship community project, a Conservation, Education & Sustainable Development Initiative. They opened Dar Toubkal, a Mountain & Protected Areas Research & Interpretive Center in Imlil will open in July 2011 to welcome visitors to the Toubkal National Park and help them learn about its beauty and importance as a natural, cultural and recreational resource. Their first project was a great success. **(more info and pictures on the Facebook page facebook/MountainPropre)**

The girls are fully aware of the necessity to clean their environment and they took action in Talat N'Yacoub as the first young ambassadors of Mountain Propre.

So I decided to take the girls out for a Trash Pick-up Day! Garbage disposal is a big problem in Morocco; one of the first things I noticed upon arriving here is the amount of trash along the roads and in the villages. While there are collection bins, it seems they are not used as much as they could be.

The girls were very surprised when Khadija explained what they would be doing! But once we got out there, their enthusiasm grew as the locals watching by thanked them profusely and even came to help. I was very impressed when our girls started asking their friends from school if they would join us, and the best part of the afternoon was when we were joined by a group of very small helpers with big smiles who brought us handful after handful of garbage.

The streets are looking so much nicer and cleaner; I hope this will become a regular occurrence in the following year so our girls can continue this habit.



Marathon of Asni



On Sunday 8th May 15 of the girls from Dar Asni took part in a Marathon, organised by the Kasbah Tamadot and Kasbah Du Toubkal. The girls ran/walked 8Km and the men ran 19Km. It was said to be a great event and created lots of excitement throughout the whole valley.

The fastest girl at Dar Asni was Zahra Amizl, 1st Lesse, and she came 5th out of all the girls. The girls were all very stiff the next day, the girls who did not race found it very amusing to watch them all hobbling around. However the pain was worth it as the three fastest girls, Zahra, Sanna Ait Omar and Fatiha Id Ali, will be getting a trip to Marrakech thanks to their housemother Latifa. This is to encourage all the girls to take part next year. A big well done too all the girls who took part.

Dar Asni gym club



Since the start of the term in January the girls and staff at Dar Asni have been attending a gym club twice a week. Our instructor, Idris, starts the session with some very energetic aerobics and stretches. We all struggled to keep up at the beginning but now the girls are finding it much easier to keep going for the whole 45 minutes. After the aerobics we learn self defence moves. These are often difficult to learn but the girls persevere. This is a great opportunity for the girls to engage in physical activity as some do not get any at school. It is also empowering and helps the girls feel more confident.

Tea break at Kasbah Tamadot



The famous Kasbah Tamadot which is situated near Dar ASni, invited the girls for a tea on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th of May . The girls were so excited to go there and particularly because it came in the middle of exams for most of the girls, so it was a welcome break.

As soon as the girls got through the gate they were silent. . They were so overwhelmed by its beauty . We had traditional Moroccan mint tea with little pastries and cakes. The girls where very shy at first but with help from Idris, who works at Tamadot as well as doing our gym club, we managed to get them to relax a little.

Then it was time to leave. After it being hard to get them through the front door it was now hard to get out of the door due to the amount of photos being taken. All that was talked about for the next few days was Tamadot and how wonderful it is.

Ouzoud waterfalls



On May 29th the house mothers of Dar Asni and Dar Tinmel organised a day trip to Ouzoud waterfalls. Another day for the girls to meet and have fun! As usual we heard them laugh and sing all day long. They appreciated the picnic and relax near the big waterfalls. Lovely day to remember.

Trip to Agadir



On June 5th, the girls from Dar Ouirgane and Dar Tinmel went to visit Agadir. That was THE trip that they were waiting for as most of the girls of both houses have never seen the sea! Early in the morning they took the Tizi N'Test road to Taroudant where they had a tea break and visit the souk of Taroudant. They arrived at 11.00 am at Agadir and went to buy what they needed for lunch. But Marjane was also a big thing for the girls who had never been to a big mall like that, that's why they spent a lot of time there! Then they went to visit the bird parc where they had a nice picnic and the girls were just thinking to go to the beach! And that's what they did after lunch, that was a real funny afternoon. They discovered swim into the water...with their clothes! And at the end of the

afternoon it was time to go back home, but they left with a lot of great memories and stories to tell to their families.

