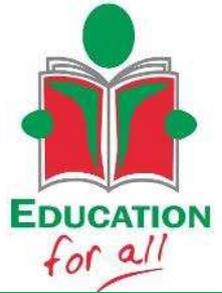


NEWSLETTER



Countdown to the Marrakech Atlas Etape!



Her Majesty's Ambassador Clive Alderton becomes EFA Patron



First semester school results



School support & volunteers

Foreword from Sonia, Our Fundraising and Communications Coordinator:



Welcome to a very exciting edition of our newsletter. Since we last met we have been busy building our 5th house, welcoming our new Patron and preparing for our big fundraising event of the year, the Marrakech Atlas Étape. The girls have also been busy, getting great exam results, participating in a video project and speaking up for girls education in our International Woman's day photo project (phew!)

We are also happy to include 2 special features from our brilliant UK school supporters. Hear how parents from pupils at Bristol Grammar School raised money to support EFA and delivered it personally to our houses, and enjoy the touching insights of Bethany Saul from Berkhamsted School after they raised £8000 and made a special trip to Morocco (with me as their lucky guide) to spend time with the girls who would benefit from their donation and get to know them better.

Your pedal power - their empowerment!

EFA holds Cycling Charity Event from Marrakech to Oukaïmeden to Raise Funds for Girls' Education.

On **Sunday 27th April, 2014**, cyclists of all abilities will set off from the Marrakech Grand Prix Circuit for the second annual Marrakech Atlas Etape, the latest and one of the most exhilarating Etapes in the international cycling calendar.

Starting in the enchanting city of Marrakech, the event is open to all levels of sporting ability. There are two routes that make this event achievable for cyclists of all levels; a 60 km ride which is fairly flat and a 140 km ride which culminates in a 30 km ascent to the ski resort of Oukaïmeden (2624m). This is bigger than Mont Ventoux, Tourmalet and Galibier to challenge both the determined and the serious rider.



Whilst the Marrakech Atlas Etape is a challenging ride in one of the most beautiful regions of North Africa, the primary intention is to generate income for EFA so we can continue to run OUR 4 houses and continue with the building plans for our 5th house due to open this September.



In March, Primal Pro cycling team were out in Morocco, testing the route, and even managed to pop into one of our houses in Asni on their way through! We also have the first team who will begin the challenge by cycling to the event by land from London to Marrakech! We are so impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone taking part and we are confident that this event will become a highlight of the cycling calendar for years to come, benefiting the future sustainability of the environment and of EFA in the future.

Trustee of EFA and co-founder of the event, Mike McHugo says: ***"With cycling coming of age in Morocco, and with Marrakech to Oukaïmeden as a classic ascent to rank with any of the classic climbs in the Tour de France, I believe the time for a classic cyclo-sportive in Morocco has arrived—and what better charity to support than Education For All"***



British Ambassador is True Ambassador for Girls Education in Morocco

We are delighted to announce that Her Majesty's British Ambassador Clive Alderton, The British Ambassador to Morocco, has become Education For All's official Patron. Clive Alderton has been a great supporter of EFA's work over the last months. It began last April when he awarded certificates during EFA's 'Marrakech- Atlas Etape' cycling event. Shortly after, he invited 7 girls to a reception in Rabat to celebrate the passing of their Bacculaureate. This story reached the front page of Le Matin online and created much excitement amongst the girls (and EFA staff!):

"...with your education, you can help your families, your communities and your country. You have the gifts you need to change the world for the better."



He also officially opened our 4th house in Asni last September with his wife Catriona, and went onto give an inspiring TEDx talk last November, during which he talked about the importance of the work of Education For All - You can watch it here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2MLxx8c2FA

We are incredibly grateful for Clive Alderton's commitment to girls' education in rural Morocco, and for his time and dedication to support EFA. We look forward to a fruitful relationship, making literacy and empowerment an increasing reality for many more girls in the future.

