



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING SCHOOL OF LUBUMBASHI

5 February 2011

Dear Friends,

The United Methodist international school in Lubumbashi, TESOL, has kicked off its 2011 fund-raising campaign. On Jan 29, at a well-attended parent meeting, the members of the school's Administrative Council announced the plan to build a new campus on a growing edge of town. With the growth of the French international school on the property we currently occupy, we see that potential for expansion may be limited, and yet our student numbers and our programs are increasing. The Council told the parents that we have found a large piece of land, which we can pay for in installments, but we have to construct the buildings and move the school completely at one time.

So the next topic at the meeting was how to raise the money to build enough buildings to move our entire school to the new site! Staff and Council had already been discussing ideas, and parents contributed others. We will be contacting local businesses, who benefit in various ways from the presence of a good English-medium school in a city where most schools use French for instruction, and we hope for help from them. But the school community also wants to put forth a good effort to raise funds. This week we started with food sales at break-time two days a week, and the next event will be a sponsored walk on Saturday, February 26. The students will be walking laps within our school grounds: one lap is all the way around our big soccer field and all the way around our buildings, approximately half a mile. Students will walk at least 10 laps, and their sponsors will pay them \$5 per lap for the number of laps each sponsor is willing to support.

That's where you come in. We thought it might be fun if you would join us in this sponsored walk. Either you could be a sponsor for one of our students, or you yourselves could have your own sponsored walk and contribute the funds to our cause. In either case you could send the funds through the recognized United Methodist Advance program, using our usual project name and number (English-speaking School of Lubumbashi, 10337a).

If you want to be a sponsor for one of our students, you can either let us select a student, perhaps one less likely to find local sponsors, or you can specify that you'd like to support, for instance, a girl in Grade 7 or 8, and we'd find the candidate closest to your wishes. Whether you are sponsoring a student or doing your own walk, it would be something that your young people could participate in, giving them a feeling of partnership. Your own walk would not necessarily have to be the same date as ours, but it would be fun to know of your plans by February 26 and let our walkers know that others would be walking "with them" unseen. Your support will show our students that people they don't even know are interested in their educational future and are encouraging them in their fund-raising efforts.

This sponsored walk is a bit of an experiment for us. Some of our international students are newly arrived in Lubumbashi and have few acquaintances locally to ask for sponsors, and this is a pretty new concept in fund-raising here in general. In any case, the exercise will be healthy for everyone, and any funds we raise will bring us closer to our move to our new site.

Ellen 

Four Ways to Send Your Contributions through the Advance Program:	
1. Through local United Methodist congregation and annual conference treasurer	
2. By phone, using your credit card	(888) 252-6174
3. Online, using your credit card	http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/advance/index.cfm?
4. By mail, sending a check	Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068, GPO New York, NY 10087-9068
You will need to know our	
Project Name	English-speaking School of Lubumbashi
Project Number	10337a