

Project Overview

Mission: *To assist the technological advancement of education in African communities through the increased use of computers.*

Objectives for Mission Completion:

- I. To expand the reliable access to computers for students.
- II. To aid the acquisition of computer hardware in addition to other hardware that are necessary for a proper, effective learning environment.
- III. To instruct in the usage of computers and related hardware.
- IV. To collaborate and brainstorm a means by which updated technology may be integrated into the education of students starting at a young age.
- V. To assist the connection of students in Africa with other African students in addition to students in America.

Expansion of Objectives:

- i. **To expand the reliable access to computers for students.** Our primary goal is to help accelerate the use of computers for students. Though Africa is making progress towards matching global levels of computer and internet exposure, progress can be slower than hoped for. We firmly believe that by expanding students' experience with computers from an early age that they will be more competitive and confident in an increasingly global, competitive market.
- ii. **To aid the acquisition of computer hardware in addition to other hardware that are necessary for a proper, effective learning environment.** Though there is often a willingness and desire of students to learn to use computers, limited availability of local resources can inhibit their growth and confidence. We believe that part of the solution to increasing the computer literacy of communities requires a greater ease of access to computers and other tools that are often readily available to students growing up in other communities around the globe. We intend to lower this barrier.
- iii. **To instruct in the usage of computers and related hardware.** Though having the tools necessary to learn and benefit from computer knowledge is a large step, taking advantage of this requires instruction on how to use these tools. We believe that simply giving hardware to communities with limited potential to understand how to use them is of little help and possibly detrimental. We believe that to truly make an impact on a community, a complete job requires guidance in how to use what is often unfamiliar technology. Our group is very interested in being involved in the teaching process.
- iv. **To collaborate and brainstorm a means by which updated technology may be integrated into the education of students starting at a young age.** We believe that the most effective way to increase students' competency with computers is to integrate it into their daily lives and to connect the computers with other topics they are learning. As the educational environment of each community can be different, this requires active collaboration with educators and community leaders to ensure that the most viable options are chosen. We believe the sooner

this process begins in a student's life, the more comfortable and competitive he or she will become in using computers or other related technology.

- v. **To assist the connection of students in Africa with other African students in addition to students in America.** We are strong supporters of expanding the collaboration of different communities and even different cultures. More and more, the computers and the internet are used as a means to link different jobs, research teams, families, and educators from around the globe. We believe that students are at a special age where they can grow up experiencing others with different ideas/values and maybe even languages who are still of the same age. Gaining these skills from an early age can make them stronger members in this new global community.

Mechanisms for Achieving Objectives:

- **Funds:** Money will likely be a large factor of the success and strength of our project. The funds will largely come primarily from 4 different sources:
 - 1) Grants from Wake Forest University
 - 2) Grants from Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - 3) Personal funds of team members
 - 4) Money raised from letter campaigns
 - 5) Money raised from local projects as needed to meet the needs of the project
- **Personnel:** We will likely send two members to Africa to help cut costs. These two members will be very experienced with computers and highly motivated to achieve the completion of the project. These members will also be strongly involved with the design and development of the project.
- **Project Duration:** We plan for this project to "begin" in early-mid May. The availability of our members will be dependent somewhat on the schedule and needs of the members travelling to Africa. The minimum that any member will stay is 2 months but it is more likely that the duration of the trip will last 10-11 weeks.
- **Overall Team:** Our travelling members to Africa will be keeping contact with the overall team back in the USA. This total team currently numbers 7 members.

Additional Thoughts and Information

I believe the strength in our team lies with our passion and determination to create a positive impact on the lives of others. Our desire is to provide a combination of resources, experience, and passion that will all be used to the fullest. We want to be *active* in our efforts. We aim to interact and engage with whomever we are working with to ensure that our project is practical and useful to *them*. We believe this personalized touch is critical to maximizing whatever benefit we may offer.

We are working with Develop Africa and HINT. The target city is Buea, Cameroon.