

Concord Monitor

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Concord Students Make Tanzanian Children Priority

Concord High School student Katie Fox has more than pop quizzes and essays on her mind. She's busy trying to raise the standard of education for children in Tanzania.

In 2007, Fox took a trip to Karatu, Tanzania, with her family. Her grandfather, a retired pilot, had spent some time in Karatu years before, and the village had a special place in his heart, which he wanted to share with his family. After meeting villagers and seeing local schools, Fox was able to see first-hand the educational hardships facing Tanzanian children, including the lack of desks, school supplies and technology.

Fox returned to Concord determined to help improve the Karatu educational system. With the help of classmates Kelsey Rainie and Kaytlynn Jacobs-Brett, Fox developed and launched the Youth Venture Team Wakati Ujao, Swahili for "future."

In order to earn designation as a Youth Venture Team, youths must present a new club, service or organization that provides a positive, lasting community benefit. Selection is determined by a panel of community members, and teams must be created, run and managed by youths ages 12 to 20; have clear goals, committed members and realistic budgets; and have a non-controlling adult mentor. Teams receive up to \$1,000 in seed funding.



Katie Fox (left) and Kaytlynn - Brett during their team's Youth Venture selection panel.

Wakati Ujao will raise money for the Karatu Education Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and learning in Karatu by building and restoring education facilities.

To raise money, Wakati Ujao has designed T-shirts to sell and will host yard sales and develop a letter-writing campaign. The team also hopes to educate the community on the important issue of education in Third World countries by passing out flyers and setting up a booth at Concord Market Days.

For more information about Youth Venture, log on to GenV.net.

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