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Trees for Kids: Sami's Project

A Project of the High Atlas Foundation for Elementary School Students in Rural Areas of the Al Haouz, Taroudannt, and Rhamna Provinces of Morocco, and in the Washington, DC Area

Background:

This proposed project builds on the amazing success of the High Atlas Foundation's fruit tree planting with Moroccan students around their rural elementary schools, and its program that engages U.S. students in conversations about fruit tree planting, Morocco, and taking action to support tree planting with families in need. This new initiative with young Moroccan and American students recognizes the abiding promise of children for our future, and the essential good of tree planting for human life. The Project is inspired in loving memory of Sami. His short life of struggle against cancer and his love for the outdoors remind us of this.

Project Description:

As part of HAF's [One Million Tree Campaign](#), this project seeks \$10,000 to support the planting of fruit trees with rural school children in Morocco. The 4,000 fruit trees to be planted in areas around the school buildings, do not require the application of pesticides, and include almond, cherry, fig, and walnut in the Al Haouz and Taroudannt provinces, and olive trees in the Rhamna province. Ninety-six schools are participating in this project, and each school will receive approximately 40 trees. HAF's project manager and the organization's six community facilitators will manage this project and work with teachers, community members, local education delegates, and members of communal councils to coordinate the planting of trees with student participation, and discuss with students the social and environmental benefits of tree planting. Labor to plant the trees is provided in-kind by the communities.

In conjunction with these activities in Morocco, this project also facilitates with U.S. elementary school students in the DC area tree planting activities, activities to raise funds to plant sister trees in Morocco, and conversations on Moroccan geography and culture, volunteerism, and environmental awareness. HAF Board Member Tina Khatami and Dr. Rachid El Kouhen, Sami's father, will volunteer together to organize these activities, including a Fun Run Event, which raises funds for tree planting in Morocco.

The project programs are designed for students in grades one through six, and are planned and implemented in partnership with all community, civil, and governmental stakeholders.

To contribute to Trees for Kids: Sami's Initiative, you can make a [secure online contribution](#) or send a check to the above address. Let's make this happen together.

HAF's Mission:

The High Atlas Foundation works to establish development projects in different parts of Morocco that local communities design and manage, and that are in partnership with government and non-government agencies. HAF uses a participatory development approach that includes beneficiaries as active partners in every step of the development process – from prioritizing development goals to project implementation and management to monitoring and evaluation. Key to this approach is the facilitation of community planning meetings where beneficiaries together determine the projects they want to undertake and create plans of action.