The Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls

Our mission is to create an academically excellent campus where young Nigerian women can come to receive a quality education, in a safe and nurturing environment. The Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls is intended as a beacon of learning that will reach out to the poor and welcome them into this spiritual and academic setting. We will endeavor to foster a spirit of academic excellence, spiritual formation, and leadership development skills. It is our goal that these women will go on to participate and contribute to not only their families and local communities but a rapidly changing diverse global community.

MISSION STATEMENT
Friends of the Poor is a non denominational service organization that works in partnership with relief workers in various parts of the world to provide necessary funds, material goods, medicines and food to aid in the alleviation of poverty and suffering.

Current Directors

Anita V. Figueredo, M.D.
Founder

Jean Colarusso
President

Carmina Morfin
Vice-President

Teresa F. Doyle, PhD
CFO

Xavier Wiechers
Secretary

Current Projects

Mexico
Hospital San Ignacio de Loyola
Tijuana- Casa de los Pobres
Casa Hogar Infantil de San Jose, Tijuana

Nigeria
Boy’s School
St. Peter’s Church
Holy Family Children’s Center
Kozito School
Aids/HIV Clinic and Hospice
Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls

USA/Mexico
Otay Border Region
Hands On Ministry

Mexico
Hospital San Ignacio de Loyola
Tijuana- Casa de los Pobres
Casa Hogar Infantil de San Jose, Tijuana

It is important to note that 98% of your donations go directly to the Friends of the Poor (Less than 2% is spent on administrative costs.)
In 1998, Jean Colarusso, President of Friends of the Poor, began organizing the first of many missions in Africa. With the increasing needs of the various missions in Africa, Friends of the Poor-Africa is focusing efforts to provide the necessary support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Idah, Nigeria</td>
<td>St. Felix Boy’s School</td>
<td>Construction of new classrooms and the establishment of a pig farm to help feed the students and provide additional income</td>
<td>Fully Operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Abuja, Nigeria</td>
<td>St. Peter’s Church</td>
<td>Construction of cathedral</td>
<td>Fully Operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>Idah, Nigeria</td>
<td>Holy Family Children’s Center</td>
<td>Establishment of village for orphaned children, widows and unwed mothers. They receive security, sustenance, education and job training. The village is the first of its kind in Idah.</td>
<td>Fully Operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Idah, Nigeria</td>
<td>Kozito School</td>
<td>Jean Colarusso and Dr. Marvin Threatt set up a computer lab here so that it’s 500 students will have access to the worldwide web and thus participate in a global education program.</td>
<td>Fully Operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Minna, Nigeria</td>
<td>Aids/HIV Clinic and Hospice</td>
<td>Conceived in January of 2006 the clinic was dedicated in January 2007 to address the rampant spread of Aids in the area. The clinic provides testing, treatment, hospice care and prevention education.</td>
<td>Fully Operational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Agbadum-Okpo, Nigeria</td>
<td>Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls</td>
<td>Educational campus for 200 young Nigerian women that will grow over the next 3 years to accommodate 400.</td>
<td>Planning stages: Ground breaking on Jan. 24, 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BACKGROUND DATA OF NIGERIA

Geographical Situation

- Located in the West African sub region
- Nigeria lies between longitude 3° and 14° & between latitudes 4° and 14°
- An area of 923,768 square kilometers or 356,700 sq. miles
- Bordered on the north by republics of Niger and Chad, the west by the Republic of Benin, the east by the Republic of Cameroon and the south by the Atlantic Ocean
- Population of approximately 140 million
- Rain and forest in the south, moist plains in the middle, and arid dry in the north

Socio-Political Environment

- Federal Republic with a presidential system
- President is elected for four years with a two-term maximum
- Corruption is rampant
- Government funds come mainly from oil because taxes are evaded
- Tax reform is now being initiated by the President
- Democracy started in 1999 - the military ruled prior to that
- English is the official language of Nigeria (Pidgin English)

Recent History, Turmoil

- Democracy started in 1999
- Conflicts between Islam and Christianity
- Corruption is rampant
- President Olusegun Obasanjo is fighting tax evasion, expanding agriculture and improving infrastructure
- Previous military rulers supported oil and gas production but now with democracy, more effort is being applied to agriculture
- Since 1999 violence between Christians and Muslims have increased because each wants its own independence
Religious Diversity

