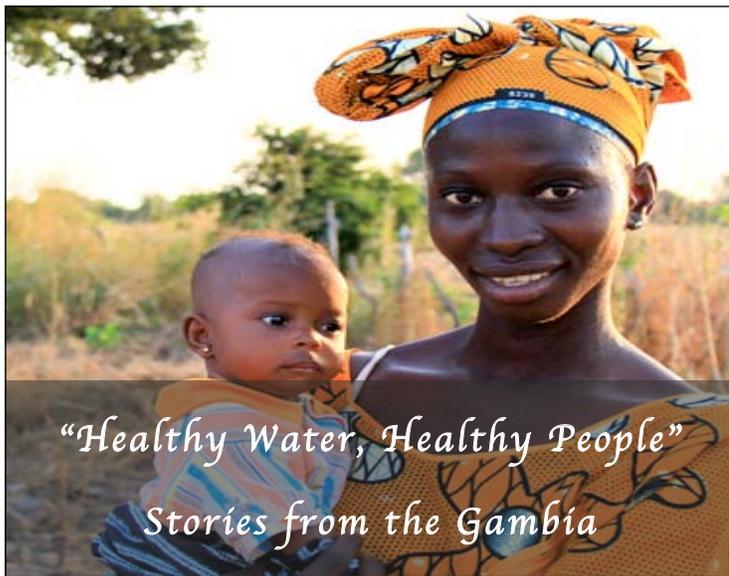




Spring 2013

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"Healthy Water, Healthy People"
Stories from the Gambia

Date: Saturday, 20th April 2013
Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Venue: Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax
Auction | Dinner | Entertainment



Countdown to the 28th Annual African Dinner is on!

Every year NSGA hosts an annual fundraising dinner where donors, volunteers, staff and members of the community get together and celebrate another successful year.

"It's a night to celebrate the uniqueness of the incredible relationship between our two peoples on opposite sides of the Atlantic," says Muhammed Ngallan, executive director of NSGA. "It's a night that we say thank you to our ardent supporters and get the ball rolling for another year of collaboration in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable Gambians."

This year's dinner will be one for the books. Guests will enjoy a three course authentic Gambian meal and a live entertainment, including a Gambian drumming performance.

There will also be a silent auction and guests will have a chance to bid on a week in The Gambia at a five star hotel.

The proceeds of the dinner ensure that NSGA continues to: give a voice to women and girls; reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS; cut down on the fatal challenges posed by malaria to children and vulnerable women; bring education to Gambian youth; promote hygiene and improve knowledge on healthy water habits.

"The proceeds of the dinner build a healthy and hopeful nation," says Ngallan. "By supporting NSGA, you're taking part in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable people around the world."

Ticket Information:

Adults: \$85/each
Students: \$60/each
Table of 10: \$800/table

To purchase, please contact:

1.902.423.1360 (NSGA Head Office, Halifax)
muhammed.ngallan@novascotiagambia.ca



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Love4Gambia 2013: Across a country in a race for change



Visiting Africa inspired Jennifer Pasiciel to pursue a career in international health promotion and prevention. Her visit gave her a first-hand account of the inequities and poverty arising in Africa and inspired Jennifer to do what she could to help. Currently a health promotion student at Dalhousie, Jennifer will be heading to The Gambia in July for a 17-day marathon in partnership with the NSGA.

“NSGAs methods and programs work and are making a difference in the lives of so many Gambian children. I am so happy that I am able to help raise money for an organization that has taken this stance and is working efficiently and effectively throughout the Gambia to change the lives of thousands of children every year,” says Pasiciel.

Pasiciel started running in grade 12, and has since completed six marathons, becoming an avid runner. Advice from a professor introduced Jennifer to the NSGA Love4Gambia campaign, now in its third year.

Pasiciel will be facing the challenges of humidity and heat as she runs 25 km a day across The Gambia. She looks forward to the once-in-a-lifetime experience, and to have the opportunity to meet the people of The Gambia and immerse herself in the culture and life that entails.

Her goal is to raise \$15,000. She is hard at work raising funds and **you can help** her by signing up for the Love4Gambia/ NSGA Charity Challenge at the Blue Nose Marathon May 17-19, 2013. [Register here.](#)



You can follow Pasiciel's training and fundraising efforts at:
www.Love4Gambia.com
[@Love4GambiaJenn](https://facebook.com/pages/Love4Gambia)



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From The Gambia, to Canada, to the UK and back again: New NSGA employee is a familiar face



Joseph Demba was a top student in his high school in 1990 when the principal announced to his class that several lucky students were going to experience the journey of a lifetime: they were going to travel to Halifax, NS to take part in health education. The idea of such a thing inspired Joseph, who comes from a small village called Darsilami in the western region of The Gambia.

“You can imagine the excitement and disbelief of adolescents from this part of the world,” says Demba as he recalls the memory of the news that’s still so clear today.

Demba ended up going on that trip and that’s when he first learned about NSGA.

Upon return, he became one of NSGA’s first peer health educators (PHE) ever—a role that shaped his future.

“The PHE program is unique and builds the capacity of young adolescents; it builds confidence in youth and was a catalyst to personal development,” explains Demba.

After his PHE days, Demba completed a distance degree program in International Development Studies from SMU, worked at a Gambian bank, moved to the UK for several months, then returned to The Gambia for positions with NSGA and Childfund. Through all of this, he kept a work-life balance by reading, fishing, and following soccer, of course!

NSGA welcomes Demba’s return as program manager, a position that perfectly suits him.



NSGA Newsletter

Spring 2013, continued

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Healthy Water, Healthy People: Photo Recap

Check out some snaps of the SMU group that travelled to The Gambia back in November 2012 for the “Healthy Water, Healthy People” project. All photos were taken by NSGA Board Member Oliver Woods.



“I am so blessed to have the experience I was able to have in The Gambia. I loved every minute of it and have no complaints. If the opportunity even comes again, I will go in a heartbeat. So thankful for everything I was able to do while I was there and I can honestly say that I am a changed person. It has opened my eyes up to a whole new world and I am forever grateful.”
 -- Zachary Crowell, Bachelor of Environmental Studies student, SMU

Questions? Suggestions? We'd love to hear from you!



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