The author's granddaughter Leah Sabina Kanan, 15, rear left, with Editha Massima, director of the primary school in Buguumya, Tanzania. Below: a view of Buguumya's fish market and historic slave market on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The town was a busy trading port in old East Africa.

By Susan Sabina

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

BAGAMOJO, Tanzania — “I’m thinking of volunteering abroad,” I told my husband, Jeff. “I would never have thought about that before which is why I’m thinking about it now.”

Although more than 30,000 people live in this small town, its main road was not wide enough for two vehicles to pass. In February, the farmers are busiest in the fields, tending to their crops, but it was too little, too late. The rain had been so sparse that it was barely enough to quench the thirst of the crops, which were suffering from drought. The farmers were working hard to ensure that their crops would survive the dry season, but it was a difficult task.

The author's granddaughter Leah Sabina Kanan, 15, rear left, with Editha Massima, director of the primary school in Buguumya, Tanzania. Below: a view of Buguumya's fish market and historic slave market on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The town was a busy trading port in old East Africa.

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