- 50% Muslims (predominantly Sunni)
- 40% Christian (almost all Christian faiths)
- 10% other indigenous belief systems
- Northern areas mostly Muslims
- Middle and southern areas about 50/50 – Muslims and Christians
- Eastern area mostly Christian
- Southwest area mostly ethnic

Government

- Presidential system
- President is Commander in Chief
- Armed Forces provide security for the republic
- Judiciary provides order
- Nigeria has 36 states
- Nigeria has 774 local government councils

Ethnicity/Cultural Diversity

- Population is approximately 140 million people
- There are approximately 250 pure ethnic groups
- About ten ethnic groups constitute more than 80% of the population
- The Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba comprise over 40% of the population
- There are 3 main indigenous language spoken by the three predominant ethnic groups
- The population is split – 51% male and 49% female

Socio-Economic Status

- Women are considered lower class than men
- Women do most of the farming
- The majority of families are headed by women
- 44% of male farmers and 72% of the female farmers cultivate less than 3 acres per household
- Poverty is distributed evenly across the country. However, in the northern area, where it is arid, poverty threatens to grow more rapidly because of the dense population

Education

- Education is based on the Western and Islamic styles
- The government runs most of the education process
- Private participation has generally been allowed at the primary and some of the secondary levels
- Primary schools cover the first 6 years
- Islamic style is part of the primary level
- Secondary schools are split into three years of junior secondary and three years of senior secondary schools. These years cover math and technical skills with sciences made almost compulsory
- The third level includes 53 university/institutions, 7 of which are privately owned. There are over 250 higher education and research institutions
Why Build An Academy for Girls?

Education for girls and women will help change poverty and women’s status.

“There is no better return on investment in education than the success of girls.”

“Where the poor woman are educated, the area does not go hungry.”
Observation about Africa - source unknown
PROJECTED IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls

Campus Design

Architectural Components
- Security Wall
- Entry Gate
- Administrative Facilities
- Classrooms
- Computer Lab
- Art Studio
- Music Studio
- Toilet Facilities
- Library
- Refectory
- Kitchen
- Laundry
- Service
- Dormitories
- Bathroom Facilities
- Headmistress Quarters
- Convent
- Teachers Apartments
- Guest Apartment
- Chapel
- Gardens
- Indoor Sports Center
- Football Field
- Tennis Facilities
- Sick Ward
- Staff Housing
PROJECTED IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Campus Design

Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls
Accountability
• A separate account has been set up with the Diocese of Idah for the disbursement of construction funds

Sustainability
• Tuition
• Tuition assistance plan
• Pig and goat farms
• Bore hole, sell bottled water
• Ozzonator Factory

Academic Excellence
• Provide tools and facility to enable higher quality education
• Recruitment of highly qualified staff

Student Application Process

Fundraising
• Friends of Africa has been created as a supportive branch to Friends of the Poor-Africa. This group will help with fundraising to garner funds for the construction of the Academy and bring awareness of the many needs of Nigerian people.

Endowment
• It is the goal to have an endowment in place that will help fund the Academy’s yearly operational costs.

Symbology
• Christian values
• Fruits of the Spirit
• Noted Christian Women in history
• Sacred geometry

Community Outreach
Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial
Academy for Girls

The setting for the Academy is in rural Agbaduma-Okpo, in the province of Idah, Nigeria. Over 52 acres have been donated by nearly 20 different tribal owners. These tribes have committed themselves to this project and have promised more land if needed.

**Construction Budget/Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dormitory</td>
<td>$80,000 per block x 4 = $320,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom</td>
<td>$48,000 per block x 4 = $192,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>$72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refectory</td>
<td>$96,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convent</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Labs</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapel</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,068,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*FINANCIAL OUTLOOK*

“There is no better return on investment in education than the success of girls.”


