

## STeP UP Report October – December 2006

Dear Friends, Family and STeP UP Supporters,

Another year gone and more to report to you. First off, I'd like to summarize our work over the past 8 years with a quick run-down of our projects to date:

### 5 Projects currently underway – funding secured

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|--|--|
| 1. Countrywide with UNICEF                                       | Production of mosquito nets for malaria prevention with the involvement of primary schools * |
| 2. Countrywide with Winrock Int'l                                | Scholarships for 600 primary school girls*   |
| 3. São Tomé City   | English language school (SAPEL)*   |
| 4. Country-wide with Ministries of Education and the Environment | Translation and Publication of Environmental Workbook for Primary Schools*                   |
| 5. São Tomé City   | Computers from St. Bernard School (NYC) for training*  |

### 20 Completed Projects

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|-----------------------|--|
| 6. Country-wide       | California Academy of Science Research - Phase 2 (2006)*   |
| 7. Condé              | Health Post Construction   |
| 8. Pantufo            | School Garden*   |
| 9. Near São Tomé City | Community water tank   |
| 10. Country-wide      | Support to California Academy of Sciences Research Team (2001)*  |
| 11. Gasper            | Water Post construction  |
| 12. São Tomé City     | STeP UP seminar on how to write a project proposal *   |
| 13. Melhorada         | Nurse School Kitchen repair  |
| 14. Morro Peixe       | Restaurant rehabilitation  |
| 15. São Tomé City     | Scholarships for girl's who didn't finish school*  |
| 16. São Tomé City     | Training in sewing and embroidery*   |
| 17. São Tomé City     | Microphones for the National Assembly  |
| 18. São Tomé City     | Conference on Extractive Industries with OSIWA*<br>(Open Society Institute for West Africa - George Soros) |
| 19. Anselmo Andrade   | Adult literacy and training in sewing*   |
| 20. Príncipe          | Pumps and other equipment for water development  |
| 21. São Tomé City     | Training in Tailoring*   |
| 22. Anselmo Andrade   | Roof repair on community center  |
| 23. Príncipe          | Pumps and other equipment for water development  |
| 24. São Tomé City     | Training in tailoring*   |
| 25. Morro Peixe       | Seminar on turtle protection*  |

### 14 Projects requiring funding

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 26. São Tomé City | STeP UP Education Center*            |
| 27. São Tomé      | Training for Handicapped Equipment   |
| 28. Country-wide  | AIDS seminar*                        |
| 29. Budo-Budo     | Training in sewing and embroidery*   |
| 30. São Tomé City | Home Economics Training*             |
| 31. São Marçal    | Training in Auto Mechanics*          |
| 32. Almas         | Training in Upholstery*              |
| 33. Santana       | Training in Ceramic Jewelry Making*  |
| 34. All Beaches   | Conservation of Beach Sand*          |
| 35. Country-wide  | Environmental Workbook distribution* |
| 36. Micoló        | Construction of a community center   |
| 38. Uba Budo      | Water System                         |
| 38. Country-wide  | Flowers for export                   |
| 39. Príncipe      | Latrines in Nova Fronteira           |

### 4 Projects with Identified Donors, but as yet unfunded

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|----------------------|---|
| 40. CATAP/Monté Café | Agricultural Diversification and Training*      |
| 41. Obo Izaquente    | Construction of Community Center                |
| 42. São Tomé City    | Construction of Office for 4 Environmental NGOs |

43. Country-wide STeP integration into CARPE Central Africa Program  
(Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment)  
\* - Training/Education focus

Our efforts now and for the short-term will continue to be on education and training, focusing on health, the environment, agriculture and the English language. As you can see from the list above, this has been the emphasis of 16 of the 25 projects of our on-going and completed projects. In the broader framework, we expect to get involved in income-generating activities as the oil funds are become available in 5-10 years. But for now, we have plenty to do and are kept active with our 5 on-going projects. However, we'd like to expand our work in the primary schools with the environmental workbook distribution, once it's published. Bob Drewes from the California Academy of Sciences (see above) is planning to help with the publication and its dissemination in the schools. Miriea Boya, the Spanish researcher who returned to São Tomé with me in October has been working with the Ministries and schools in adapting the book to the unique local environment. Bob and his team's previous research has proven this to be the case. He also has in mind the establishment of a natural history museum here to teach the local people how important their ecology is - another idea for the future. A film-maker friend in Austria has offered to come out early next year to document our projects - I'll let you know more as this idea develops.

As you may recall, Mireia is not the first volunteer to work with us. She is in the "tradition" of them going back 6 or 7 years, when she arrived at the same time as Courtney Creek and Linda who also worked on environmental issues. They were followed by Christan Mahnke, Olivia Thacher, Sam Phillips, and Breese McIlvaine - all of whom taught English and worked on various other projects. We hope to have a couple more next year - nieces of friends in the US. So if you've got a young person wanting to explore and willing to lend a hand, just let me know. Also, let me know if the winter doldrums get you down and you need a break - remember it's almost always sunny here, and very warm - the cure for a cold, dark winter!

As briefly mentioned above, we continue to watch the oil situation develop. Chevron has discovered it for sure; now they are analysing their findings and presumably making projections on how much to invest, where, how to drill, etc. My understanding is that once the analysis is finished, they begin construction of the off-shore rigs in the Gulf of Guinea, pump, refine, etc. and pay themselves back for their investments. All this before São Tomé receives a penny, which explains why it will be as long as a decade before revenue starts flowing into the country. So we've got a while yet.

I trust this message finds you well and in fine holiday spirits. It brings all my best wishes for a wonderful season and a healthy, happy 2007. And please don't forget: we are always in need of help with our projects so if you find you can assist, just let us know! Or you can mail whatever tax deductible contribution you'd like to our lawyer, Eric McClafferty, Kelley and Drye, 3050 K St. NW #4, Washington, DC 20007. Thanks in advance for whatever you can do. Also if you have any leads on solar panels, I'd love to know them, as our public electricity supply has become terrible. And thank you as always for your continued support.

Again, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or Joyous Kwansaa (which ever you celebrate)! Ned