



*Partnering with Communities,
Expanding Opportunities.*

Winter 2015

Lighting the Way to a Brighter Future

Fewer than 20% of Kenyan homes have access to electricity and primarily rely on fossil fuels like kerosene, which have associated health risks in addition to the high cost. Bringing solar lanterns to communities where no electricity is available makes a huge impact not only on student productivity, but the entire family. Together, our donors and the Kenya Works team are bringing healthy, sustainable light to thousands of individuals. 500 solar lanterns will soon make their way to Kenyan families where no electricity is currently available. Students will now have a safe way to study, families will have security and households will save money once spent on kerosene that can now go towards school fees, food and other goods. This brings our total solar lantern drive to 700! *Thanks!* To everyone who has supported this impactful program, please continue to be “a source of light” keeping this project moving forward.



Makini Initiative Update

We are committed to education and promoting gender equality through our eco friendly sanitary pad project, as well as providing vocational and financial opportunities to our Kenyan communities. To promote positive futures for the girls benefitting from our services and the Kenyan people in general, we are moving forward with the development of our own menstruation product. The Kenya Works team will continue to make improvements to Afripad’s design while also providing financial security to our sponsored communities. This will allow a full circle of service with opportunities from production to beneficiary; empowering women and girls through education and hands-on work experience.

A Ray of Hope

The people living in the Kware slums suffer from the harsh realities of poverty every day. Of the 35,000 residents, over 65% are children living in substandard conditions, lacking proper nutrition, safety and educational support. Miale ya Tumaini, Swahili for “Ray of Hope,” is an organization created by dedicated community members responding to the immense poverty within the Kware slum of Ongata Rongai, west of Nairobi. The group provides 300 school-age children an evening meal, study materials and a safe place to be after school and on weekends, along with access to counseling services for the individual and family. Entrepreneurship programs for women are being developed as well, including much-needed training in basic business skills. Despite opening the center in June 2014, its programs are evolving rapidly to meet the growing needs of the community. We celebrate our partnership with the Ray of Hope center as we move into the second decade working in Kenya.



Reflections From Joe & Cosmas

Cosmas Ochieng and Joseph Wachira of the Kenya Works team wish to report their gratitude to John and Julie Schmidt for being wonderful hosts throughout their 3 week stay in the US during September, with a special thanks to US Venture/SFF board and the Kenya Works board for financing their trip. Many people came together to help Joe and Cosmas learn how schools and nonprofit organizations in the Wisconsin area promote well-rounded students.



Here are Joe and Cosmas’s reflections: Our visits to many schools in Wisconsin have enabled us to understand what holistic approach to education means. The balancing of all disciplines including arts, sciences and technology left us amazed. Areas of study such as music, arts and vocational training have been systematically removed from the school syllabuses in Kenya. Nonprofit initiatives like the LARY mentoring program at Lawrence University and programs at The Boys and Girls Club help develop skills inside and outside the classroom. Our visits to the Boys and Girls Club and Harbor House in Appleton also portrayed how organizations can work on gender based violence and psychological issues at a community and societal level. GBV and child neglect is the norm in Kenya in large part due to poverty and social cultural trends, so it would be great to see more organizations like this in Kenya moving forward. To get a complete sense of the

opportunities for youth and adults alike in the Fox Valley, we visited community nonprofits like Riverview Gardens, which focuses on organic farming and job training in a self-sustainable way. This is an idea that could help many Kenyan communities address issues about food security and high unemployment rates. The hydroponics farming technology we saw at GoodWill could be used in our urban settlements to supply food for income and a consistent home food supply. Many ideas, if applied here in Kenya, would be very welcome and transformative.

Kotonje Preschool Opens its Doors

Construction of the new Kotonje preschool began in Summer 2014, replacing the dilapidated building that had previously housed 180 preschoolers. The community has expressed enormous gratitude for the beautiful new school, which offers Early Childhood Development (ECD) learners an environment where they can grow and thrive. Kenya Works Project Coordinator, Cosmas Ochieng, attended the opening celebration this November and shared the following:

During the visit and opening, several community members were so excited and wanted to express their gratitude and joy for the support given them. Mr. Okuyo, a parent of an ECD student, said, “This project is God-sent, because the young children over the decades have gone through ECD without such a wonderful facility. We will truly remain appreciative to Kenya Works for this miraculous gesture that sets a new era in ECD learning that we have been yearning for, for ages, in a rural setting.” Mrs. Ndege, another parent, said: “It is unbelievable! I never imagined my child learning in such a marvelous facility. For years, I have believed that such a facility could only be found in a private school or in some urban setting for privileged families, but because of God through Kenya Works, it is now a reality.” The community is providing support, with much-needed learning materials and desks inside the preschool. Together, we are letting the children of this community know they are worthy of a healthy, safe and supportive learning environment.



Stay Connected— *Kenya Works was founded by Mary Stusek, who believed ordinary people can be a catalyst for positive change. Thank you for walking with us these past 10 years. We truly build meaningful and transformative partnerships with our Kenyan friends by working together. We feel a tremendous responsibility to our donors, the Kenyan people and the communities where we work. Remember to stay connected through our website, www.kenyaworks.org to see the impact of your support.*

~Julie Schaller-Schmidt, Kenya Works Executive Director



Kenya Works is a 501 c (3) nonprofit incorporated in Wisconsin. Your donations are tax deductible.

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