*These financials have been provided to us by Father James who is currently the head of the men’s seminary in Idah, Nigeria. Upon final design plans, a more accurate and thorough construction bid will be provided. Operational costs and tuition are based on current market prices for the men’s seminary.*
### Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls

**Projected Annual Operational Budget for 200 students**

**Section A: Staff and Administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Annual Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>$2,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Principal</td>
<td>$1,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursar</td>
<td>$1,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>$1,040.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>$1,040.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>$1,456.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Total** $8,736.00

**Section B: Teaching Staff**

1. Teacher $1,456.00

*For the first three years, 10 teachers will be hired. This covers the Junior Secondary school only.*

**Annual Total (X 10 Teachers)** $14,560.00

**Section C: Non–Teaching Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Annual Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 cooks</td>
<td>$2,304.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Driver</td>
<td>$624.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Matron</td>
<td>$1,248.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Security Guards</td>
<td>$5,824.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Section C Annual** $10,000.00

**Section D: Operational Expenses**

1. The cost of food is set at $160.00 per student/per year annual = $32,000.00
2. Electricity to provide diesel fuel an alternative source of power in case of power outage annual = $1,600.00
3. Water (Can not yet attach price as we are hopeful to sink a bore hole) annual = TBD
4. Fuel annual = $1,800.00
5. Firewood annual = $1,664.00

**Total Section D Annual Expenses Approx.** $37,064.00

### Financial Outlook

“There is no better return on investment in education than the success of girls.”


**Grand Annual Total for Salaries** $33,296.00

**Grand Annual Total for Operating Costs** $37,064.00

$70,360.00 divided by 200 students = $351.80 per student/year
Projected Tuition
$160 per term x 3 = $480 annual
100 students at $480 annual = $48,000
50 students at $240 annual (1/2 scholarship) = $12,000
50 students at $0 annual (full scholarship) = $0

total income from tuition = $60,000

expenses = $70,360
(less $60,00)

$10,360.00 short fall

Endowment Projection
• $1,000,000 endowment at 5%/year = $50,000/year
• $500,000 endowment at 5%/year = $25,000/year
• $250,000 endowment at 5%/year = $12,500/year

“There is no better return on investment in education than the success of girls.”
Contract Agreement between Friends of the Poor III (Africa) and The Catholic Diocese of Idah.

A. Friends of the Poor III (Africa) will own the Academy in perpetuity.

B. The Academy will be governed by 2 bodies. A **USA Board of Directors (the Parent)** and a **Nigerian Board of Directors**. USA Board holds precedence over all other governing agencies.

C. Friends of the Poor III (Africa) will finance the construction of the buildings on land owned by the Diocese of Idah.

D. The function of the Board in conjunction with the Bishop of Idah will set forth the policies of the Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls.

E. The USA Board of Directors will appoint the Headmistress of the School.

F. The Bishop of Idah will select, establish and approve the local Board of Directors in Idah, in conjunction with the USA Board of Directors.

_In this agreement Friends of the Poor III (Africa) represents the Friends of the Poor, Inc. projects run by Jean Colarusso._

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Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls

“We are resolved to work for gender equality and the empowerment of women as vital tools to combat poverty and disease, and to achieve development that is truly sustainable; equally, we are determined to build on the contribution of women in managing conflict and building peace.”

- UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan in his Statement on International Women’s Day Celebration
The gift of giving

For Jean Colarusso, helping the poorest of the poor provides a wealth of riches

By John Wilkens
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

December 16, 2006

In this, the season of giving, folks of good will throughout San Diego are writing checks to favorite charities, volunteering at soup kitchens, dropping gifts in "Toys for Tots" bins.

Jean Colarusso is planning another trip to Nigeria.

It will be her fifth. She's going next month to check on various projects she's helped fund: a boy's school, an orphanage, an AIDS clinic. She'll be bringing along plans for a new girl's school.

"There is so much that needs to be done," she said.

Colarusso is 72. She and her husband of 46 years, Calvin, a doctor, live in a home in La Jolla with a sweeping view of the coastline. Their three children and six grandchildren live close enough for regular visits. She could take it easy.

But charity work has always been a big part of her life, especially since 1982, when she and two other women founded Friends of the Poor to help the needy in San Diego and Mexico.

Colarusso still remembers the first time she visited Casa de los Pobres, a charity that provides food, clothing and other assistance to the destitute in Tijuana. She watched the nuns working there and was struck by what she saw as peace and joy on their faces.

"I didn't know what those women had," she said, "but whatever it was, I wanted it."

She helped fund construction of a tuberculosis clinic in a federal prison in Mexico. She stuffed newspapers into makeshift mattresses so the inmates would have something to sleep on. She collected money and supplies for medical clinics on both sides of the border.

"It seemed like she was always gathering cans of food, or clothes - even pennies," said Marcella Johnson, who is friends with Colarusso's daughter Mary Ann and has known the family for 30 years. "She always had a project she was working on."

