



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Most Generous High School in Texas?

Is there such a thing as a “Most Generous High School” in Texas? If there is, the title surely goes to St. Agnes Academy in Houston.

The students at the all-girls school have helped more than 1,000 teenage girls in Kenya be able to stay in school. The Kenyan girls were in danger of dropping out because they could not manage their monthly menstrual cycles.

St. Agnes students raised money to provide the Kenyan girls with sets of reusable sanitary pads. The pads last for 3 years, in many cases long enough for the Kenyan girls to be able to finish school.

The St. Agnes girls worked with One Dollar For Life (ODFL), a Palo Alto-based non-profit that helps developing world children from donations as small as one dollar.

They carried out an ODFL fundraiser where every girl in the school was invited to donate just one dollar to help girls in Nyeri, Kenya. The girls at the Kenyan schools are as young as 13 years of age.

When they first start their period, many of the girls have no way to deal with it. They stay at home, sitting on dry leaves or rags. They miss a week of school. The next

month, they miss another week. Before long, they drop out. They become second-class citizens, because they will ever after have less education than boys.

Students at St. Agnes Academy decided they could help. The school has 925 students. They donated \$6,282.72 to buy reusable sanitary pads for the Kenyan girls, so they can stay in school. That comes to \$6.79 per student. It is one of the highest rates of student giving ever recorded by ODFL.

According to Sr. Jane Meyer, Head of School, “Our young women appreciate the advantages they've been given and that so many of us take for granted. They were thrilled to be able to help sisters in Kenya who were so much worse off than themselves.”

ODFL was founded by a high school teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area. He wanted to show his students the power they actually can have in the world. Its idea is that if everybody will do the smallest bit (\$1), the effect is enormous.

Krystle Powell, who coordinated the fundraiser for St Agnes echoes this idea. “Everybody can help. Anybody can find a dollar,” she said. “Everybody is made bigger for the effort. This is one of the most inspiring things we’ve ever done.”

Since its founding in 2007, ODFL has built 95 small-scale infrastructure projects in ten of the poorest countries in the world, all funded by teenagers’ donations of one dollar.

Brenda Birrell is Program Manager for the Girls Equality Project at ODFL. According to Birrell, more than 50,000,000 girls in the developing world are at risk of dropping out of school every year because they have no way to deal with menstruation.

ODFL provides reusable sanitary supplies to developing world girls free of charge, enabling the girls to stay in school. According to Birrell, “It may be one of the powerful liberations of human potential on the planet.”

Schools that would like to help with ODFL’s Girls’ Equality Project should contact Brenda Birrell at brendab@odfl.org. ODFL has raised funds from private foundations to cover operating costs so every dollar donated goes to the school’s designated project.

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ODFL is a registered 501c3 nonprofit. To learn more, visit odfl.org.