

Joining Hearts & Hands

www.joiningheartshands.org

6TH ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Save a life!
Fund a Scholarship
TODAY!
See details on Page 3

SIX YEARS LATER: WE'VE JUST BEGUN!

It seems nearly impossible to believe that Joining Hearts and Hands has been in existence for six years now. This newsletter marks the beginning of our seventh year. In October of 2005 Joanne and I took a trip to Kenya and India in search of the next stage of our lives. It took no more than 48 hours in Kenya before we fell in love with the children of Mbaka Oromo in Maseno Kenya. On a beautifully warm day surrounded by over 500 children, two little girls recited a poem to us called "Why Me?" We will never forget it and it was what "sealed the deal" for us. We knew right there and then that we would spend the rest of our lives helping children like these who desperately needed us. Here is what these two AIDS orphans recited to us in 2005:

"Why Me?"

"I curse the day that I came into this world—Only to undergo suffering. In my mother's womb I lived in peace, but look today I am an orphan. Not because of terrorism or bomb blast. It is this man-eater that takes 700 lives each day in Kenya. Ukimwi, AIDS cum mdudu—AIDS why did you do this to me."



Maseno orphans reciting "Why Me?" To Bill and Joanne.

One child at a time, one latrine at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time. We began our journey. Since that amazing day in October of 2005, Joining Hearts and Hands has built 30 classrooms in 6 villages in Kenya and Tanzania. 160 children have been provided an education by generous donors like you through scholarships. We have built countless latrines and kitchens, provided health clinics, started numerous micro-businesses, dug wells and provided learning materials to schools in Western Kenya.

We are so grateful for your constant support. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Especially during these difficult economic times, Africa needs you now more than ever. The cost of fuel and food have skyrocketed here in the states,

but imagine what these increases have done to poor Kenyans who make \$1 or \$2 a day. One of our schools closed ten days early this year because they ran out of food. This is a real tragedy. Imagine gasoline at \$6.00 a gallon! That's a week's wages!



Joanne with Orphan from Maseno

The good news over this past year is that the exchange rate has increased nearly 30% in our favor. One American dollar was yielding about 65 Kenyan Shillings. Today a dollar is worth over 90 shillings. What a great time to support the children of Joining Hearts and Hands.

Joanne and I wish you the best of the holidays.

Peace!

Bill & Joanne



Children at Hannah's Hope showing what they have learned!

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2011 —CONTINUED PROGRESS

Look at this year's progress!!

- ◆ We have finished the final 3 classrooms for Usambara Girls' School in Korogwe, Tanzania. That's 9 classrooms housing 400 girls!
- ◆ We completed an amazing book drive to fill the Lufumbo Library that was finished this year. We collected over 20,000 books that will be shipped next month!
- ◆ Created a partnership with Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra and Kongasis, Kenya. Western Presbyterian is involved in a multi-year fundraiser to build a water retention pond for the community of Kongasis.
- ◆ Brought Healthy Stoves (called Mama Stoves) to three locations in Kenya. See photos on this page.
- ◆ Plans for an Adult Literacy program are underway. We hope to have a pilot program launched early next year.
- ◆ We were able to add 38 new scholarship students! Currently we have 114 children on secondary scholarships
- ◆ We are providing 10 primary scholarships at Hannah's Hope (28 primary in total)
- ◆ Arranged volunteer projects for two of Hannah Congdon's classmates in Kenya. Bryce Lednar and Lily Taylor spent the better part of this past half year volunteering at Joining Hearts and Hands sites. What amazing young adults!
- ◆ If you have been watching Sing Out, you have seen the U of R Yellow Jackets compete on TV. Joining Hearts and Hands arranged their site visits in Kenya. The Yellow Jackets sang with our school kids in Maseno and helped out at St. Claire's Orphanage. Bravo Yellow Jackets!
- ◆ Continued growth of sustainability projects. This year the dairy goat project in Katito is getting off the ground. Shiebu dairy goat project in Butere continues to flourish as well.