High Hopes for Girls in the High Atlas



This is the title of EFA's 4 page article which is now featured in Royal Air Maroc's inflight magazine! We are grateful to Royal Air Maroc for this opportunity to raise awareness amongst the many tourist and business people they bring to Morocco every day. Morocco is such a popular travel destination and we are keen to encourage an ethical approach to tourism where people visiting Morocco have the opportunity to learn more about the issues facing the country and contribute positively to solutions, such as educating girls.

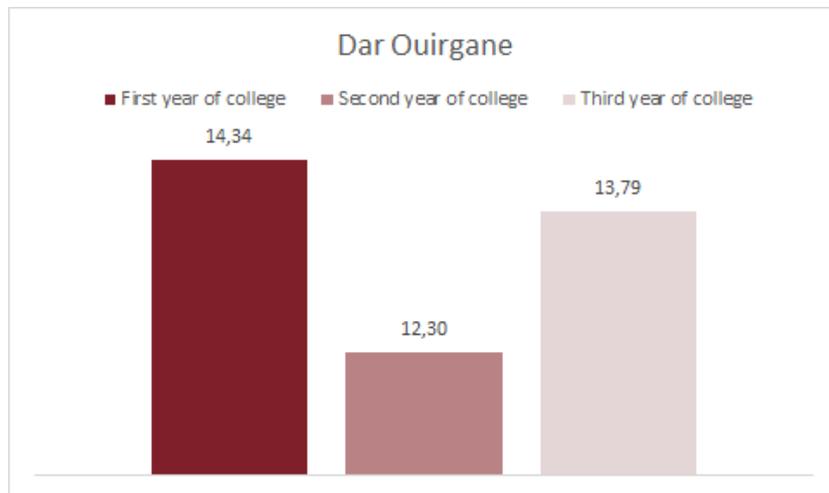
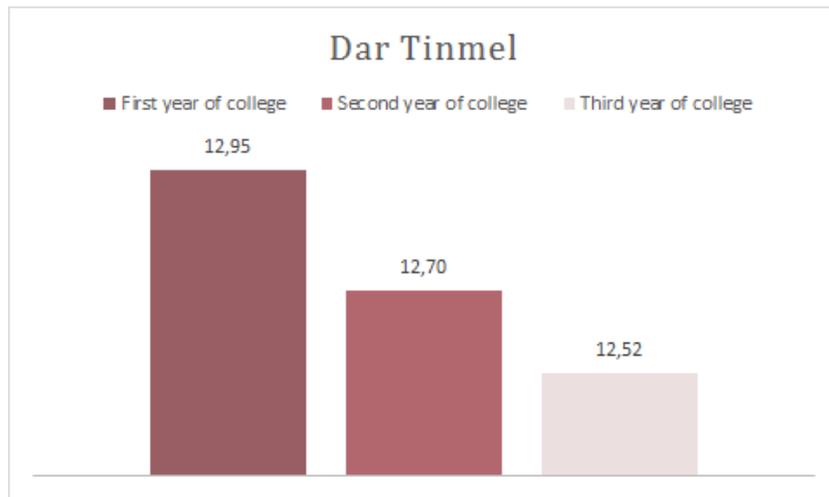
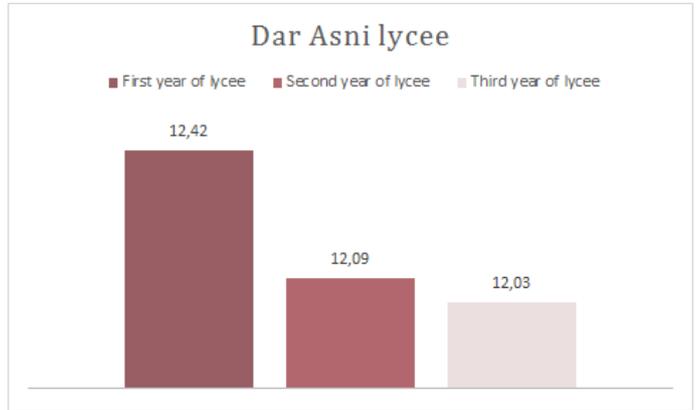
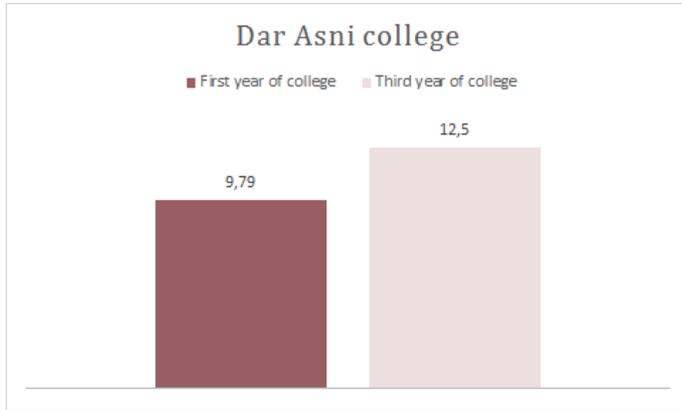
House Update

