

Educate a Girl, and you Educate a Whole Community

<u>Speaker</u>: Alice Sayo, Director of the Nasaruni Academy for Masaai Girls

Saturday, June 16 at 3:00 p.m. New Market Area Library

Nasaruni Maasai Girls Academy is in the southwestern region of Kenya. The rural area surrounding Nasaruni Academy consists of approximately 7000 families. Some of the main challenges include high illiteracy rates and high rates of alcoholism, especially among the men in the community.

Poverty prevents families from affording to educate all of their children, so daughters are often given away for a bride price.

A young married girl is expected to participate in the usual chores of cooking, fetching water and firewood, milking and tending livestock, fencing the livestock pen and constructing the family home. In addition to all these, she will be expected to bear children at the earliest possible opportunity. In times of hardship such as drought, there is often insufficient food to satisfy a large family. Through education, attitudes can change to increase living standards.

Alice Sayo, Director of Nasaruni Academy for Maasai girls is an educator, administrator, and recipient of the teacher of the Year Awards from the International Research Exchanges Board through the International Leadership Ein Education Program.

Her story begins as the eleventh child in a Maasai family—a place that destined her for an early marriage. Through her mother, an older brother, and global educational opportunities, Alice was able to gain an education. Now she uses that education to "pay it forward" and help other at-risk children too.

This program is free of charge. No pre-registration is necessary