

Summer Greetings!

So much has been happening in Western Kenya since our last newsletter and we are excited about sharing the progress that Joining Hearts and Hands has been making through your generosity.

## Project Updates

### Mbaka Oromo

The 4-block early childhood center at Mbaka Oromo was completed this spring and is currently occupied and being used by the young children of Maseno.

We are now working on the soil erosion problem that has plagued Mbaka Oromo. When it rains in Kenya it pours! The rain contributed to the collapse of the old classrooms and we are making sure that the new buildings are not negatively affected by torrential rains. We engaged the Ministry of Agriculture in designing an erosion plan. It involves tree planting, harvesting water from the roofs of the new buildings and building verandas on all of the new construction. The school community has been involved in planting hundreds of trees and have committed 1,600 Kenya Shillings (\$24) each to build the verandas. This is truly amazing as the average Kenyan earns about \$700 a year!! Their commitment to their children is amazing. **Jim Nowak** and the **PALS organization** will arrive in Kenya shortly to complete the erosion plan.

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New Joining Hearts and Hands 4-Classroom Block with trees and grasses planted by community  
To prevent erosion.

## Lufumbo

### Latrines

The new latrines we constructed were opened on July 9, 2007. Below is a photo of the excitement of “opening day.” One of the new latrine blocks is in the background.



### Water Harvesting

Water continues to be a problem at the Lufumbo school site. As a result, **Joining Hearts and Hands** is beginning construction of a 40,000 gallon water storage tank. Water will be harvested from the rooftops of the classrooms.

### Iranda Primary School

The 3-classroom block is complete and the 2-classroom block is only lacking paint before the grand opening ceremony.



5 new Joining Hearts and Hands classrooms near completion at Iranda Primary School

## **Iranda IGLA**

Iranda's Income Generating Learning Activity (IGLA) has begun. The IGLA group finished their first phase of training on July 14<sup>th</sup> and their nursery bed has been set in readiness for transplanting to the seedbed. This group will be growing and selling tomatoes and onions.

## **Shiebu Dairy Goat Project**

The Dairy Goat Project is a cooperative between the communities of Iranda and Lufumbo. The group is currently receiving training on the raising and breeding of dairy goats and the business of selling goat's milk. Their last training took place on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. When training is complete, we will be purchasing their exotic goats in the Meru area of Kenya, north of Nairobi.



Iranda and Lufumbo School Committees who are part of Shiebu Dairy Goat Project

## **Scholarship Students**

Our 37 students on scholarship are doing well. As you know, we visit them twice a year. Our Kenyan associate, John Mukolwe checks on them regularly and makes sure they are keeping up with their work and performing the community service required as part of the Joining Hearts and Hands scholarship.

**If you are a current scholarship sponsor, there will be an informal gathering on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Cala home to talk about the kids, their progress and answer any questions you may have.**

## **The Million Book Challenge**

**Joining Hearts and Hands** has been chosen as the recipient of a donation that will be generated by a one-of-a-kind event called *The Million Books Challenge*.™ [TMD Enterprises](#) has teamed up with Charles Noland, author of the children's book series – *The Adventures of Drew and Ellie*, in a challenge to **sell 1,000,000 books**. During this challenge, **25% of the price of each book sold will be donated to Joining Hearts and Hands**. With each new adventure, these wonderful books teach children about problem-solving and help them gain a greater understanding of the skills needed to deal with the many challenges and obstacles that they will encounter on their journey through life. Please visit *The Million Books Challenge*™ website where you can buy the books, share the adventure, and help build a school.

## **Special Thanks**

To Karen Maskens for all the work she has done to get our website off the ground  
To David Homick for the latest version of the website  
To ALL of our individual donors. You are changing the world one precious soul at a time  
To all of these great organizations who ran **fundraisers** and donated their profits to Joining Hearts and Hands:

### Sing Out

Fairport Outreach Club for the Walk for Kenya  
Martha Brown Middle School's Talent Show  
Brooks Hill Elementary School's Talent Show  
Franklin Montessori's Kenya Campaign  
Webster's Klein Elementary School's Read-a-thon  
Bill Tiberio's Fairport Jazz Concert Fundraiser  
First Presbyterian Sunday School Group  
Assumption of Our Lady's Social Justice Soup and Bake Sale  
Greece Arcadia's Freshman class and advisors  
Northside Elementary School's Dancing with the Stars  
Webster's Spry Middle School Student Council  
Hartford Central School's Student Council

We would like to make you aware of a project we are embarking upon in memory of Hannah Congdon.

## **Hannah's Hope**



Hannah's hope was that the less fortunate of the world would have a better life. Hannah along with four beloved friends: Meredith McClure, Bailey Goodman, Sara Monnat and Katie Shirley died together in a tragic automobile crash just days after they graduated from Fairport High School. Each of these beautiful young women brought lots of love, compassion and high energy into the lives of all of us in Fairport, New York. Each of these angels will be sadly missed in our community and in our world.

Hannah Congdon traveled with us to India in April of 2006 to help tsunami orphans. She laughed and walked with us on May 12, 2007 in a Walk for African Orphans at Perinton Park in Fairport, New York. Hannah and her dear friends touched all our lives as described in an essay published in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle from July 1, 2007 titled: ["School chief's role model is 18-year-old."](#)

Due to your kindness and generosity, **Hannah's Hope** will be realized in western Kenya. **Joining Hearts and Hands** will begin building a school house for orphans called Hannah's Hope later this year.

We would like to keep you posted on the progress of the construction and show you the school when completed. If you would like to be part of this living memorial, please make the notation: *Hannah's Hope* on your donation. If you would like to be kept abreast of Hannah's Hope, please e-mail us at [wcala@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wcala@rochester.rr.com) and type *Hannah* in the subject line.

Thanks so much for helping us help others!

Mungu Awabariki (May God Bless You)

Bill and Joanne Cala

**Please visit us at:** [www.joiningheartshands.org](http://www.joiningheartshands.org) for more information on our current projects and activities.

E-mail: [wcala@rochester.rr.com](mailto:wcala@rochester.rr.com) or [jcala@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jcala@rochester.rr.com)

Joining Hearts and Hands is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ). All donations are tax deductible. Nearly 100% of your donation goes to the children of Kenya. Joanne and Bill Cala take no salaries or are reimbursed for any travel expenses.

Checks are made payable to: **Joining Hearts and Hands**  
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