We continue to be proud of all the girls at our houses, not merely for their exceptional exam results that put them way above the national average, but also because of their growing confidence and maturity, as they settle into their studies and learn to look after themselves and help out around the houses. As always, we give a big thanks to our house mothers who play such a crucial role in supporting the daily routine of the girls and giving them the emotional support and love and care that is an essential element of their successes.

School results—first semester

Here are the latest exam results.

The graphs show the average (.../20) of each school year for the first semester.



Building Our 5th House

We are delighted to share that the building project has begun!

The foundations are being built and we are looking forward to opening the new house in time for the academic school year in September 2014. We would love your help to make this happen. We (only) need to raise €100,000 to complete this project. If you would like to support us, all donations large and small are appreciated. You can donate by fundraising yourself (visit our website for more details and using our justgiving page : <http://www.justgiving.com/morocco>)



EFA on Video

We are also delighted to share two new videos made by Katie Arnold as part of a voluntary project with us. We think these videos capture our work beautifully, both in terms of the impressive geographical setting and because they capture the authentic voices of the girls from our houses. Please feel free to share these videos with your friends and families.



Video 1: Take in the wonderful scenery and be inspired by the voices of the girls who are changing Moroccan society!

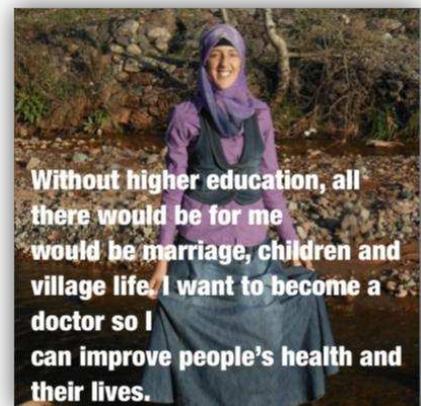
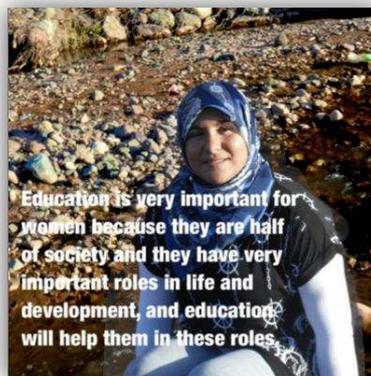
<https://vimeo.com/86158990>

Video 2: This is Mouna, who joined the first house opened by EFA in 2008. She is now studying Biology at the University of Marrakech. Here you can listen to Mouna share her experience of being at the EFA houses and how University life is 7 years on! Thank you Mouna for being such an incredible inspiration and role model to girls everywhere.

<http://vimeo.com/m/86241740>

Girls add their voices and faces to International Women's Day!

Educating girls is an important human right, a right which helps girls and women access a range of important rights to health, employment and legal justice. As people all over the world celebrated women's rights on March 8th, five of the girls at the EFA houses added their faces and quotes to the celebrations. Here is part of their striking photo study, where they shared in their words why education is important for them:



The French Chef Damien Durand visiting Dar Asni

On February 2014 Damien Durand, a renown French Chef from Marrakech, visited Dar Asni for the second time to cook with the girls traditional French dishes. The day started with the preparation of all the ingredients and the staff from Damien taught the girls how to prepare each dish. While they were cooking with the girls they also provided additional information about the dishes.



