

## Real-World Welding Experience



Welding Program Mentor Jason Atkins works with the welding instructors to train students on how to use a milling machine.

The welding program, now in its sixth year, has evolved from a basic welding class to a highly-productive, hands-on course that gives its students plenty of real-world experience while also generating significant revenue for the WAVS School. In 2017, the students and staff took on 11 major projects for clients in the community and generated more than \$4,000 in profit for the WAVS School.



**Above:** Students finish building benches for a local church.

**Below:** The completed benches in the church.



## Highlights from 2017



Equipped more than 900 students with life-changing job skills since 2006.



Provided 46 graduates with affordable tools through the New Entrepreneurs Program.



The Guinea-Bissau Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WAVS that offers its support for a new campus in the capital, Bissau.



The level of financial self-sufficiency at the WAVS School has grown by more than 50% in the last three years thanks to increased school revenue and healthy budget management.



Nearly 400 donors invested in the vision of WAVS this year.



*Honestly, I chose welding so that I could have a good life tomorrow. I don't want to just be someone who sits in one place.*

-Joaquim  
Welding Student

*"If there's an opportunity, I can go for it."*



Crouching under a large cashew tree beside a dirt road, Augusto carefully welded together two metal rods. Chickens pecked at the ground around him. Neighbors strolled by. A generator whirred in the background. Welcome to Augusto's workshop.

As simple as it is, this open-air workshop represents real transformation: It's a major achievement for a young man who, facing a life of certain poverty, chose to equip himself with a job skill that now gives him the ability to provide for himself and his family for a lifetime. All he needed was the chance.

"I'm ready," Augusto told me while showing off his workshop and new tools he purchased from WAVS. "If there's an opportunity, I can go for it."

Today, the more than 250 young women and men who study at the WAVS School each year are learning English, French, computer basics, welding and auto mechanics - skills that will prepare them for a life of self-sufficiency. They are beating the odds in Guinea-Bissau - a country where poverty, political instability and a lack of opportunity make it one of the most difficult places in the world to live. They are transforming their own lives, and in turn, transforming their country.

And you are making all this possible - simply by giving them the opportunity.

With your partnership in 2018, we will train more than 200 students like Augusto, we will expand the New Entrepreneurs Program so we can provide graduates with quality tools, and we will start building a new campus in the capital, Bissau.

Thank you for joining us as we work together to equip Guinea-Bissau's future leaders with life-changing job skills!

Sincerely,

Chris Collins, WAVS Executive Director



More than 60 students graduated from the WAVS School in January 2017. Since 2006, the school has trained more than 900 students. Thank you for making this memorable day possible for these hard-working graduates!

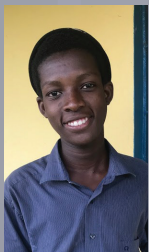


*Knowledge about computers will help me with whatever I want to do in the future. I know I will use it in my job.*

-Elvina  
Computer Basics Student

### Thank you for giving the Gift of Education

In December, WAVS donors gave \$10,500 to train 105 students in the first semester of 2018. These dedicated students pay their own tuition, but it only covers about 25% of the cost of their classes. The remainder is provided by generous donors like you.



*During this time, the most important thing that I am learning in the school is the verses that my teacher is sharing during class. It helps me walk the path that God has for me.*

-Hermano  
English Student

### Need to fix that generator? Call Orlando.



Orlando is a hard-working graduate of the WAVS School's auto mechanics program who is now the go-to guy to fix and maintain generators in small villages all over the region. Recently, the elders of one of the villages called him to help repair a generator that runs a rice-husking machine (see photo). The elders said they had hired other repair workers in the past, but Orlando was the only one who got the job done right.

And to help him do his job even better, Orlando now has a brand new set of tools that he purchased at a discounted price through the WAVS New Entrepreneurs Program.

"These tools that I have here are very important to my job," Orlando said. "I want to thank WAVS donors for the great job that they have been doing. WAVS came to my community and they are giving so many benefits to my people."

In 2017, WAVS received a \$28,000 grant to expand this program so that more than 100 graduates like Orlando can receive the tools they need to take the next step in life.

### Thank you, Seattle & Fresno!



Thank you to the 550 guests and volunteers who made the 5th annual *Dine & Discover West Africa Dinner Banquet* such a success! The Oct. 6 event in Fresno raised \$151,000 to equip young women and men in Guinea-Bissau with life-changing job skills.

We also want to thank the 60 guests who joined us in Seattle for the *Sip & Savor Summer Fundraiser* on July 27. You helped raise more than \$11,000 for the WAVS School!

### WAVS 2017 Income & Expenses

<b>Income</b>	
Individuals	\$321,440
Churches, Businesses & Community Groups	\$76,980
Endowment Fund	\$16,000
Grants	\$27,922
Other	\$293
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$442,635</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries & Benefits (Guinea-Bissau Programs)	\$114,450
Salaries & Benefits (Admin & Development)	\$80,083
Teacher Sponsorship Funds for WAVS School	\$36,169
Equipment & Supplies for WAVS School	\$34,379
Housing, Vehicle, Other in Guinea-Bissau	\$82,809
U.S. Office Rent & Supplies	\$14,828
Travel & Airfare	\$13,834
Fundraising: Events, Supplies, Printing	\$14,437
Card Processing Fees, Insurance, Other	\$7,073
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$398,063</b>