Over the years, Colarusso has developed a sixth sense about people who need help. One day in 1998, when she was at her church, Mary Star of the Sea in La Jolla, her radar went off.

A priest was visiting from Nigeria. Colarusso knew he probably could use assistance with any number of projects in that impoverished country. But as she was being introduced to him, she was determined to say no. She was too busy already.

Inside her head a voice kept saying, "I will not get involved." But what came out of her mouth was this: "What are your most pressing needs?"

Thinking back on it, she shook her head slightly and said, "I don't know where that came from."

She does, actually. A Catholic, she feels called by God to help the less fortunate, she said. "If I didn't have faith, if I didn't think I should be doing these things, I wouldn't go."

Sitting in the living room of her home on a recent weekday, she turned toward windows that overlook La Jolla Cove. "I wouldn't be able to enjoy all this if I wasn't doing the work I do," she said. "It gives meaning to my life."

"I've never been one for the social scene. I've never been interested in chasing after jewelry or spending days at the spa. I have friends who have a lot more than I do, materially. But they aren't fulfilled. They're bored."

"My life is extremely full."

Nigeria, with an estimated 131 million residents, is Africa's most populous country. Rich in oil, but hobbled by political corruption and fiscal mismanagement, its people are poor. About 60 percent live below the poverty line. The average life expectancy is 47.

"It's probably the last country I would want to go to," Colarusso said. "It has things I hate - injustice and poverty."

Once she met the Nigerian priest and asked about his most pressing needs, though, there was no turning back. "I didn't choose Nigeria," she said. "It chose me."

The first project was to double the size of a boarding school for boys in Isele-Uka, in the southern lowlands outside Benin City, and to fund a pig farm there to provide food and income.

continued
Then a bishop in Nigeria heard what she was doing and asked for help, too, with St. Paul's Cathedral, also in Iselele-Uku. It had been sitting unfinished for 20 years. She agreed to raise the money.

Just sending donations wasn't enough for her, though. She said she had to go to Nigeria to make sure things were done right. "I don't want anyone who is giving us money to have any doubts," she said.

Her family wasn't thrilled. The travel is brutal — two days by plane, then several hours by car. Malaria and dengue fever are common. Robbers lurk. But she was determined. "They know they really can't stop me from going," she said.

She asked Marvin Threatt to travel with her. He is a retired educator. They met at St. Stephen's Church in Valencia Park, where he was the principal of an affiliated charter school and she was a volunteer.

"I jumped at the chance," Threatt said. Part of his excitement was cultural. "As an African-American, I felt a sense of connection to Africa, a sense of belonging," he said. "I'd never been before."

And part of it was the lady who asked. "She is dainty, but very strong-willed," he said. "I marvel at her inner strength. She has the vision, and the heart to carry it out."

Every time they go, they see more that needs to be done. Threatt said the schools lack many of the basics. He's helped develop curriculum, round up books and bring in computers. Access to the Internet, he said, is a rarity there, "something that opens up the world for them."

Colarusso was alarmed by all the children who have been orphaned by AIDS. (There are about 12 million of them in sub-Saharan Africa, according to United Nations estimates.) About two years ago, she started raising money for an orphanage in Ibad, a rural village in south-central Nigeria.

Every fall, Colarusso hosts a spaghetti dinner at her church to raise money for various projects. It typically nets $3,000 from ticket sales. But the orphanage would cost more than $80,000. That's a lot of spaghetti dinners.

Johnson put her in touch with an experienced fundraiser, who suggested using the spaghetti dinner to ask people to buy specific things for the orphanage — so much for a crib, so much for a window, so much for a door.

"People were jumping up and saying, 'I'll buy 10 beds!'" Colarusso recalled. One man, visiting from Texas, wound up donating $20,000 for the roof. "That's the most expensive spaghetti dinner you've ever had," Colarusso told him.

She's used that fundraising technique ever since, and now estimates she has raised at least $200,000 for projects in Nigeria. (According to Friends of the Poor tax returns, roughly 98 percent of all money raised goes directly to assistance for the needy. Colarusso and the other officers receive no compensation; when she travels to Nigeria, she pays her own way.)

Threatt said Colarusso usually is "the only white face in a sea of blackness" in the villages. "It doesn't faze her, and I think people sense her goodness. When she talks to people, they get the sense that she is real. And they respond to that."