Volunteers



Welcome to the volunteers' section. Since the beginning of EFA we saw so many volunteers coming from all over the world to live a great human adventure into our houses.

The EFA girls are fighting for an education to have a better life, they took a different path from their mothers, a different one from their neighbours. No matter what are the difficulties they face; they want to choose their future and nothing will stop them.

As a volunteer, we are encouraging them, we open their minds to the world and show them that their dreams are not impossible.

We give them everything during this period of our life that we spend with them, we forget our life beyond the mountains, and we forget that we miss our family, our comfort... but we receive a lot from these girls. Seeing them evolve, becoming real confident woman and saying to yourself than you contributed to this is a great personal satisfaction.

I didn't know that I was able to make a difference in their life. I have been volunteering for EFA since 2009, I spent almost 2 years with the girls in the mountains and today I still help them from France by coordinating the volunteers ; co-writing the newsletters ... I still want to help these girls to reach their goals no matter where I am. I invite you to read the volunteers' stories below.

We appreciate greatly their work and I hope that their stories will make you want to volunteer with us!

For more information about volunteering, you can visit our website <http://www.efamorocco.org/get-involved/> or email me for more information: karima.targaoui@gmail.com.

Karima Targaoui – volunteer coordinator.



Sarak Campbell

volunteer at Dar Asni 1, November and December 2013

I am a retired English schoolteacher, 67 years old, grandmother of six... I recently spent 5 weeks at Dar Asni, working with the girls, helping them to practise the French language through games and craft activities. I very much enjoyed being with the girls: they are among the most delightful students I have ever taught - they were so affectionate and so appreciative of everything we did together.

While I was in Asni I went on a trip to Tinghrouin to see one of the villages where the girls lived, and to walk the long and steep path they take to school on Monday mornings. I also spent a wonderful weekend at the Kasbah de Toubkal, courtesy of Mike McHugo and Hajj Maurice. That Monday morning I travelled back to Asni on a very packed early bus with about 50 school students!

Dar Asni 1 is a very happy community; I have such good memories of Latifa the housemother, Latifa the cook, Mina and above all Sou'ad who was so helpful to me. I remember the steamy kitchen and hot mint tea when I arrived in the morning, and the delicious lunches provided by Latifa, sometimes eaten in the sunshine on the roof terrace. I do hope it will be possible to see them all again.



Tessa Buchanan

Hi, I'm Tessa, and I've been volunteering at Dar Asni 2 since mid-December. I'm from New Zealand, so this is just about as far away from my home as you can get. I came to Morocco in 2012 for a holiday and loved it so much that I decided to come back long term. I found Education For All while researching volunteering opportunities on the internet, and I'm so glad that I did! I've been in Morocco since October 2013, having spent time in Marrakech on holiday and in Fes studying Moroccan Arabic before coming to Asni. While I'm at Dar Asni 2 my focus is to help the girls with their English, get to know them and support them any way I can, and provide some fun activities too of course (sometimes with the help of my more talented friends). So far we've learned how to make friendship bracelets, translated a popular song from Arabic to English and set up a virtual classroom to do English exercises using comic strips. Sometimes it's just a matter of going out for a walk with some of the girls - as I tell them, as long as they're speaking English with me they're learning. Now we're working on sets of word cards in four languages and once the weather gets nicer I've got some sporty ideas up my sleeve. I'm going to be here until the end of the school year in June, so there's plenty of time for lots of fun and learning for us all.



Alexandra Toth

Dear Readers, EFA and Volunteers

It feels like I have only arrived to EFA yesterday and in a few days I am already leaving. Time truly passes by very fast that's why we have to use every second of it. I think I really did so during my experience as a volunteer in Dar Ouirgane and I can leave with good memories of which I will think back with both a joyful and tearful eye.

