



## PROJECTO OCEANO – *September 2013*

### Activity Report for US Ambassador Visit to Projecto Oceano



On September 14th, 2013 the US Ambassador Douglas Griffiths and his wife visited Projecto Oceano while on Ilha de Mozambique for official business. The purpose of the visit to the project – which was organized by Patrick the Peace Corps volunteer – was to show the Ambassador the library which Patrick donated and that we house and to introduce him to the Project and the members, who as we know are some of the island's top students.



As this was a visit by Americans and as Patrick teaches some of the members English, we wanted to use this opportunity to show off and practice the members' English skills. Each member gave a little self-introduction in English, saying his/her name, age, year in school, and area of responsibility in Project Oceano. Following this, I explained a bit about what we do in the Project, how we choose our members and gave a small 'tour' of the space. Patrick then showed a small slideshow of photos from Dia da Criança, Feira do Oceano and a couple photos from our own Projecto Oceano classes (IT, explicação, etc.) and we further explained our work and involvement in community events.

After the slideshow, the Ambassador and his wife, who were sitting with all our members, began asking the members questions directly – some in English and some in Portuguese. I was very impressed with how well our members responded – they were polite but outgoing and articulate and all together came across as the wonderful students that they are. The Ambassador's wife was

particularly interested in the photography that we now have displayed on the walls, and each of the members took pride in showing which was theirs and discussing it with her and her husband.



When the Ambassador arranged to come see Projecto Oceano, we all expected the visit to last about 20 minutes – but I believe that they were all so impressed and interested in our work that it lasted for closer to 45 minutes to an hour. Before leaving, the Ambassador turned to the whole group and recited a quote by John F. Kennedy – “*Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country*” – and another by Martin Luther King, Jr. – “*I have a dream that one day my four little children will be*

*judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character*”. Finally, as a last small activity, the Ambassador and his wife played a quick trivia game with the members, giving out Mozambique-US flag pins to those who got the right answer [ex: “Who was the first Mozambican to get a university degree in the US? Mondlane” or “What is the name of the US President’s wife? Michelle Obama”].