



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter

Winter/ Spring2017



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Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the latest news and photos from the 2017 visit to the projects. As you will see we definitely have great supporters, neighbours and friends.



Visits with Our Sponsored Students 2017



We are very proud of all of our students in the Education Support Program. They are working so hard and often under very adverse conditions. We have watched them grow over the years into fine young people who have dreams and hopes for a better future. We have one student who after two years in the program is now the school Student Body President.

We have another student who was removed from an abusive home life and placed in a boarding school who aspires to become a Pope! We have learned that it might take some students a little longer than usual to attain good marks but that if they work hard and persevere they can make it. This year in particular we were really pleased to see how articulate and self-confident these young adults have become – thanks to the support of their Canadian donors and the hard work and dedication of our Kenyan administrator Susan. What a great team of committed volunteers we get to work with!



BRAVO to all!



Shitochi Goat Project Update



We are very happy to report that the goat project is doing very well. It was a pleasure for Wendy and Michele to visit with the community and share their good news. The numbers are expanding with the births of several healthy kids taking place. It was comical to see the goats all jumping around like Mexican Jumping Beans.

In the photo below Wendy, Michele and Mama Susan were rubbing the tummy of a mother goat in labour. They were wishing her well and good health. The baby was born shortly after they left the group and all went well! Many thanks to all who made this great project a reality for these families.



Chevoso Posho Mill Project

It was a pleasure to be on hand for the official opening of the Posho Mill at Chevoso. The mill had been operating for a few months and had already established itself as a valuable asset to the wider community. It was gratifying to see how many members of the community came to grind their maize at the mill while our team was there.



The proceeds from the mill had already provided for the distribution of supplemental food for the group. Wendy & Michele assisted with the second distribution of supplemental food to the members of the group. What a great success story!



Thanks to You, SFA is Making a Difference

One Child at a Time... One Community at a Time...



How Canadians are Helping in their Own Way

SFA would not be able to realise the wonderful projects taking place without the help of many Canadians who are finding ways to get involved. We thank them for sharing their ideas, their time and talents in many simple and creative ways. We are proud to introduce some of them to you today on the following pages. **THANK YOU!**

Our Soccer Shoes Contest Winner!

SFA would like to thank Rhian Wilkinson, a member of the **Canadian Woman's Soccer Team** which won the **Bronze Medal** at the **2016 Rio Olympics**

Rhian generously donated a signed pair of Nike Magistra cleats for the contest.



The lucky winner was Audree Cloutier pictured here with Rhian, the soccer shoes and those amazing Olympic medals!

We would like to thank the great team of Kylie, & Karen Pollice, Samantha Morello & sisters Sofie & Aggeliki Spetsieris who worked so cheerfully and with great enthusiasm at the Baie d'Urfe Soccer Dome selling tickets for SFA.





The Andrea Lavoie Art Exhibit & Fundraiser

"Then & Now" *Art Exhibition*

Thanks to all of you who came out to the exposition of beautiful paintings by talented artist Andrea Lavoie at the Kirkland Library. Andrea is an inspiration, using her art to overcome her difficult challenges and to benefit others. We are honoured to be one of the charities she has chosen to support along with The Montreal Neuro & Canadian Cancer Society. Two of Andrea's paintings were dedicated to SFA.



Thank you Andrea for your inspiration!

*"If you light a lamp for someone else
it will brighten your path"*

Buddha

Thank you Corpus Christi Parish



Thank you to the parish of Corpus Christi for hosting a Bake Sale & African Market which helped to raise funds for our projects. Thank you also to the Level 6 Faith First students. The class raised funds while Christmas carolling and also created messages of friendship. The friendship hands went to Kenya with Wendy & Michele and were presented to children who were very happy to receive them.

From Canada with Love



60 knitted dolls travelled to Kenya with the team and brought smiles to the faces of many. Thank you Amanda Pierlet of the Maxwell Residence for all the love you put into making the stuffies. For most children it is their first cuddle toy.



Spring Plant Sale

May 20th dawned with beautiful sunshine but also with a very cool breeze. It was a perfect day for a Plant/Bake/Market Sale. Once again Edwina's driveway provided the best venue in town and scores of people stopped by to talk & shop.