She can drive a hard bargain. On the latest project, an AIDS clinic and hospice in Minna, a city about 90 miles northwest of Abuja, the capital, the general contractor didn't want to pay some of the workers. He argued that it would be "an honor and a duty" for them to build something that helps their community.

"I asked him, 'Why would you pick the poorest people not to pay?' I told him if he wasn't going to pay them, I wasn't going to give him any money."

She said they got paid — $3 a day instead of the going rate of $1.

At the end of her last trip to Nigeria, in January, Colarusso was talking to a priest, who had an idea. Here we go again, she thought.

He grew up in a family with seven siblings, and he was the only one allowed to go to school past the sixth grade. That's because all of his siblings are female.

"I want to build a girls' school," he told her. Colarusso said she would have to think about it, pray a little.

A few weeks later, she got a call from the man in Texas who had given $20,000 for the orphanage roof. He wanted to give another $35,000 to the orphanage, in memory of William Kupiec, a La Jolla orthodontist who had just been killed in a collision of two small planes over El Cajon.

Colarusso knew Kupiec. He and his family supported Friends of the Poor over the years. The orphanage is finished, she told the man from Texas, and it doesn't need the money. But, she added, there is another need.

Next month, when Colarusso and Threatt are in Nigeria, ground will be broken in Ibad for the William J. Kupiec Memorial School for girls. It will sit on 52 acres, donated by the local Catholic diocese. About 200 girls will live and study there in buildings designed by Kupiec's daughter, Karla Smith, a San Diego architect.

It will be Colarusso's biggest project yet, and it's most ambitious. She believes educating women — empowering them to better their lives and the lives of their children — "will change the face of Africa."

Colarusso views the project as another sign that she is doing the right thing, and in the right place.

"The people in Nigeria get very little information from the outside world," she said. "They think no one knows what they are going through, no one knows their suffering. To see the looks on their faces when they understand that someone does know and someone does care..."

She smiled. "It's the best feeling in the world."

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More information about Friends of the Poor is available on the Internet at friendsofthepoor.us.

Union-Tribune researcher Beth Wood contributed to this story.
Friends of Africa is a supportive branch of Friends of the Poor. Our mission is to bring awareness to the community of all the good works Friends of the Poor is doing in Africa and to help raise funds to complete these important projects.

**Members**

Michelle Black  
Jean Colarusso  
Susan Cowles  
Diane Czajkowski  
Judy DeVaere  
Sharon Ewing  
Emily Hernandez  
Jeanne Hettick  
Rhonda Houck  
Marcella Johnson  
Hanna Ketchkes  
Donna Lebert  
Jennifer LeMons  
Sharon Lizerbram  
Julie Mayer  
Lynn McComas  
Susan McElroy  
Helen Peck  
Karla Smith  
Sharon Tawfilis  
Cindy Tobin

**Auxiliary**

Stacey Werbelow  
Deborah Sorlie  
Jill Barnes  
Debbie Berry  
Renee Bertken  
Susan Heck  
Cynthia Johnson

Architectural design, graphic design, website design, marketing and many other services pertaining to this project, have been generously donated through the various professional talents of the members of Friends of Africa.

If you are interested in helping us in our efforts, we would love to have you join us! Please contact Marcella Johnson at 858-759-9118 or through e-mail at marcellajoh@aol.com. Thank you very much!
This academy is named in honor of Dr. William J. Kupiec. A loving, husband, father, and grandfather, a true and faithful friend, quick to laugh and quick to forgive. He lived his life with a positive and joyful attitude. Education was instrumental in his life success. Bill and his wife of 47 years, Willela, encouraged their children to continue their education as far as necessary to achieve their goals. They equally encouraged both their sons and daughters to meet their potential. A girl’s academy which creates hope for a better future is a value that honors his memory.

March 10, 1937 - February 8, 2006
If you are interested in helping us to build the Dr. William J. Kupiec Memorial Academy for Girls, please send your tax-deductible donation (tax ID# 95-3847842) with a check made out to “Friends of the Poor” to:

Friends of the Poor
c/o Mrs. Jean Colarusso
8460 Whale Watch Way
La Jolla, CA 92037
(858) 454-4174

or you can make a donation directly online by visiting our website at:

www.friendsofthepoor-africa.org

Thank you very much!