

**Kathleen Wahl
Avon High School**

Our Hope for Kenya: Adopt a Student

Our poster will explain how the Library Club at Avon High School has collaborated with the organization Joining Hearts and Hands to adopt a student in Kenya to go to high school. We have committed to this project for 4 years and raise \$400 each year.

We contacted the organization Joining Hearts and Hands, run by Bill and Joanne Cala of Rochester, NY. Bill and Joanne presented at an assembly and told our students about their work in Kenya. Their work can be better understood by viewing their website at <http://www.joiningheartsandhands.org/index.php>.

The Library Club, consisting of 10-15 students, then planned the activities to raise the \$400. We designated every Thursday in November as Dollars for Kenya Day. We also held a Starbucks day before Thanksgiving break where we sell Starbucks coffee.

After sending our first donation to Joining Hearts and Hands, we were thrilled to receive a letter and picture from our friend in Kenya. Her name was Ameda Mary. Ameda Mary told us about her school, her family, her interests and her dreams. We knew these dreams were now possible. Many students from our school have sent letters to Ameda Mary.

Each year, the Cala's come to Avon to tell us about the work they have done in Kenya. We see pictures of Ameda Mary and ask questions about life in Kenya.

This project has enabled our students to imagine life in a 3rd world country and to see the world beyond the boundaries of their small town.