

PEACE HOUSE AFRICA



PEACE HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATES AND PREPARES

Education is the door to freedom, democracy and development,” said Nelson Mandela in discussing the challenges facing Africa. In Arusha, a town in Tanzania, East Africa, Peace House Africa is helping to realize Mandela's vision. Through education, this U.S.-based non-profit organization is creating a brighter future for Africa's most vulnerable children and their communities. Peace House Africa reaches out to Tanzania's AIDS orphans, providing an education that not only raises them from the brink of social oblivion but also provides tools to break a relentless cycle of poverty and despair in their communities. In focusing on the development of business entrepreneurs, Peace House Africa aims to channel the intellectual energies of a generation that might see no other recourse than to flee the country in search of a better life and to direct these energies instead to internal development that will provide for the betterment of all Tanzanians.

Peace House Secondary School (PHS) is a boarding school for orphans and other children in need, located just west of Arusha. Currently home to over 200 students, PHS offers a groundbreaking curriculum, which emphasizes creative problem solving and entrepreneurial business skills. Graduates of PHS will become job creators—young people who can build a sustainable future for Tanzania.

The percentage of high school graduates in Tanzania is astoundingly low, with approximately only two percent of all students in the country earning a degree. Of that tiny percentage, almost zero go on to work within their own country, as Tanzania's economy offers little in terms of jobs, career development and earning potential. “If we can help PHS graduates build sustainable businesses and create jobs, then we can accomplish something tangible for Africa's recovery,” explained Peace House Africa Founder and Board Chair

Scott Augustine. Peace House Africa's mission is not only to graduate students, but also to empower them with post-secondary school training at Peace House Institute, which will focus on developing entrepreneurial skills, technology research, and related business development direction. Peace House Institute is in the development stage and is expected to be completed in 2010.

In 2007, shortly after Peace House Secondary School opened its doors to the first class of students, New York Chapter Co-Chairs, Victoria Protheroe and Bari Trontz visited the campus and returned to New York City with a newly born passion and commitment to helping raise awareness for the cause. The impact the children had on them was profound and they describe the students as “stealing our hearts.” Together, the duo launched the New York Awareness Committee and built a team of over twenty volunteers to brainstorm, plan, and organize events to help educate the public about the organization's efforts and raise money to support the projects being developed by Peace House Africa. The volunteers cover a variety of professional industries, including support from Wall Street, advertising/marketing, retail, real estate, interior design, and technology, among others.

To raise local visibility for the organization's mission, Peace House Africa recently announced a partnership with *Social Life Magazine*. As a result, the New York Awareness Committee has raised thousands of charity dollars this summer through donations, silent auctions, and raffles that took place at multiple exclusive events throughout the Hamptons, including the Social Life estate in Water Mill, New York. Fundraising events in Manhattan will be held this fall. For information please email nyc@peacehouseafrica.org.