



Building Tomorrow Announces Enrollment of Over 51,000 Out-of-School Students in Uganda

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building Tomorrow, an Indianapolis-based non-profit organization, has exceeded a five-year target set in 2014 by enrolling 51,941 out-of-school students in underserved rural communities throughout Uganda, over 50% of which are young girls.

“To put this achievement in perspective, we’ve enrolled more than one out-of-school child every 50 minutes for the last five years straight,” George Srour, Chief Dreamer of Building Tomorrow said. “This is a remarkable milestone for our entire team. And while we’re really proud of what we’ve done, we know our work must continue to ensure every child is not only enrolled in school, but demonstrating learning gains, too.”

Building Tomorrow’s \$12.5 million USD Educate51k initiative was launched in August 2014 in partnership with Educate A Child, a program of the Education Above All Foundation. Building Tomorrow is one of just 42 partner organizations of Educate A Child alongside organizations such as the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

“We’re incredibly proud of all that our staff, especially our front-line team, has done in order to reach this magnificent milestone,” Jean Blackwell, Chairwoman of the Board of Building Tomorrow, said. “An incredible amount of hard work and dedication to our shared vision have gone into reaching this stage.”

Since launching the initiative, Building Tomorrow has constructed and opened 55 primary-level schools in 28 districts throughout Uganda in a unique cost-sharing partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Finance. Also, 150 Building Tomorrow Fellows have been deployed to over 600 school communities, serving two-year terms and training a growing corps of community education volunteers (CEVs) who aid in the enrollment of out-of-school children and provide additional tutoring and teaching capacity in rural schools.

While progress has been made to ensure universal access to education throughout Uganda, it is believed 750 parishes throughout the country are still without a safe, permanent primary school structure and over 700,000 students at the primary-level remain out-of-school. Moreover, only three out of every ten students in Uganda who start primary school will complete a full cycle, one of the highest primary drop-out rates in the world.

“The way in which Building Tomorrow is engaging communities in the provision of an education for their own children continues to be encouraging to us,” Joseph Kaliisa, Country Director for Building Tomorrow Uganda said. “Community engagement is the key in ensuring our children get to school, stay in school and graduate from school.”

Each Building Tomorrow school is constructed on at least three acres of donated land and with over 10,000 hours of donated labor. As of December 2018, partner communities working in conjunction with Building Tomorrow had donated over \$1.88 million USD in support of school construction.

Building Tomorrow plans to open an additional five schools in 2019, bringing its total number of constructed schools to 80, inclusive of 20 built and opened prior to the launch of Educate51k.

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Building Tomorrow improves access to child-friendly, community-supported schools by providing an inclusive, quality education for underserved children in East Africa. Through its Thriving Schools program, Building Tomorrow Fellows recruit and train Community Education Volunteers, together bringing out-of-school children into the classroom while working with school leadership to ensure access to a quality, inclusive school environment. Building Tomorrow also works hand-in-hand with local communities, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education to construct new primary schools where no formal primary school exists. More information is available at www.buildingtomorrow.org.

Educate A Child, a program of the Education Above All Foundation, is a global initiative launched by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar, which aims to significantly reduce the numbers of children worldwide who are missing out on their right to education. An estimated 64 million primary school-aged children in the world have no access to education, the vast majority of them live in extreme poverty. They include children affected by conflict and natural disasters, but also those in urban slums or remote rural areas. More information is available at www.educateachild.org.

For more information, please contact:

USA

George Srour
Chief Dreamer
Building Tomorrow, Inc.
317-632-3545

Uganda

Joseph Kaliisa
Country Director
Building Tomorrow Uganda
+256 0772 412 848