

# Drawing On Your Experience

**A**s an aerospace engineer at NASA,\* Dr. Steve Scotti helps design aircraft and spacecraft. He wanted to do a service project in a place like Africa, using his technical and problem-solving skills.



Steve learned about preschools in rural Swaziland with lots of needs. Many kids in Swaziland walk—sometimes for long distances—on bumpy dirt roads to reach small schools with very few supplies.

A service group called Micro Steps connected him with two schools. Then he worked with a local company to design steel swing sets and have them built.

In 2009, Steve went to Swaziland to help install the

playground equipment. He was happy to do a service project that “would have [a] lasting impact on children, who learn so much from their play.” Steve also gave talks to older students about NASA and the importance of learning. He says, “With help from the local Bahá’ís and my new Swazi friends, everything turned out even better than my greatest hope . . . It was such a wonderful experience!”

Steve says, “Don’t be afraid to try something new, because even if it doesn’t work out as you hope, you’ll do some good and grow from the experience . . . Service benefits you as much as others.”

*What would you like to invent, build, or do to help others? Think about people in need around the world, and imagine using your talents to make their lives better. Draw what you’d share here.*

