Wow! Here we are. At the end of another exciting year for MFSI. We have been south and north, east and west; then to USA and to Mankon, the hinterlands of Cameroon. For the naïve, The Mankon Forum Scholarship Initiative (MFSI) is a non profit organization with a tax exempt status under the laws of the united States of America. We were officially registered in 2006 and our first scholarship class recruited in 2008. MFSI objectives are to support the academically strong but financially handicapped children of Mankon. Our scholarship recipients are selected via a competitive application process as they sit for the Cameroon Government Common Entrance. MFSI has gathered invaluable experience and lessons along the way and we are undoubtedly a better organization. With a solid foundation to rely on, MFSI looks to stay the course and offer the young generation of Mankon a chance at education, that would otherwise be impossible.

In fulfilling our mission, MFSI officially launched its scholarship application process for the class of 2008 in November 2007. By March 2008, we were excited to know that 101 applicants from 14 different primary schools in Mankon were vying to be recipients of our scholarships. Applicants ranged from Orphans through Princesses to the children physicians. By July 2008, the results of the Government common entrance were released and MFSI quickly moved to process the 2008 application pool. We were thrilled but also humbled by the diversity of our applicant pool. Their stories were unique and their life experiences echoed children in need of financial support for their academic flames to stay burning. Upon comprehensive review, MFSI selected 10 excellent candidates that are currently enrolled into GHS Mankon. Following the scholarship award ceremony, coordinated by Mr. Chobufò and Mr. Abanda, our scholars and parents pledged their commitment to the principles of MFSI and vowed to keep their spots on the high table. Ultimately, their transcripts will give us the answers. To read more about our scholarship recipients, please visit our scholarship website. We want to specially say thanks to the administration of GHS Mankon who have partnered with us. They have generously agreed to enroll any MFSI scholar into their coveted institution. We promise to play our part in maintaining the positive relations. As at the date of this report, our relationship has been very positive and we can proudly provide objective
data to our readers as to how the Index scholarship class is doing. First Trimester results are in as at the time this report left for the Press!

Financially, MFSI continued to be aggressive in its efforts at fundraising. The MFSI wrist bands were produced and have been on sale for a minimum of 2 dollars each. They have been widely distributed across the United States and I have been so humbled to see proud well wishers of MFSI putting on their wrist bands. Our other fund raising efforts included the dollar for dollar match program, the ‘a dollar a day’ pledge, and some individuals elected to pledge 25 dollars a month. We also were blessed to have new members join the ranks of MFSI. We currently have 12 registered members. To see a complete list of our registered members, visit our website at www.mankonscholarships.org. Registration requires a one time fee of 100 dollars and an annual fee of 25 dollars. By becoming a member, these individuals showed commitment to supporting MFSI both financially and intellectually. Our financial target for 2008 was to raise at least a net 6000.00 dollars. While we never eclipsed this threshold, we are proud to note that we were so close!!!!! I cease the opportunity to say THANK YOU to our donors who have been incredibly generous. Please to see a complete list of our donors, visit the scholarship website. The detailed financial report is available to registered members of MFSI at this time.

Looking forward, MFSI is very excited. We have launched the 2009 application season and we look to recruit our second class of 10 fine Mankon Scholars and Citizens. According to timeline, we expect completed application forms to be back in the office of MFSI by May 1st 2009. Depending on the release of the common entrance results, we project that our final list of 2009 recipients will be made available by Mid July 2009. And our scholarship award ceremony will be held in Mid August. We want all of you to recognize that our scholarship ceremonies would be attended by all continuing scholars plus the inductees.

Because of the generosity and kindness of our donors, MFSI resolved to honor them in a special way. Individuals or groups that have donated 250 dollars or more into the coffers of MFSI are eligible to have one of our scholars named to their preference. I highlight the case of Dr Pennathur at the University of Michigan, whose 250 dollars were specifically delegated towards supporting a female student for a year. This would be in honor of his maternal grandfather, Nagasami who was a champion in his own right at supporting and encouraging educational excellence at a time when women
were deemed the lesser sex. In recognition of this wish, MFSI has voted to name the best Female student the ‘Nagasami MFSI scholar for 2009/2010 academic year. We hope that other individuals would follow suite and remember their loved ones in a special way by equipping our scholars with the tool that matters the most: Education. As usual, our scholarship award ceremony would be scheduled in August 2009. Stay on the watch for more information and we encourage you to plan and attend our outreach programs. We project to have guest speakers address our scholars by December 2010. Financially, we project to raise a net 6,000.00 dollars in 2009 for the activities of MFSI.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we expound on our outreach, I want you to recognize that MFSI upholds education in the context of good citizenship. Our support programs for our scholars are under development. Before I proceed, I would like to draw your attention to the Lieberman’s and the Middleton’s. This family includes Matt, Scott; their mom Janice and Dad Andy who have worked consistently with me over the last 6 months. Their ultimate goal is to ship soccer supplies to our scholarship program in Cameroon. I forecast this will happen before Mid 2009. Once this is accomplished, we will polish up the social component of our program, iron out the kinks and start engaging our scholars into leadership roles such as organizing Summer Soccer competitions. Growing up, oh how I revere the days of Arab Contractors, The Aturofo football Club in their classy display of some fine soccer at the Ntaw Mankon that had become a summer tradition and expectation. The Middleton’s have organized incredible dinners and invited MFSI over on a good number of occasions. Though we have never been able to honor all the invitations, we are ever grateful for the support we generate and maintain! We look forward to continuous relationships while hoping to expand our tentacles as well.

We continue to work relentlessly to give you the most current information on our website. We encourage you to visit it often and learn of the incredible ways you can partner with us in ensuring excellence for MFSI and its scholars. We have thus completely revamped our website and we want you to visit it and pay attention to the details. In addition, follow the donate link to support the efforts of MFSI. Do not underestimate the power of your donations. Just as a journey of a thousand miles begins with a step, our journey to a million dollars begins with your One Dollar.
Before I pen down, let me take a moment and extend sincere holiday wishes to all friends and well wishers of MFSI. Whether you are near or far, we have you in our thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the MFSI board and its members, we extend special greetings and promise to stay in constant communication.

Long live MFSI

Sincerely
Fausta Ditah
Chairman of the Mankon Forum Scholarship Initiative.
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