Lily Taylor with Catherine Akoth at Hannah's Hope

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Bryce Lednar at Hannah's Hope



Left: One of three new "mama" stoves installed this year. These stoves use less fuel than the fireplace (see before photo at right!) have a greater capacity and are completely smokeless. Interior smoke from cooking has been and continues to be a great concern in Kenya as illness from the smoke from cooking causes more deaths each year than from malaria.



SCHOLARSHIPS SAVE LIVES!

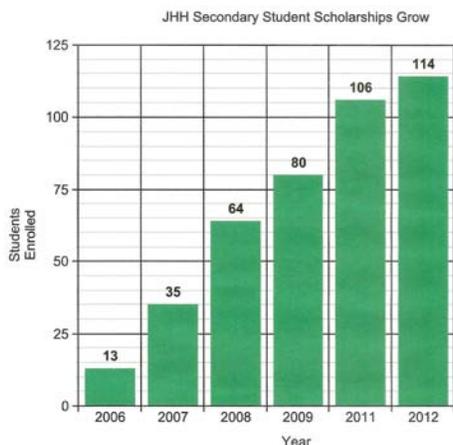
Joining Hearts and Hands is providing 114 secondary scholarships to students throughout Western Kenya and Korogwe, Tanzania. Your kindness and generosity sent 38 new freshmen to School in Kenya and Tanzania this year. Secondary education is not free in Kenya or Tanzania as it is here in the United States. **The average Kenyan earns between one and two dollars a day, making educating their children an unaffordable luxury.** Each year we have grown our scholarship program. Quite simply, scholarships literally save lives. Please, help save a life today!

Sponsor an Orphan’s Education TODAY!!

Here is what only \$400 per year provides:

- ◆ A full year of High School Education
- ◆ Room and Board
- ◆ A life with hope!

Don’t Delay! Send a check today and give Africa a bright future!



Joining Hearts and Hands Scholarship Students from Shitoto High School

May we Give A Presentation On Africa For Your

One of the four major goals of Joining Hearts and Hands is to bridge the cultural divide between the United States and Africa. We would like to do a multi-media presentation for your group! We are currently booking dates to speak to community groups, schools, church groups, organizations and civic clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Masons, etc.)

Having an educational focus, we love visiting schools and individual classrooms. There is no better way to educate our children about Africa than being able to engage in dialogue and see what most of the rest of the world is experiencing through crisp visuals that “keep it real.”

If you would like to schedule an interactive presentation, please contact us:

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or

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Joining Hearts and Hands
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HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

**Tired of buying gifts that no one needs or wants for the holidays?? Why not consider a family donation?
It's a great way to share your love with children in Africa that have so little.**

We are changing the lives of the needy in Kenya and Tanzania because of YOU.... A result of your generosity. Without your financial commitment, we cannot make the kind of progress that we have made in less than four short years.

- ◆ Keep us and the people of Kenya and Tanzania in your prayers
- ◆ Organize a fundraiser. Everyone is not always able to contribute financially, however, we all have talents to share. Many people have come up with fundraising ideas and have run with them. Can you organize a run? A dance? A dinner? An auction? A Talent Show? There are so many possibilities! Kids have worked wonders with lemonade stands!!

- ◆ Talk to your employers. Since we are a 501 (c) (3) many companies will provide matching funds.
- ◆ Talk to your employer to be a corporate sponsor
- ◆ Set up a presentation with your club, church or group.
- ◆ Donate if possible. Any amount is appreciated.

We are now in the midst of our main annual fundraiser. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, e-mail us at wcala@rochester.rr.com or jcala@rochester.rr.com or call us at **585-377-8298** and we can e-mail or send you a copy. It is also available on-line at: www.joiningheartsandhands.org

Tax Deductible Donations

Checks can be sent to:

**Joining Hearts and Hands
9 Fieldston Grove
Fairport, NY 14450**

Joining Hearts and Hands is an IRS approved 501 (c) (3). There are no local personnel costs for **Joining Hearts and Hands**. Bill and Joanne Cala take no salaries and pay for all of their accommodations and travel expenses both here and in Africa. Your tax deductible gifts go directly to the children you see below!