I came to Dar Ouirgane, thinking I will only teach French and English to girls who will need to improve their language skills, yet now I know that this job includes so much more than that and it made us both grow. It requires your passion for education and passion for moving forward in your life. I tried to give and teach this to the girls, I wanted them to learn to see on their own why they educate themselves and how this will advance them in their life. For me this is what EFA is about. School and books won't teach you that it's all about our experiences and how we process them.

These girls are amazing! They are ambitious, talented and can work very hard. It was very inspiring and powerful to watch them discover and understand new things, especially when they learned it for their selves. If you as a future volunteer think that you will have to do all of the activities on your own and entertain the girls, you will discover that they are more than happy to help you with the preparation and research, as they want to be included with everything you are doing.

What made this volunteering experience the most remarkable for me was probably that, I was accepted by the girls like their big sister and I was not just seen as a teacher. Our relation is hard to describe with words because it was very special to me and so whenever we had problems, trouble or any kind of pain each of them knew that they can count on me as I could count on them too. Language was never a barrier because we did not have to speak each other languages to truly understand each other.

This job was not easy, because there are many obstacles, especially in rural village like Ouirgane and I was not a professional. Sometimes I did not know what to do and how to help. But with the positive energy of these girls I overcame these and we all learned a lot. We learned that education is powerful and if everybody shared their knowledge this power could grow even bigger and can be a life saving tool.

I am saying "WE" because it's not only the girls who grew, I grew as well. And you will grow when you'll volunteer with EFA. Teach these girls and watch them develop and you will develop with them. Give your love and you will get a hundred times more love back.

I did and it was beautiful. Thank you girls, Tanmirt.



Claudia Eger

Can education projects supported by tour operators transform the lives of young girls? Can they transform the lives of the communities? And if so, how does this happen? These are questions that I would like to study as part of my research. But let me introduce myself first. My name is Claudia Eger and I am a PhD student at the University of Surrey where I conduct research on the role of tour operators in promoting gender equality through capacity building.

On February I have been visiting the different boarding houses in Talat n'Yacoub, Ouirgane and Asni. I received a warm welcome by the housemothers and the girls in each house and it did not take long until I felt part of the EFA community. We studied together, communicating in many different languages; we played together and undertook some interesting trips to the beautiful High Atlas Mountains countryside. The photograph is from an excursion with the girls and the housemother Fatima from Dar Tinmel.

I am impressed by the great work that is being done at the four houses, not only enabling the girls to access education, but also to live in a homely atmosphere surrounded by people who deeply care for them. In the time I spent here I did not only learn about the project, but I learned with and from the girls and I cannot wait to come back to support the project as a volunteer and through my research results.



Hanneke Onwehand

I arrived in Morocco on Monday the 20th of January. While driving into the city of Marrakech for the first night, I knew I was back in Morocco. I love the smells, the colours, the noises and the people. After a good nights sleep, Marijke and I brought some extra painting stuff for the girls and set off to the mountains on our way to Dar Asni 2. I was welcomed by Khadija and the girls very warmly and soon I felt welcome in their friendly house. This wonderful housemother and a volunteer from New Zealand, Tessa, who lived in the house for several months, form a great couple and solid basis for the girls. Tessa only speaks English to them and that is what they need. To get at ease with other languages than Arabic or Berber. Because my profession is drawing and painting I made a portrait of one of the girls which they liked so much that at the end of the week I had made 20 portraits of different girls. It was great fun to do and much appreciated. After this week I really felt sorry to leave this house

to go on to Dar Tinnel were I was supposed to go in the first place.

