

December 2016 Newsletter



Happy Holidays!

On behalf of our 252 girls, as well as the entire Kalebuka community, we wish you a joyful and restive holiday season!

As 2016 draws to a close, we at Malaika reflect back on what has been an eventful year marked by much achievement and growth. Our warmest appreciations go out to everyone who helped our girls over the past twelve months and the previous nine years, whether staff, family members, volunteers or simply friends who sent well wishes from afar.



Please think of Malaika for your gift giving, as small donations can provide meals and school supplies to our girls. Give the gift of education and change a life at malaika.org/donate. May your 2017 be filled with good health and much happiness!

Make a Difference!



Give a girl an imagination
\$5 provides school books
for one month



Give a girl a full tummy
\$20 provides two meals a
day for one month



Give a girl knowledge
\$77.50 provides one month
of education

Donate Now

News from our School!

Faces of Malaika

We are proud to highlight one of the star members of our teaching staff:

Maguy Kasongo Zaina.

A wife and mother to six children, Maguy has been with us since the school opened in 2011. As an experienced teacher who was even a principal at another school, Maguy is in charge of the Grade 6 class. Maguy believes in the transformational power of education and aims to instill in her young students a feeling of responsibility for their futures. She empowers the girls by increasing their confidence and showing them that their country needs both its sons and daughters in order to succeed. To support Maguy and our hardworking teachers, please click [here](#).



Our Little Explorers

Our Kindergarten students took their very first field trip to visit the **Rafiki School** in neighboring Lubumbashi.



This was an exciting opportunity for the young girls to leave their everyday lives behind and to see how other Congolese students live and study. At first our girls were timid; however, they soon realized that despite living in another city, the other students were just like them, and they all started playing together.

Fun in Lubumbashi

As a special treat, students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 recently took a trip to **PopUp Cinema**, a nearby movie theater.

Our girls were given the full cinematic experience, which included popcorn and soft drinks. PopUp Cinema is organized by **Musal**, a local company run by **Costas Coursaris**, a dear friend and longtime supporter of Malaika. Thank you, Costas and the entire Musal team!



News from our Center!

Fighting Malaria



Malaria is a devastating disease in sub-Saharan Africa and one that has taken a particularly catastrophic toll in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The World Health Organization reports that, on average, 400 children succumb to malaria in the DRC every day. In an effort to limit the effects of malaria in Kalebuka, we recently initiated phase 2 of our **Drop Malaria** project, which is funded by **FIFA's** Legacy Trust initiative. In addition to carrying out awareness-building activities in the community, Malaika is currently distributing 7,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets to protect against mosquito bites. These are in addition to the 2,000 bed nets distributed in phase 1 of the program.

Learning through Sport

There is still a dearth of knowledge about HIV/AIDS in the DRC, a disease with which



approximately 350,000
Congolese currently live.

In honor of **World AIDS Day**, volunteers from our Center organized a number of interactive games aimed at raising awareness of HIV detection and transmission. The games were based on the **Coaches Across Continents** curriculum, which uses sports for social impact. Turnout was robust, with youth from the community as well as students from our school in attendance. The day was a great success and the young attendees reported that the games were an enjoyable, engaging way to absorb life-saving knowledge.

Malaika in the Media

The Importance of Giving Back

Noella was recently interviewed by the **African Philanthropy Forum** as part of a series entitled “Why Give?”.

The series shines a spotlight on some of the most important philanthropists in Africa and traces their personal trajectories and lessons learned in order to inspire emerging philanthropists. You can view Noella’s segment [here](#).



Thank You, Wendy!

Malaika was also featured in **Amina Magazine**, a publication aimed at women of color in Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.



Journalist **Wendy Bashi** visited the Malaika School and Community Center earlier this year and has supported our work for a long time by raising awareness of our programs. To read Wendy's fantastic article in French, click [here](#).

Bits & Bytes

Mentoring African Entrepreneurs

Malaika Directors,



Yamandou and **Noella**, both attended the Entrepreneurship Forum—hosted by the **Tony Elumelu Foundation**—in Lagos, Nigeria.

Hundreds of budding entrepreneurs from 54 African countries were in attendance, seeking guidance and advice regarding their business plans. Noella was honored to be amongst the special guest speakers at this important event, as she is strongly committed to supporting Africans in any way she can.



Fundraising Superstars

Many thanks to **Zee Bokete**, who organized a workplace giving campaign to benefit Malaika.



Zee and her amazing colleagues raised more than \$900 and we are incredibly grateful for their efforts!

Fashion for a Cause



This past fall, Noella proudly strode the catwalk in LDNY Foundation's **Role Models Fashion Show**, organized by the TV presenter and philanthropist, **June Sarpong**. The show featured a retinue of inspirational and influential women from all over the world.

It showcased clothing designed by individuals from underprivileged communities who worked with mentors from the fashion community. The orange dress worn during the event was a symbol of standing up against violence. Video from the event is available [here](#).



Change A Life. Build A Community. Donate Today.

Join the conversation



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