The bake table was laden with many delicious treats. We thank all of the bakers who very kindly donated their time and effort to provide them. Our SFA Market table provided a variety of items straight from Kenya for those looking for a unique purchase. The plants were numerous and varied thanks to the generosity of our gardening friends. Thank you for sharing your abundance.



As is often the case a fundraiser is only successful thanks to many, many volunteers.

Thanks to everyone who participated in any way to make this another great community event. The money raised will certainly go a long way to support our many projects in Kenya.

Fun Fun Fun

There is nothing more fun than seeing the excitement on a child's face as he or she anticipates receiving a new soccer/football as it is getting pumped up for the first time. Thank you to Pointe Claire Soccer club and Fiore Feola for donating so many balls and to Disalvo Sports in Pointe Claire for donating the ball pumps. Thank you to Fiore for also donating enough soccer uniforms for a whole team.



Colouring pages and coloured pencils were also a most welcome gift for students and adults alike. Thank you to so many people who donated the pencils and the colouring pages.



The boys and girls really enjoyed the skipping ropes and skipping elastics that we were able to bring along with us to give out at most places we visited.



Clearpoint Elementary School's Parachute was a big Hit!

The donation of a parachute brought much laughter and enjoyment to the children at the Hanne Howard Fund Centre. The celebrations held there will be remembered for a very long time!



Even the teachers and staff were excited and enjoyed the games and treats.



You can watch a video of the children singing a warm welcome for their visitors by going to our Suitcases for Africa Page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/suitcasesforafrica>



Riverdale Guides' Games Project

2nd. Riverdale District Guides – Pierrefonds

In March Wendy met with this wonderful group of enthusiastic Guiders for an informal talk about Suitcases for Africa and the possibility that they could make something that would be useful to take to the students in Kenya. It was also an opportunity for the Guiders to complete their international community service project.

The girls, along with their dedicated leaders, decided on a small project that would have a fun impact on the Kenya children. They created several sets of a matching game. Michele & Wendy took the games to Kenya and gave them out at various schools and centres.

This photo shows students at Itegero Primary School learning how to play the matching game – which proved to be a fun activity that helped pass the time during a rain storm! Wendy then returned to visit with the girls and they were thrilled to see photos of students playing their game. It was such a rewarding experience learning that their efforts had brought fun and learning to others so far away.



**Thank you to Joan and all the leaders and members
of the Riverdale District Guides!**

The Kelly Betts Yoga Event Fundraiser in Ottawa



Many thanks go to teacher Kelly Betts (in red) for organizing our first event in Ottawa. Kelly combined her love of fitness and yoga with her passion for humanitarian causes to raise funds for the children in our projects. Over the years Kelly has raised funds for children in Canada & Internationally. Thank you for supporting SFA Kelly!

Before We Go! What's Coming Next!

Michele and Wendy came home bursting with news and stories to share from their visit to Kenya. They enjoyed witnessing in person that most of our projects are doing well. The education students are working hard and maturing into fine young pupils who really appreciate their opportunity of an education. We all realize that a good education is the best way we can help provide a better future for so many students and their families.

Even though internet connections were intermittent and scarce they still managed to send two letters home. In case you haven't had a chance to read the letters which contain more details and stories you can find them on our Facebook Page and Website:

www.suitcasesforafrica.com

Please Keep an Eye Out for information regarding our **Fall Fundraising Dinner** planned for October. The date will be set once we get the travel information for Fr. Paul who will be coming to Canada for a 3 week visit. He will be our Guest of Honour at the dinner.

We hope that many of you will come to meet Fr. Paul or rekindle a friendship as he travels around to take part in community events as well.



Have a happy, safe summer!

How You Can Help



- Join us in raising funds and awareness with your own ideas or events.
- Sponsor a project with your school, church, company, family, or friends.
- Make a donation to support our projects. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations of \$25.00 or more.
- View our website for more information.
www.suitcasesforafrica.com
- Contact us at info@suitcasesforafrica.com

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and photos at
<https://www.facebook.com/suitcasesforafrica>

“Like” our page to spread the word on social media.

Thank you!