Volunteers—thank you and goodbye

Jenny Hitchcock



Volunteer Dates : 6th March to 14th May 2011

Age : 46 years

Home Country : Ipswich, England

Nationality: British

Occupation: Paediatric Occupational Therapist

Why Volunteer? I have travelled to Morocco many times and spent some of that time trekking in the Atlas Mountains. I loved the mountains and seeing the remote mountain villages; it was while trekking through these villages that I decided I would like to work with the children. I found out about EFA at a visit to Kasbah Du Toubkal and felt that this could give me the opportunity to work with the village children. I also agree with EFA's philosophy that all girls should have the opportunity to receive an education.

ophy that all girls should have the opportunity to receive an education.

Time at Dar Asni: I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Dar Asni. It was challenging at times but very rewarding. The girls are so lovely and very welcoming. They were always enthusiastic and appreciative of support to develop their language skills and loved games and craft activities. I loved living in the Asni community and enjoyed the Moroccan cuisine, I was known for my love of the food!! I will never forget this experience and am so glad to have had the opportunity to live and work with the girls and to help them in a little way to achieve their dreams.

Emma Clayton



Volunteer Dates: 4th March to 1st June 2011

Age: 20 years

Home Country: England

Nationality: British

Why Volunteer? I am Passionate about girl's education and giving them new opportunities. I worked a lot with the girl guides during their centenary year and I felt like I was ready for a new challenge. Morocco is such a beautiful country, with many diverse landscaped that I felt like it was the country for me. When I heard about the charity and the good work they do with the girls I knew this was what I had been looking for.

Time at Dar Asni: Dar Asni is a wonderful place to be and I am so Happy I came here, I never want to leave. For me the hardest, the best and the thing I will never forget are the girls. The hardest thing was all the noise they made no matter what time of day it was. The best thing was the fact that they were always there and ready to cheer you up if you were down. There are so many things I will never forget about the girls, how hard they work, how happy they are, their singing especially on bus trips and their very odd English homework, which on more that one occasion Jenny and I struggled with.

Kitty Hardman



Volunteer dates: 11th March-3rd May

Age: 19

Home country: England

Nationality: English

Occupation: Student

Why volunteer? I always knew i wanted to do some volunteer work during my year out from education and i heard about the charity through my school, Bristol Grammar School, and my teacher Dr Dimberline. Hearing how passionately Dr Dimberline spoke of the charity's work and then doing some further research into its beliefs and aims really inspired me. I love teaching and love working with children and also with the opportunity to explore another culture I knew at once that I wanted to get involved and support Education for All.

Time at Dar Ouirgane: During my time at Dar Ouirgane we had many good times. I loved taking the girls for adventures in the surrounding mountains, teaching them English and French vocab and songs along the way! And our football matches which went on into the night and devising big quiz's to test their French, maths and puzzle solving skills! Of course there were some challenges. The hardest thing was probably the language barrier. Although my French certainly improved, i wish i had known more as this would have definitely made explaining exercises a lot easier, but we always got there in the end! My stay lead up to the open day and this is something I'll never forget. Making biscuits all together, squeezing oranges, and preparing presentations on the many activities that the girls get up to. I will miss it all.

Angela Cooper



Volunteer Dates : March-June 2011

Age : 19

Home Country : Canada

Nationality : Canadian

Occupation : University Student

Why volunteer? After visiting Morocco in August 2010, I knew I wanted to come back to learn more about life here, and to find a way to contribute. I work with children at home, and am studying Child & Youth Care, so I thought it would be perfect to find a volunteer position with children. I came across EFA through a Google search, applied, and arrived in Talat n Yacoub five months later. I liked EFA because it makes human rights a reality for these girls by giving them their only chance to receive their education, while also supporting their social and cultural development.

Time at Dar Tinmel : The biggest challenge for me was the language! But the girls are such eager learners and I appreciated the energy they brought to the activities we did together. The best thing about volunteering here is watching the girls grow- they have grown tremendously in the short time I have been here; I am most impressed with their expanding creativity through our art projects.

I feel very honoured to be a part of Education for All and I look forward to continuing to be involved in the future. As I am in Morocco until the end of July, I will spend some time in Dar Asni to help the Lycee girls prepare for their English exams and hope to assist in getting the houses ready for next year!

