

KENYA WORKS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013

Child Brides



Millicent Atieno is 21 years old and has 7 children. In 2005 she was an orphan. Her older sister died, and according to the Luhya custom of western Kenya, Millicent was married to her 38-year old brother-in-law.

Millicent left school to care for her sister's three children and has since had four of her own. She does farm labor for \$1.25 a day to feed her 7 children. Her unemployed husband lives far from home and feels no responsibility. "I did not ask Millicent to marry me. The elders gave her to me."

Mary Makokha is the director of REEP, a small nonprofit in Batula. REEP works to prevent child marriage and helps those already caught in the system, the child brides. Mary says cultural tradition is one cause of child marriages, but another is the belief that HIV-AIDs is a curse. People will spend their last shilling on witchdoctor cures. They leave behind homeless children who can escape into prostitution or marriage.

REEP would like Kenya Works to help with what we do best: education and jobs. If you want to make the world a better place, this is your chance. Please help Kenya Works.

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Two stories of success, New Hope Widows Group and Karkuret Women's Group

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TAPA launches business with KW loan

Providing Opportunity



In late April 2012 the women of the New Hope Widows Group received their microfinance loans from seven very generous KW donors. And today:

- ✓ All 17 women are able to feed their children at least two meals a day for the first time since widowhood.
- ✓ All 17 women are able to pay their children's school fees for the first time.
- ✓ Of the 17 members, 6 women are struggling in business but are still growing. Even they are able to repay their microcredit loans and save 30 shillings a week. All 17 businesses grew.
- ✓ Of the 11 more successful women, 7 have managed to buy goats, sheep and chickens in addition to reinvesting in their businesses.



Finally Milling

The story of the Karkuret Women's Group is an epic. Twenty-five years ago the government ousted the women and their children from their farms on the side of Mt. Kenya. The women became squatters dependent on prostitution for survival. Kenya Works has helped the women since 2005. The culmination of that help is a successful posho or cereal mill built last August. It employs all 25 members of the group in essential, self-sustaining work. Now they serve the community instead of being beneficiaries.

Thank you to all Kenya Works donors but especially Linda Shields (Key West) and the John N. Bergstrom Endowment Fund (First Presbyterian Church of Neenah).

The epic has one more obstacle. The authorities in Kenya's very corrupt government require the women to have an outdoor toilet and a water tank that will cost \$2,400. We badly need your help. Any size donation is most welcome.

Kenya Works Helps

TAPA Grow



November 2012. Graduation from kindergarten at TAPA. KW met TAPA in 2008 just months after it opened its doors to one student. This January there will be 160 children starting life on the right foot in the worst place, Kibera, the second largest urban slum in Africa.

It's a pleasure to support TAPA because:

- TAPA feeds, treats and educates the most vulnerable children and orphans.
- TAPA finds work for the children's guardians
- TAPA strives to be self-sustaining, to pay much of its own way by making sweaters for school uniforms which are mandatory in Kenya.
- As of December 1st, 2012 TAPA had sweater orders totaling 4.7 million Kenyan shillings (\$54,600.00).
- TAPA employs Kibera residents to make the sweaters thus spreading the "wealth".
- TAPA has purchased land outside Nairobi to build a boarding school and remove the children from the slum.

In 2012 Kenya Works, thanks in part to Robin and Robert Freeman (Darien, IL) and Nuveen Investments (Chicago) was able to donate \$10,000.00 to TAPA to help establish the sweater business. We are proud to have helped TAPA and feel comfortable moving on to other projects such as Child Brides. Thanks to all our donors who have helped TAPA since 2008.

The Facts:

In sub-Saharan Africa 75% of the workforce are women, and they produce 80% of the food but own only 1% of the land. (True worldwide!) In Africa women receive 10% of farm microcredit and men receive 90%. Women receive only 42% as much as men. (USAID)



That shirt you gave to Goodwill? We saw it in Kenya.

Yes, I want to make the world a better place!

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

_____ \$25

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