Following Their Dreams

Beads for Education helps girls in Kenya go to school and create brighter futures.

When Florence Nasoore was 12 and living in rural Kenya, in Africa, she wanted nothing more than to continue her education. But for many Kenyan girls, school is not an option. School costs money. Families are more likely to spend it on educating boys. Many girls are forced to marry. But Florence was able to pursue her dream thanks to Beads for Education. Americans Debby Rooney and Lisa Stevens started Beads. The group matches girls with sponsors who pay for school. Florence was the first of 320 Kenyan girls in third grade through college whom Beads sponsored.

This January, Beads opened a high school. “It’s the realization of a dream to provide our girls with the best education possible and prepare them for college and beyond,” Stevens told TFK. Rooney was there to dedicate the school. The group has helped build three libraries and an elementary school (see “What Money Can Buy”). Beads also helps train teachers.

The new high school is named Tembea, which means “to walk,” in Swahili. Florence is walking toward a bright future. She graduated from college in 2010 and is now a teacher. “Florence is the first in her family to finish high school and college,” says Stevens. “She is an example of the potential for all girls in Kenya.” —By Elizabeth Winchester

What Money Can Buy
At beadsforeducation.org, people can buy beaded Kenyan crafts and help support Beads school projects in other ways.

- Two library books: $10
- A fruit tree: $15
- School supplies (pens, papers, workbooks): $20
- A school desk: $70
- A goat for a school: $70
- A girl’s education for one year: $400

Think ➔ How would having an education change a girl’s life? What impact would that have on her family?

Power Word ➔ rural adjective: having to do with the countryside

To watch a video about Beads, go to timeforkids.com/beads.