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Tuskegee Trot Receives Great Support from the Parker Community



Parker teachers, parents and students joined together for the Tuskegee Trot on a mid-May Saturday to support The Building Fund (TBF), a charitable foundation formed by Parker alumna, Jessyca Dudley â€™02.

Parent volunteer Toni Hargis spearheaded the coordination of the event, TBFâ€™s first fundraiser since its inception in 2004. The afternoon saw sponsored participants running or walking laps s around Parkerâ€™s Ray Field to raise more than five thousand dollars for the Tuskegee International School in Ghana W. Africa.

Funds raised from the Tuskegee Trot will go towards aiding in the construction of the Tuskegee School, as well as providing scholarships for orphaned and needy Ghana students, fund additional teacher training and provide opportunities for volunteers to work with the students at the school.

TBF works to create and sustain opportunities in education by ensuring that resources in the form of classes, schools, scholarships, volunteer opportunities and educational funding are available to as many children as the foundation is capable of reaching.

Dudley â€™02 was inspired to create TBF after spending two months in 2004 as a volunteer teacher in Ghana, West Africa, at the Tuskegee International School. â€œOn my first day at the school, I was struck by the condition of the classrooms. The walls were bare, the floors were made of dirt, there were barely enough seats for the students, barely enough classrooms, no running water and the only books were the government-issued workbooks that all students in Ghana receive. There were no toys in the preschoolerâ€™s rooms, no reading books or posters or any of the things that I had grown used to seeing in every classroom that I have ever been in.â€

Upon returning home, Jessyca knew there was more she could do than just volunteer at the school. With the support of her former teacher, Beverly â€œGreenieâ€ Greenberg, she began work on founding TBF. â€œAfter telling Greenie about my experience and the needs of the school, she was eager to help and has since made two trips to the Tuskegee School. She has become an instrumental part of TBF and our efforts.â€

The success from the Tuskegee Trot will no doubt encourage Jessyca to do more to help others through TBF and hopes that the organization will continue to grow and provide more opportunities in education in more locations. â€œIt is my sincere hope that the organization will be able to contribute to the creation and sustenance of education.â€

For more information on TBF and the Tuskegee International School, visit thebuildingfund.org.

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