



June 2012 E-Newsletter

Happy June to all of our friends from Joining Hearts and Hands!

We are taking this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support, energy, encouragement and prayers, for without them these stories that we share would be only a wish list instead of reality. Asante sana!!

Hannah's Hope Continues to Grow!

Look at the new two-classroom block at Hannah's Hope. It is already filled with eager learners. The majority of these funds were raised through the "Have a Heart for Hannah's Hope" Orange Friday event (day after Thanksgiving) organized by Hannah's mom **Marilyn Congdon & Friends**.



Hannah's Hope Phase III Construction

Hearts for Hannah

Hearts for Hannah is in version number five. Artist, teacher and all-around “super-woman” **Linda Lawrence** has beautiful heart jewelry in honor of Hannah Congdon and in support of Joining Hearts and Hands. Go to her blog to purchase one. They go fast, so don’t delay!

<http://www.bellabeadjewelrybylinda.blogspot.com/>



Adult Literacy Program Begins

On March 15th Joining Hearts and Hands started teaching adults (parents and grandparents of our children at Lufumbo Primary School) how to read and write. The classes meet three times a week for two hours each session. We have over 60 adults enrolled and they are thrilled to have this opportunity to learn. When they were school-age children, there was no free elementary education. This is their opportunity to be on the same footing as their children. What a joy to see their dreams being fulfilled.



Teacher Rebecca works with Widows in Adult Literacy Class

Community Fund Raising Event: Joining Hearts and Hands Day of Hope!

A Challenge from Two Caring Students!!!

My name is Hannah and I am a Freshman at Williamsville East High School and I am Remy and I am a 6th grader at Transit Middle. In the summer of 2009, we decided to have a garage sale to benefit Joining Hearts and Hands. We thought it was a great way to raise money for the organization and our mom would finally have a clean basement! It was a huge success! At the end of the day we both felt extremely proud of ourselves and we decided to have a garage sale every year!! By 2011 we were getting low on things to sell so we asked family and neighbors to donate items. People who were moving were also wonderful resources. Everyone donated such neat things! Thanks to all of their generosity we had another successful year. This year we were thinking what we could do to make this garage sale better than ever....and we had a thought....**what if we extended an invitation to all of the Joining Hearts and Hands supporters to join us!** We all could have a garage sale on the same day (ours is scheduled for a Saturday in September from 9 – 2.) Most newspapers let you place a free announcement in their classified ads for a garage sale or you could just make up your own sign in your neighborhood. At the end of the sale just email Mr. and Mrs. Cala the total amount raised and then send a check to them at your convenience. It's that easy! The great thing about a garage sale is not everyone has extra money to donate; many people already have other obligations, family/job issues etc... (We know our mom breaks out into a sweat every time we mention college!!) **BUT** almost everyone has stuff in their basement they don't want! It doesn't have to be a lot of things EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS! And because we will all be acting together just think of what a difference we can make! Please say you will join us!



Hannah and Remy Small

What a wonderful story of community and caring from our youth. When we experience this kind of engagement, we know that our mission to connect Africa with the United States is on its way. Bravo to Hannah and Remy Small from Williamsville.

Joining Hearts and Hands' Micro-Businesses Thrive

Kenyans are very social and very community minded. As such, there are many events that they attend where chairs are needed. Weddings, funerals and social events are always large-scale affairs. St. Patrick's Legion of Mary in Lufumbo, The Green Hill Widow's Group in Maseno and The LOMAA Self-Help Group of Homa Bay all received 50 chairs each from Joining Hearts and Hands. With their profits, the plan is that the groups will invest in additional chairs as well as help orphaned children.



Bill and Joanne with Green Hill Widows Group

Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra ROCKS!!!

WPC is a small group of dedicated, inspired and energized people. In the past they have provided hundred of pairs of shoes for our school children, provided computers for schools and sponsored scholarships. Now they are really topping their past accomplishments. Kongasis is a small village near Kericho in Kenya. They have had serious water problems during a consistently reoccurring drought. WPC has raised nearly \$9000 so far to bring water from a stream-fed pond up a hill to storage tank for the elementary school and the entire Kongasis community. As I am sure you know, fetching water is a terrible burden. Mostly women walk for miles each day to collect water (that is usually contaminated) for their families. This project will save the Kongasis community from that brutal task AND.... the water will be CLEAN as the project involves the construction of a purification plant.

BRAVO Western Presbyterian!!!



Beginning of Construction of Water Storage Tank at Kongasis

Rooftop Fundraiser with the Yellow Jackets

We hope you all saw Sing Out with the Yellow Jackets recently. They were spectacular. Joining Hearts and Hands is proud of the fact that we arranged the Yellow Jackets' visit to Africa to Mbaka Oromo Primary School. It was an important theme in their Sing Out performances. The Yellow Jackets continue to be committed to Africa through Joining Hearts and Hands. Recently **Ty Lambert**, a counselor at Webster Schroeder visited Kenya and Mbaka Oromo with us. Ty has been a superstar supporter of JH&H over the years. He and Webster are now providing scholarships for 15 high school students! He is an inspiration! Along with **Jim Barilla**, **Jamie Miller** and **Patty Cooke**, Ty coordinated a rooftop fundraiser featuring the Yellow Jackets.

Amazing work by amazing, caring people!

Check out the video link of the event on YNN.

http://rochester.ynn.com/content/all_news/583139/rooftop-fundraiser-in-rochester-honors-pioneer-in-kenyan-education/?ap=1&MP4

T.C. Williams High School Does it Again!

Movie buffs will remember T.C. Williams from the film *Remember the Titans*. A titan in her own right, **Jennifer Moshier** and her Engineering classes at T. C. Williams in Alexandria, have sure helped in construction of the recently built Form 4 classrooms at Usumbara Girl's Secondary School in Korogwe, Tanzania. They have coordinated two successful Holiday Craft Shows and we'll keep you posted on their next one later this year!

Northwood Elementary in Hilton Cares!

6th grade students from Northwood Elementary in Hilton, New York raised funds for Joining Hearts and Hands to build homes for very poor families living under trees in rural western Kenya. The Service Learning Project was led by Hilton 6th grade teachers: **Jenny Ames, Julie Fiege, Libby Wood, Laura Mayer and Jen Roberts.**



Northwood Elementary with Joanne

Helendale Primary School raises pennies for Hannah's Hope

Reading Specialist **Carol Millet** organized the primary students at Helendale to collect pennies for Hannah's Hope. These little dynamos raised over \$300. Many thanks to Carol, all the teachers and principal Eric Daniels. Joanne and I enjoyed our two talks to the primary kids at Helendale!

Thanks so much for being a part of this important work in Africa. It would not happen without you.

If you are able to share your treasure, it is easy. Either on line or the old fashioned way. Click on the Network for Good link below or you can send a check to:

Joining Hearts and Hands, Ltd.

9 Fieldston Grove
Fairport, NY 14450



Many Blessings,

Bill and Joanne Cala

www.joiningheartsandhands.org

Joining Hearts and Hands is a 501 (c) (3) All donations are tax-deductible