



Sophia Warioba is the head of Ngongongare Secondary School. Although only 10% of children have a chance at secondary school, Ngongongare, like many government schools in Tanzania, has too many students for its resources. Their 373 students share the 4 classrooms and six teachers. An additional hundred students are expected to attend the school next year. Not only that, the school lacks sufficient textbooks for the students. Students meticulously copy any notes from the blackboard, which serve as their only source from which to study. Many spend long hours at the Jifundishe Free Library, where they have access to the textbooks they are taught from in class; sometimes this is the first time they are physically able to use the book.

"This organization has got a great help to our school," Sophia says.

An additional difficulty for students is that starting in secondary school, courses are taught in English rather than Swahili. Forced to study subjects like biology and math in a language they previously knew only basic greetings and vocabulary in, students struggle and studying is an extra challenge.

Jifundishe created the Houston Scholarship Fund in 2007 to help students whose families couldn't afford to pay for their education past primary school, the approximate equivalent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade education. Secondary school, similar to an American middle school, costs \$1000 per student for the entire four years. The scholarship fund currently supports 32 kids at several schools in Tanzania. It is especially devoted to helping girls, who are often the last priority educationally for a family sending children to school. However, completing secondary school is the key to employability. There are 16 Houston Scholarship Fund recipients at Ngongongare. The fund pays their school contribution as well as additional fees for things like food and uniforms.

"Together with the help of that library, the volunteers, and the teachers which are also using the library, [the students'] performance increased," Sophia says. The success of these students is crucial to their future- failure means the end of the road educationally, unless their parents can afford hefty private school costs. Students have gained confidence about their academic ability and mastery of English due to the accessibility of the library's resources as well as volunteers that have taught English and math at Ngongongare.