

NEWS RELEASE
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23 Yr Old Charlottean Builds Interest in African Orphans into Full-time Foundation

Charlotte, NC — While she can't focus the world's attention on the plight of African children like celebrities Angelina Jolie or Oprah Winfrey, a young woman from Charlotte, NC is marshalling help from area young people to make a serious difference in the lives of African orphans through the launching of The Foundation for Tomorrow.

Twenty three year old Meghann Gunderman may have grown up in Charlotte but she definitely thinks globally. Little more than a year and a half ago Gunderman accepted her diploma from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and started a career in Global Marketing and Sponsorship at Barclays Capital in New York City. She was back on U.S. soil, but her heart remained on a different continent. Majoring in International Relations and Geography, Gunderman had spent much of her college years volunteering at an orphanage in rural Tanzania within driving distance of the famed Mount Kilimanjaro. And when she wasn't there, Gunderman was amassing interest and raising funds to shore up an orphanage where as many as 35 children from age 1 month to 5 years old lived with the barest of necessities. Gunderman talked about the plight of African orphans to anyone who would listen. There are 34 million orphans in Africa and over one million in Tanzania alone. At the Nkoaranga Orphanage they needed help to buy a backup generator to provide power during frequent outages. She looked for help to buy the orphanage a water filter to provide safe drinking water in an area plagued with malaria. And then there was the question of education.

"At five years old the children age out of the orphanage and usually have nowhere to go but the streets." says Gunderman. "While children in the states are typically beginning years of free education, without someone to pay for it, Tanzanian youth are largely left to work in the fields or become street children." Gunderman was determined to find a home and provide an education for a set of Maasai triplets. Boarding school was the answer to both needs so she enrolled Helena, and brothers Yusufu and Matayu in a local primary English speaking boarding school. But that was just the start.

A so-called "lifer" at Charlotte Country Day School (kindergarten through twelfth grade) Gunderman turned to CCDS students to help her. The Aquilifer service club raised funds to send a fourth child from the orphanage to boarding school and buy the orphanage a much needed washing machine. Through expanding her fund raising efforts over the past three years, Gunderman has facilitated full scholarships for more than 20 Tanzanian orphans to attend boarding school.

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In December 2006, Gunderman took her efforts full time incorporating The Foundation for Tomorrow and receiving official non-profit 501(c)(3) status. In January of this year another Charlotte native University of Virginia graduate, Hunter Flint was named TFFT's first Managing Director for Tanzania. Beginning in July, Flint will begin construction of a library and computer lab and teaching English at the Fikiria Kwanza Academy. The Foundation has set an initial goal of funding scholarships for 200 orphans annually.

According to Charlotte native Sarah Belk, "The Foundation for Tomorrow has developed a great way to give orphans both a home and education at the same time. These are two of the most important things anyone can give a child. By volunteering in Tanzania with The Foundation For Tomorrow our family can be a small part of the village it takes to raise a child. The Foundation for Tomorrow truly offers these children a chance for a brighter future!"

The Foundation For Tomorrow strives to empower the future of the developing nations by educating their youth. TFFT supports orphans who otherwise would not be able to receive a primary, secondary or tertiary education. The Foundation for Tomorrow seeks to create environments in which peace, health and human welfare prosper as a result of a well-educated population. The Foundation For Tomorrow is headquartered in New York, NY and Charlotte, NC. For more information call 704-340-8969. Donations can be made at www.thefoundationfortomorrow.org

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