On Monday morning Fatima came to pick me up with a taxi to drive to my new house. A wonderful drive through the mountains, along the lake of Ouirgane, brought me to a tiny village, Talaat Nyacoub. The village is not more than a big street, some basic boutiques, a few backstreets, a little mosque and a big college in an absolute wonderful environment of natural beauty. The red colour of the snow topped mountains, the Kasbah on the hilltop and the river alongside the village were stunningly beautiful. Fatima introduced me to Khadija, the cooking lady, Zenib the cleaning lady and last but not least the girls. They were so friendly, so warm and open to me that it was easy to feel at home. Very soon it was clear that communication was much more difficult here for me because the girls did not speak any English yet and only the third year girls speak some French. Luckily Fatima speaks French so I can communicate with someone. But I learned that with these girls and open minds you can communicate with hands and feet and laugh about the same things. It is great to have the opportunity to live with them for several weeks and teach them some French and English, help them with their homework and do some painting sessions together. We made a big painting on the wall of their beautiful roof terrace from their village with Dar Tinnel in the middle. I have great admiration for Fatima with her only yet 25 years who runs this house so well. When I was there we celebrated her 25th birthday with a lot of secretly made surprises together with the girls for this special day. In the evening we had a big party on the roof terrace with Berber music, " self made cakes, balloons and a lot of singing. All girls were dancing with great passion without their hair covered in their normal scarfs. It was a great evening and a great day with good memories.

Painting, dancing, walking etc...with the volunteers!



A New Outlook On Education



Bethany Saul, a pupil from Berkhamsted School in the UK shares how her school raised £8000 for EFA and insights from their visit to the houses last December:

As part of our school's 125th anniversary we decided to raise money for EFA Morocco to furnish the fourth boarding house through the celebrations throughout 2013 our school held. This included: a talent show, numerous cake sales, raising money through doing chores at home amongst other activities which all the girls enjoyed thoroughly myself included! We raised the extraordinary amount of just over **£8300**.

In December, after much planning, preparation and organisation from our headmistress (Mrs Clancy) we set off for Marrakech for four days to visit the girls we had been raising money for over the course of 2013. I speak for everyone when I say that until we arrived at the first boarding house we didn't know what to expect at all, first because of the language barrier but also because of the massive cultural difference. However within what must have been less than 5 minutes after speaking to the girls at Dar Asni our nerves were left behind and conversation was flowing whether or not it was through speech was a dif-

ferent matter! A combination of crafts, simple games and friendship bracelet making seemed to be the perfect mixture of activities to bring the girls from the boarding houses and the Berkhamsted girls together. Even the teachers were joining in with the French skipping! The house mothers and the girls in the four boarding houses we visited were very welcoming and so grateful for the gifts we had brought them.

The whole experience was particularly moving not simply because of the opportunity to see the money we raised being utilised and appreciated but because the girls were all of similar age to us. We couldn't help but compare our lives to theirs and feel guilty for all the seemingly irrelevant day to day things we took for granted. The conversation that struck me the most was with some of the girls whose English was limited meaning I had to speak in French. My French was also limited so I asked a group of the girls a simple question 'do you like it here and at school?'. Their response was immediate and without hesitation 'of course!' as if I had just asked the stupidest question in the world. It then hit me that the value these girls had for their education was something we couldn't understand. We never will and never have been in a situation where our education had been compromised to the extent they had experienced. This conversation amongst others gave me a whole new outlook on education and my appreciation of all the things I have both inside school and outside.

When we were leaving the last of the four boarding houses, it was painful to say goodbye to the friends we had made, there were lots of tears and we were very resistive to get on the mini bus. The coach ride back to the Kasbah we were staying at was quiet but by the time we got back we had all come to the same conclusion that our fundraising through school could not stop at the end of 2013 and that we were determined to continue it.

It is impossible to illustrate how thankful I am for this new outlook on life (which I know I share with all the other pupils, mums and teachers from Berkhamsted) found through the amazing work that EFA morocco has done for the intelligent, kind and friendly girls we met. This experience has been the best of my life and I know I will never forget all the people who I met and the friends I made. THANK YOU!



One More Thank You!

We wanted to say a thank you to the participating Mums on this trip who, in a spontaneous act of generosity clubbed together to buy the new washing machine for Dar Asni 2! Khadija can be seen here making the proud purchase.

Parents of Bristol Grammar School have a fundraising adventure of their own!

