



# Madagascar School Project Wish List

*Helping Children Thrive in the Classroom and Beyond*



Extreme poverty in Madagascar affects 80% of Malagasy children. Poverty cheats them of their childhood as 25% of these children leave school to work. Poverty results in child abandonment because families can't afford to keep their children. Poverty causes many Malagasy children to be stunted due to chronic malnutrition. Poverty is just plain wrong. To provide relief, the Madagascar School Project (MSP) was formed in 2008 to build a school, *Sekoly Tenaquip*, in the rural village of Ambohiborosy, Madagascar. It is no secret that education not only reduces poverty. It also promotes gender equality (one additional school year can increase a woman's earnings by 10-20%), and saves children's lives (a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of 5). What more, at *Sekoly Tenaquip* the children are also learning how to be fabulous future leaders. The village is very proud that the education, empowerment, food, and healthcare that the children receive are of the highest quality. **All this has been made possible by the generosity of people just like you!** If you desire to help the MSP provide an environment where the Ambohiborosy children can thrive in the classroom and beyond, please choose to donate to one of the 4 categories described on the wish list below.

## Greatest Need

Although the MSP is flexible in prioritizing the countless needs, sometimes unexpected circumstances require additional funds. When the school ran out of water it became necessary to build a reservoir. When the balcony rail on the high school rusted and broke, it needed to be replaced quickly before there was an accident. Painting roofs before they become rusty helps preserve them into the future. These are the sorts of things that come up at the school that need immediate attention but there may not funds to help. **Can you help?**



## Health and Nutrition

When the school first opened, the children were very reserved but we quickly learned that this was not an aspect of their culture. It was because many were coming to school on an empty belly. There was not enough food at home and some of these children had to walk over an hour to get to school. Today, all *Sekoly Tenaquip* students get a lunch (\$40/year/child) and there is a breakfast program for the more malnourished children. Now the children are flourishing on the playground and are more engaged academically. The MSP even provides high protein pabulum to the village toddlers (\$5/child/month) to ensure that their brains can properly develop so they will be ready to learn by the time they are old enough to go to school. Vaccinations, dentistry, eye care and emergency interventions are also provided to all *Sekoly Tenaquip* students, and this is a great relief to the parents who would otherwise be unable to afford these medical services. No parent should endure the feeling of helplessness if they do not have the resources to care for their child. **Can you help?**

## Education

They say education is preparation for life but in Madagascar, education is life itself! For this reason, the *Sekoly Tenaquip* students deserve to have the best education possible. The MSP's commitment to providing quality education is why *Sekoly Tenaquip* students are so academically successful compared to other schools in the area. Unlike a lot of other Malagasy schools, the MSP teachers take an interest in their students lives so the children know they have another adult advocate outside of their home. Families have started moving into the area just so that their children can attend the school and receive an education that will give them the tools to a better future. Contributions to this category can cover a student's yearly tuition (\$104/child), sponsor graduates through the scholarship fund, provide a teacher's monthly salary (\$70/teacher) or pay for teacher training. Although chalk slates are routinely used in our classrooms, donations help provide our students with access to stationary, art supplies, children's books, and Kindergarten materials (toys and manipulatives) which are considered real luxuries in Madagascar. Currently there is a need for pedal sewing machines. With these machines, some of the older children are learning the trade of sewing and are gaining experience by sewing the school uniforms. Why work in a rice paddy if you can sew for a living? **Can you help?**



## Sustainability

Although the school is moving in the direction of financial independent and self-management, external funding is still required. The extensive gardens around *Sekoly Tenaquip* are part of a strategy to promote sustainability. The produce is used in the lunch program and any excess is sold to profit the school. Parents who are unable to afford their children's tuition can earn it by working alongside the gardening team. The garden also provides employment and employees receives training in permaculture and organic farming techniques which they are encouraged to share with local farmers. Donations help to pay for the salaries and training of the gardening staff and to buy seeds and trees. Although the fruit trees that were planted 5 years ago are finally starting to produce fruit, the MSP hopes to plant more. Besides providing food, the additional trees will beautify the school grounds and also mitigate the effects of the terrible deforestation in the area. Other sustainability strategies that have been implemented are alternative fuels such as solar power and biogas. In consultation with the school community, the MSP is considering business ventures in the city where the proceeds will go to the school. **Can you help?**

## ***Sekoly Tenaquip* is changing lives!**

**It was the worst of times.** Mr. Voahangy lost his job, the family's city home was inhabitable, and he could no longer afford to send his five children to school. But then he heard about a school in the country that offered a fabulous education to the poorest of the poor. With nothing to lose, Mr. Voahangy moved his family into a friend's small house in Ambohiborosy so that his children could attend *Sekoly Tenaquip*. **It is the best of times.** Not only have their children been educated, but Mrs. Voahangy sells her handicrafts to volunteers to the school and for sale in Canada. Her talents have earned her a permanent position teaching her handiwork at the school. Their son Ndimby was able to get a scholarship through MSP to learn the technology of using solar power. Now he and another student are setting up their own small business to advance the use of this environmentally helpful technology and to bring electricity to households that have never had it before.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount Donated</b>
<b>Greatest Need</b>	
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>	
<b>Education</b>	
<b>Sustainability</b>	
<b>Total Amount</b>	



Thank you! Your contribution will go a long way to support the extraordinary work of the MSP, teachers, staff and volunteers who are working hard to provide a safe haven so that the *Sekoly Tenaquip* students can grow up strong, resilient and to their full. This is your way of creating a better world.



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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On behalf of the school community of the Madagascar School Project, THANK YOU for donating. Snail mail the completed form to the address below and address cheques or money orders to the Madagascar School Project. Payments can also be made on the MSP website through a PayPal donation. If choosing this payment option, please send an email to Kathy Lucking explaining which categories are selected. A tax-deductible receipt will be issued at the end of the year. If this is a gift for someone, in the comment section please specify how many gift cards you need sent to you so that you can distribute the cards to your gifted friends.



Charitable Registration # 857467625 RR0001

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