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

<http://volunteers.educationforallmorocco.org>



Spotlight On:

At Dar Tinmel we are very lucky to have the involvement of a dedicated teacher who visits the house to give the girls extra lessons several times per week. She does this on a voluntary basis and is often here late into the evening! We also appreciate her help on outings and activities with the girls. A big thank you to Nadia, without whom our girls could not have achieved the same success.

Name: Nadia SAADOUNE

Age: 30

She lives in: Casablanca

Profession: Information Technology teacher in Talat n' Yacoub

Her role within EFA: Gives extra lessons to the girls after school to support them in mathematics, physics, French, and any other subjects they need help with. She also assists with activities.

Nadia has worked with similar organizations in her hometown Casablanca, so was happy to become involved with EFA in Talat n Yacoub. She likes to help the girls succeed in their courses, and enjoys joining us in activities, trips, and sports with the girls.

Visits

University from Paris



In May we were delighted to have four students from the UNIVERSITY IN PARIS visit all three houses. As part of a university project they collected school supplies to bring to each house and spent time visiting the houses to learn more about EFA. We are so grateful for their donations; the girls really appreciated their gifts and had a fun time with them!

People and places Visit- 14th- 18th March.

Dianne Ashman, from the charity 'People and Places' (<http://www.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk/>) in England, visited the three houses for one week in March. She was on a fact finding mission to collect information about EFA and the running of the houses, and the education system in Morocco. People and Places hope to place paying volunteers in Morocco to support the teaching of French and English. Diane has compiled a comprehensive report with recommendations that she has circulated to the EFA committee.

Diane was very helpful, she gave advice and ideas for new activities to play to encourage the development of language skills. This was much appreciated by the volunteers.



Sevenoaks from England



The annual visit of Sevenoaks school in Dar Asni was on March 28th. Thank you for your support!

School from Madrid

On June 9th the International School of Madrid came to Dar Ouirgane to spend the day with the girls and work in the house. They painted and installed lots of shelves and worked hard in the garden planting flowers and vegetables.



Latifa Meets HRH The Prince of Wales in Rabat



Kasbah du Toubkal and EFA were invited as one of five companies, to present our work in the Community to HRH, on his official visit to Morocco at a Sustainable Development Day in Rabat. Latifa, Maryk, Haj Maurice and Mike were there to meet his HRH and to explain our work.

Results for the academic year 2010/2011

Everybody was looking forward their results and we are happy to announce that they are really good!

Only **1 girl on 60 failed** this year. Globally **all the girls improved their marks** during this year.

Below some details.

Dar Asni: 7 of the 30 girls have their marks under 10 including the one who failed. 7 of the 30 girls have the **best mark of their classes!** The school in Asni gave them presents to congratulate them.



1st year of college: Results acceptable for the girls except for Sanaa who failed. **Khadija Ait Hamou** keeps the first place with **15,68**, much ahead of the others.



2nd year of college: the results were much better the second semester. **Zahra Ait Rami** is still the best with **15,34** for the whole year.



3rd year of college: Good results in front of this difficult year. **Fatima Aztat** improved her marks and took the first place with **12,98**.



1st year of lycee: good results for all the girls. **Mouna Ben Choubou** is still the best this year with **14,23**.

Dar Tinmel: 4 of the 20 girls have their marks under 10. **They all succeeded.**



1st year of college: The new girls began the college with really good marks! **Sara Benhamou** keeps the first place during this year with **16,04**.



2nd year of college: pretty good results, the girls improved during this year. **Loubna Ait Bouihia** keeps the first place with **12,77**.

Dar Ouirgane: All the girls have their marks above 10. **They all succeeded.**



1st year of college: Great results for all the girls. **Soukaina Ait Taleb** is much ahead with **17,16**.

Well done girls! Have a great holiday and see you all in September!

Get involved!

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 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.

Things to look forward to...

- ◆ The **Annual Charity Bike Ride** takes place for one week. Next year it will take place from **31 March to 7 April 2012**, based in and around Marrakech and the High Atlas Mountains.

Click here for further details: [EFA Charity Bike Ride](#)

- ◆ 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.

Click here for further details: [Toubkal Ascent](#)

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

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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'Yacoub (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 2011 and 2012.

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

info@efamorocco.org