Extract from a parent's journal:

The idea of a parents' trip to Morocco was put forward in February, and 7 parents and 2 members of staff signed up for the trip: visiting the four EFA boarding houses funded by Education for All. As with the students, we all committed to fundraise for Education for All as part of our preparation for the trip, with events ranging from a marathon sponsored swim, cake sales, plus table top, car boot and second hand toy sales. We raised £4500 in total!

After meeting each other at a couple of training walks, fundraising events and at the Soup Kitchen in Bedminster, we traveled to Marrakech and met up for breakfast at the Foucauld hotel on Friday morning for the first part of our trip. Here we also met Mustafa, our mountain guide, who would remain with us throughout the trip.

We took a scenic route out of Marrakech passing through the Palmeraie and the modern part of the city. We eventually drove into the mountains to visit the 12th century Tin Mal mosque. From here we went to the first boarding house in Talat. The girls who live here in term time are clearly very proud of their house: the bedrooms with their triple bunks were pristine, with beds well-made and everything put away. Very few had a small teddy bear on the pillow but otherwise there was no sign of personal belongings. The girls' names were on the doors and the bedding was brightly coloured and immaculate.



All the girls were so friendly, smiling and laughing, and when a group met us on the roof terrace, they each greeted us all individually in the French fashion as if we were old friends. We were treated to a delicious lunch of couscous. There were two dishes piled high with vegetables, meat and couscous and I hope they were not offended by our inability to eat it all! Fruit followed for dessert and mint tea.

All too soon it was time to move on to Ourigaine where we watched part of a French lesson and then to the 2 boarding houses in Asni, the last of which was only opened in September. The welcome from the house mothers and girls was the same in each of the houses: very caring, welcoming and so proud of their achievements. It was lovely to see the obvious enjoyment and benefits enjoyed by the girls fortunate enough to be awarded an EFA scholarship.

Saxion University, Our Dutch Supporters: Learning together for a better world.



4Charity

SAXION

Every three years, Saxion University of Applied Sciences in Deventer, supports a new charity. This year's choice was Education For All. Six students, all studying Tourism Management at Saxion Deventer, were greatly inspired and so they founded the group '4Charity' to raise funds for Education For All.

The students were assigned to organize two events in order to raise funds for 'Education for All'. Firstly, residents of the nursing home De Groote en Voorster from Deventer were treated to a game of Bingo by our group! Together with Cees Wilkeshuisschool Primary School, our students arranged a sponsored run for children from eight till twelve years old. More than a 100 pupils joined the run and we raised a large amount of money. All the money was donated to Education for All.

"We believe that every child deserves a great future, and the students of Saxion hope to have contributed to this goal with our donation."



We would like to thank Saxion University for all their support over these past 3 years!

Things to look forward to...

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 <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.

**Education for All,
Morocco
Immeuble El Batoul,
2eme étage,
N° 5, Ave
Mohammed V,
Guéliz,
Marrakech, Morocco**

**Tel: +212 (0)5 24 42 19 96
Tel: +33 4 66 45 83 95**

**www.efamorocco.org
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!

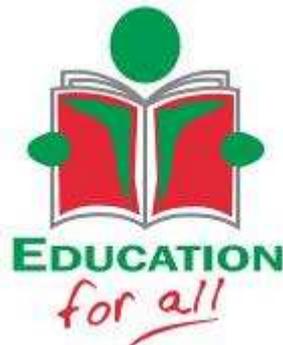
So, do something you always wanted to do, or something you never thought you would be able to do. Go on see what you're made of and climb Toubkal in aid of EFA!

The next trip will be in June 2014 and it costs 250 euros per person.

Follow the link for further details:

<http://www.efamorocco.org/get-involved/events/toubkal-ascent.html>

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



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 four boarding houses for girls, two in Asni (45km from Marrakech), one in Ouirgane (60 km from Marrakech) and one in 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 girls with their studies.

- **Your main job** will be to help the girls with their homework and give them **extra French lessons**.
- You will also **help the housemothers** with their daily tasks.
- **Help EFA** to be connected with the donors.



Recruiting now for 2015-2016.

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

info@efamorocco.org