

Dear Sheehan Adopt a Family Project supporters:

We are so proud to have accomplished so much with your support and love over the past 9 years. As many of you know, in 2018 we built a computer lab at Vista Del Mar Group Home, set up weekly classes and got a full time teacher hired. In addition, we contributed over 20 computers to “Stepping Forward LA” who help to house, teach, employ and motivate children after they age out of the Foster Care system in Los Angeles. This past year 2 children from VDM were accepted to college and we assisted 2 others in obtaining full time employment. It’s because of your generous giving that we could make such an impact.

I am very proud to announce that next month, I'll be helping expand **an additional computer lab in rural Arusha, Tanzania**. The organization I selected is the world renowned www.Jifundishe.org (the Swahili word meaning “teach yourself.”). Founded in 2004 (the same year I started Melissa’s Mutt Hutt) when local students, teachers and villagers – together with foreign volunteers – identified the potential value that could come from a library in this village, Jifundishe provides educational opportunities that would never have been accessible in the past due to financial, geographic, and resource constraints. JFL is now home to over 4,000 books, including all school curriculum texts, educational programs such as community wellness events, film nights and traditional art gatherings, and is also home to several craft co-operatives, a micro-lending program, as well as **the solar-powered Sudler Computer lab!**

I'll be staying close to the Jifundishe compound as a volunteer and will be bringing computers with me to donate to the Sudler Computer lab. I'll also be assisting with teaching during that time, providing technology and English tutoring to primary students. Living in a rural village where access to water, electricity and markets are all challenging aspects of life, access to the internet may seem unimportant. However, today, opportunities for higher education, study abroad and distance learning are only available online. In an effort to provide access to the very important educational opportunities that exist online, the computer lab is open to the public, and provides instructions on how to access the internet. Their current lab provides 25 laptops, introductory classes in their use, internet connection and free printing for university students conducting research. **It is one of the only computer labs of its kind in Tanzania... the next closest Internet is 35 miles away!**

I am trying to raise \$3,500 for this venture to cover the cost of the technology and transporting the computers from the U.S. to Tanzania. Every penny you donate will allow me to spread what is often referred to as my “endless enthusiasm” and desire to help others. I truly believe each child's education not only greatly improves a general quality of life, but also that literacy and schooling are important common denominators in addressing disease prevention, birth rates, access to income, and community health. Just as my hope here in Los Angeles is to place technology in the hands of those who need it most, so my hope is to gift the community of Jifundishe with similar opportunities.

Please consider supporting my efforts to bring technology to Africa by making a tax deductible 501c3 donation to: www.safproject.org/africa2019. If you prefer, you can also mail a check to SAF Project at 1590 Rosecran Ave, Suite D 360, Manhattan Beach CA 90266.

The gift of learning is priceless. Please help me spread the love by donating anything you can!

Love,

Melissa Sheehan Clarkson