**Women of Tanzania ride to better futures**

Globalbike connects needy to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities

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Op-Ed Editor

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lobalbike is a non-profit organization that works to connect the women and girls of rural areas in Tanzania. The organization began in 2006 when six friends met up with fewer than $900 and a goal in mind.

Father of freshman Heyward McPhail, and executive director of the organization, Curt McPhail, was one of the first six founders.

“Globalbike is proof that in Spartanburg big ideas can take root and flourish. As Globalbike looks to the future, we plan to connect 28,000 women in rural Tanzania as resources with a bike. Each year we take a group of these women and experience our work. Several SHS students have been on this trip, it would be awesome to have another group of students on future trips,” Mr. McPhail said.

The program works to supply these woman and girls with vital resources such as healthcare, education and economic opportunities. Globalbike has taken the six members and families and friends to Tanzania and other areas in Africa. When they return to Tanzania each year, members of Globalbike return to the people that have been given bikes in the past, and they check up on how their lives have improved.

Heyward McPhail has been able to watch the company flourish first-hand.

“It all started on my father’s first trip to Africa. He met a young boy who didn’t speak English, and he promised him that he was going to do something to help him and people like him,” Heyward said.

“Although my dad never saw the ‘boy in the red jumpsuit’ again, he knew that he had to keep up his side of the promise. This was in 2008. Since then, my dad and the Globalbike organization have given away over 12,000 bikes.”

Globalbike makes their annual trip to Tanzania every summer and is always open to new participants looking to see the world and give back to different communities.

Former senior and nephew of Curt McPhail, Chappell Bauknight, went on the most recent trip to Tanzania with his uncle, cousin, and other SHS alumni such as Taylor Moody.

“We went to Moshi and then road bikes to a village where we did community service. We gave bikes away to a few groups of women in a couple of other villages, as well as visited schools, where we supplied them with pencils and paper,” Bauknight said.