

Kenya Works
P.O Box 1572
Appleton, WI 54912

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WINNECONNE, WI
PERMIT NO. 11



Summer 2014



“Partnering with
Communities,
Expanding
Opportunities.”

Makini Initiative

Limited access to safe, affordable and appropriate methods of dealing with menstruation has far reaching implications for many Kenyan adolescent girls. After supplying 145 girls with the Afripad brand of reusable, eco friendly sanitary pads (Fall, 2013) and seeing the positive outcome of uninterrupted school attendance, we knew this was only the beginning of our education/dignity project which we now call the Makini Initiative (dignity in Swahili). With the support of a Rotary Shines World Service grant award as well as Kenya Works donors, the Makini Initiative is reaching 1000 Kenyan girls in Homa Bay and Nairobi County. The program includes pads, panties, soap for washing as well as important information on proper product use and puberty/HIV education.



Makini teachers and facilitators

This past May, Kenya Works Project Coordinator Cosmas Ochieng, held the information training launch in Homa Bay, County. The eight Public Primary Schools involved have 640 girls who will be Makini Initiative beneficiaries. The schools sent their head teachers along with the future female program facilitator to understand the initiative, clear program objectives as well as school required follow through and follow up.

The participating schools are so excited to be part of this project! They have seen menstruation as a challenge affecting girls academic performance and feel this project addresses a real need within their community. You can find more information about this project on our website. And you can actually SEE the project through a short video found on our website home page. You will be moved by the faces and voices involved in this important education/dignity initiative!

Special Thanks

Kenya Works believes in the power of education as does the community at Kotonje Public School, located in Homa Bay, County. First, Kenya Works donors helped build a local public secondary school, partnering with the community initiative supporting further educational opportunities for

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Address _____
Name _____
Credit card? Please use PayPal at www.kenyaworks.org
Other _____
\$150.00 _____
\$250.00 _____
\$500.00 _____

donations are tax deductible.

Kenya Works is a 501 c (3) nonprofit incorporated in Wisconsin. Your

“Partnering with
Communities,
Expanding
Opportunities.”



their children. While Kenya offers free primary education, secondary school remains a financial burden as well as a very competitive entry process for the student. When the school rooms were completed, a scholarship program for Kotanje students began in January, 2014. Look for more information about our scholarship program on our website at www.kenyaworks.org and see how you can get involved.

Following, you will find Eric Ouma's thanks for your generous support and the future he now sees ahead.

Erick's Gratitude

I am Erick Ouma, one of the 2014 scholarship beneficiaries. I am very grateful for the chance I have gotten to continue with my education in high school. At some time after receiving my results and realized that my father was not in a position to take me to secondary school despite by good performance I felt so hopeless and my future looked bleak and uncertain. I thank Kenya Works for considering my application for scholarship; I also pass my deep appreciation to the donors who help fund the scholarship programs which I happen to be a beneficiary. I am admitted to Kotonje Mixed Day Secondary School, this is a young school in our village; we have very committed teachers, they always ensure we get the best during their lessons.

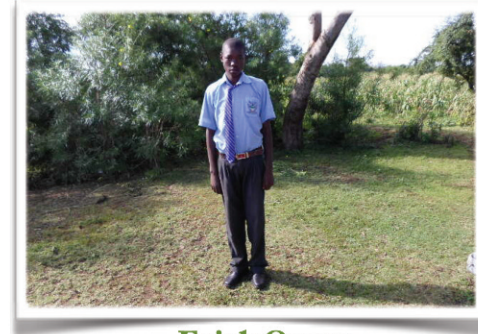
For a long time I have desired to become a university lecturer, and I believe that it will come to pass. I personally know that education is the key to success and this an opportunity provided to me to be able to realize my dream, and I promise to do my best in my academic work as this is the only ladder to my vision. Though life has been very challenging at home, what keeps me going is the bright future that I look forward to. I am very sure that with this opportunity our community will one time get out of immense poverty that has prevailed for years. God Bless Kenya Works.

Sincere Regards,
Erick Ouma.

Upcoming Visit

This September, Cosmas Ochieng and Joseph Wachira, both members of the Kenya Works team, will travel to the United States. They are planning to visit and volunteer with a wide variety of U.S. based nonprofits and organizations which support programming similar to their Kenyan counterparts. Cosmas and Joe also intend to visit learning institutions to educate themselves about the educational standards in the U.S., specifically the use of IT in learning situations.

In 2014, the African Union (AU) declared the year 2014 as the "Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa". They both have a strong interest in learning more about food production and food security along with how communities can engage to solve social problems. Time will be spent at Riverview Gardens, Appleton WI, learning how food security, local outreach and job training is addressing poverty here, in the U.S. Both are hopeful their U.S. experiences will have a positive effect for their communities in Kenya.



Erick Ouma



Left; Joe Wachira, Right; Cosmas Ochieng

Most importantly, Cosmas and Joe look forward to meeting with the organizations and individuals that support Kenya Works, sharing the positive impact their financial support has made. Upcoming opportunities to meet Cosmas and Joe will be posted on our website and face book page in the near future. It will be a full and wonderful visit and we hope that you can be a part of it!

Positive Parenting/GBV Workshop

In February, Kenya Works held a workshop on positive parenting and gender based violence (GBV) facilitated by Mary Makokha, REEP (Rural Education and Economic Enhancement Program) founder and director. Over 300 parents and community members (government officials, security officers, chiefs and parents) attended a full day workshop. The following day, 75 professionals including social workers, teachers and counselors, attended their own workshop. Both workshops focused on abuse awareness, education and prevention and were embraced as a significant movement forward in the community. In Kenya, topics such as these are rarely discussed or acknowledged. Both workshop groups praised Kenya Works in their addressing this important topic and see it as a significant step towards advocacy for both parent and child. Kenya Works see this as an important first step...



Mary Makokha

This July, our next step will be to hold another workshop. Mary Makokha has agreed to follow up with a 4 day comprehensive workshop of TOT (Training the Trainers) in further work on empowerment, positive parenting and domestic and gender based violence. The 35 attendees will be equipped to go further into their own communities to build a strong framework for education as well as intervention. We look to partner with more communities to promote the rights of all to live in a culture which supports prevention and dignity for all.

Stay Connected

This newsletter is a great way for us to reach out to you, our Kenya Works friends. We have been working on other ways to keep you informed and connected to the people and projects your assistance supports. I invite you to take a look at the new Kenya Works website at www.kenyaworks.org to learn more about past, present and future projects. The site is there to inform, highlight and be a means for you to share the Kenya Works story with others. You can also follow us on facebook at our Kenya Works US page. Find us, like us and share Kenya Works with family and friends.

"If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together"- *African Proverb*

Thank you for walking with us these past 10 years. Together, we build meaningful and transformative partnerships with our Kenyan friends.

Julie Schaller-Schmidt
Kenya Works Executive Director