



Joining Hearts and Hands Newsletter

May, 2009

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather! It was a very cold winter here in Rochester and the warmth and gentle breezes are welcomed with open arms.

Since our return from Kenya and Tanzania in February, we have been very busy with projects in both countries.

Kenya

Iranda Primary School

The kitchen at Iranda Primary School has been completed. We are now working on new toilet facilities for all of the students.

Brooks Hill is Amazing!!! Last Friday, the Brooks Hill Faculty played a faculty basketball game at Fairport High School. Proceeds go to Joining Hearts and Hands and their adopted school, Iranda. **Marty Cardona**, principal, and the kids handed us a check for \$3000 for a library at Iranda!! Funds were raised by Student Council and the Reader's Club. And.....\$1100 was raised at the concession stands. Brooks Hill has been a spectacular supporter of Joining Hearts and Hands over the years. As a result of their efforts, including the winter camp out and talent show, the lives of the children at Iranda have significantly improved.

Hannah's Hope

We have completed the first phase of Hannah's Hope. We are now fundraising to build additional classrooms so that the children can move from kindergarten to grade 1. **If you would like to donate or plan a fundraiser please reply to this e-mail or contact Bill or Joanne Cala @ 585-377-8298.**



Fr. Alfred, Bill, Joanne, teachers, children and elephant @ Hannah's Hope

Scholarships

With nearly 100 secondary scholarships at over 40 secondary schools, you are saving the lives of many Kenyans and providing a future for kids who, without these generous scholarships, would have no future whatsoever. As William Kabbis, principal of Mbaka Oromo Primary School said when he visited Rochester last October, “These children would never have seen the inside of a secondary classroom without Joining Hearts and Hands.” All scholarships are funded by individuals like you!! For \$400 a year a Kenyan child is given a wonderful education complete with room and board. Room and board is so essential as the children get three meals and medical care that they do not get at home.

If you would like to sponsor a child, please let us know by responding to this e-mail.

It is easy and we give donors the opportunity to know the children they adopt.

Micro Businesses

To date, we have worked with local villagers and women’s groups in 5 areas. Our newest project includes a **chicken raising business** by the **Legion of Mary Widows’** group at St. Patrick’s Church in Lufumbo. Currently they are being trained in business and marketing. Their next training will be on the raising of chickens.



Legion of Mary Women receiving training for raising of chickens

In **Kongasis**, a **tailoring initiative** is going full-steam producing school uniforms for 5 neighborhood schools. This is also a **women's group** that began this project.

Our **Shiebu dairy goat project** is going strong. Over **9 kids were born** in the last four months. Milk and manure are being sold and the breeding of our hybrid goats with the local goats is going strong as well. Over 70 people are involved in this venture.

Iranda's horticulture and Mbaka Oromo's tailoring projects are doing well.

We call these projects IGLA (Income Generating Learning Activities). IGLAS are generally on a school campus and the students learn the trade along with the adults. Joining Hearts and Hands provides start-up funds and leaves the project when they are established and self-sustaining.

W.O.W !!! (Education through the ARTS)

W.O.W stands for With Out Words. This is an arts project that teaches children and families how to use mosquito nets and the importance of using the nets every night. The project is funded via an organization in Colorado. Young African students are asked about their favorite folklore. The children are then asked to draw pictures of the folklore hero and how this hero can protect the people from the nasty malaria carrying mosquito. A sketch artist then takes the student drawings and puts them into a storyboard. Then a professional artist takes the storyboard and professionally draws the new tale developed by the children. From the final storyboard a curriculum for teachers is developed. This project will take place in Lufumbo on June 8th. **Eight students from Nazareth College** who are going to Kenya and will visit Joining Hearts and Hands' projects. They will work with the Lufumbo students to create the initial drawings. Thanks to **Otieno Kisiara**, professor at Nazareth who is bringing the students, **Glen McClure**, grant coordinator and **Jack Langerak** of Nazareth who brought the project to our attention.

Tanzania

Usambara Girls School

Progress continues on the construction of a three-classroom block for Form II girls at Usambara Girls School in Kurogwe, Tanzania. As you can see from the photo below it is beginning to take shape. The roof was completed last week and we are going into the final half of construction. The school will be ready for students well ahead of the beginning of the school year in January.



Construction continues with the Form II block at Usambara Girls School in Tanzania

Ward's Natural Science Makes a Major Contribution

Through the efforts of Donna Gage at Ward's Natural Science in Henrietta, a massive donation of science equipment will be shipped to Usambara Girls school later this month. Donna has been working on this project for the past two years. Not only is Ward's sending over two skids of science equipment and supplies, but they have given us significant space in the shipping container to send over goods and materials that we have collected for the students and the villagers of Kurogwe.

Many thanks to Jeff Douglas, Joe Kane and Tim Montondo of Ward's for making this happen as well. And.....thanks to all of the wonderful people of Rochester who answered Joanne's frantic calls to collect clothing, books and supplies for this shipment!!!

Student Teaching in Tanzania

Joanne and I connected with Tanzania through two wonderful nuns from Kurogwe who are Juniors at Nazareth College. As a result of this relationship, we began a student teaching program at the new school that we are helping to build. In September, three

TESOL (Teaching English as Second Language) graduate students will be student teaching at Usambara Girls. They are Kelly LaLonde, Lauren Payne and Alyson Lynch.



Usambara Girls waiting for Nazareth Student Teachers!

Purple Produce for Africa

Have you seen the veggie stands at the Fairport and East Rochester markets where purple produce is sold? Ann Schauman has been a wonderful supporter of Joining Hearts and Hands over the years. She grows and sells purple produce. Every time you buy purple produce, Ann donates a portion of her proceeds to Joining Hearts and Hands. Hope to see you at the markets this spring and summer!!

Presentations

Please let us know if we can do a multi-media presentation on Africa to your group. E-mail us at wcalal@rochester.rr.com or jcalal@rochester.rr.com.

FUNraising

Fundraising events shouldn't be all work and no play. Think of it as **FUNraising!** The Brooks Hill Basketball game was a blast! Lots of Fun!! These are not only fun events, but they bring much needed revenue to our programs in Africa. The talent show at Nazareth College was a hoot! The talent show at Bishop Kearney was spectacular!

If you have an idea for a FUNraising event please drop us an e-mail at
wcalala@rochester.rr.com.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!

Once again, none of these projects would happen without your support. You are changing the lives of Africans one community, one school and one child at a time. You make a real difference in the lives of the poor and the oppressed.

May God bring you blessings and peace!

With sincere gratitude,

Bill and Joanne Cala

To make tax-deductible donations, send checks to:

Joining Hearts and Hands

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www.joiningheartsandhands.org