



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter

Fall 2014



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In this edition we hope you will enjoy the story of the expanding banana project in Emalindi and how St. George's Church community in Ste. Anne de Bellevue made a special connection with the school children through their "Going Bananas" campaign.

The Orphan Hostel Bath Houses ... Now Completed



Before

We are very grateful to our donors for helping SFA to improve the living conditions of the children at the Emalindi Orphan Hostel. These before and after photos speak volumes! Two dilapidated tin sheet enclosures with no privacy or security for the children have now been replaced by two

sturdy new buildings. Each building has private cubicles inside where the children can bathe. The Hostel was on the verge of being closed down due to this situation. Thankfully, the children can now remain together in the Hostel which has been slowly refurbished and improved by SFA over the last two years.



After

Please see the following page for happy photos of the children you have assisted.



Thank you from Kenya!



The Banana Plantation has been Expanded

The Banana Plantation funded by SFA at Mwirembe St. Paul School has recently been expanded with the planting of 100 new banana shoots. The shoots came



from the original 100 plants which we used to start up this project in 2013.

The original plants are doing well and nearing maturity. They will soon bear fruit for the primary school children. This community school faces the issue of constant hunger. Hunger affects their health and the ability of the children to learn. For more on this story you may read the back-issue Newsletter for **Winter 2014** which can be found on our website:

www.suitcasesforafrica.com

We would like to thank all those who funded banana trees through our Donation Cards, special events and on our website.

A Special thank you goes to the congregation of St. George's Anglican Church in Ste. Anne de Bellevue. The church ran a special campaign during Lent. The campaign was called "**Going Bananas**" and everyone had great fun in the process. Members of the church also sent special messages to the children written on paper bananas. On the following page please enjoy some of the wonderful photos that came back showing the joy those messages brought to the children.....



Beautiful Banana Smiles!



Two Itegero Primary School Projects in 2014

New Uniforms

Itegero Primary School Support was the first project undertaken by SFA in 2006. This was the primary school of our friend Ebi Kimanani and the birth place of SFA. We are proud to continue to honour our friend Ebi with the work we do in Kenya. This year the school received funding for new school uniforms, desks, benches and playground swings for the children.



New Desks and Benches



New desks and benches were funded for Itegero Primary School. The special needs students in the woodworking class at St. Ursula Special School were commissioned to build them thus benefiting both schools immensely.



These photos show the happiness of students who are excited to have a desk to work on instead of the floor. Thanks to all!

Introducing.... The new SFA Toronto Team



It is exciting news that a new team in Toronto has joined the SFA Family! They will be working together with the Beraldo Family to assist the Beraldo Family Medical Centre and to help support Healthcare Projects in the region. The Centre is currently operating much needed outreach clinics for jiggers, and baby and maternal care clinics. The Centre is about to launch clinics in the community to aid with the detection of cervical & breast cancers. There will soon

be a link to the Toronto Team fundraising events as well as updates on their work on our new website which is now under construction.

The Toronto Team members are **listed below**.

Emanuela Beraldo

Albert Beraldo

Danielle Beraldo

Wendy Kauffman

Brian O'Riordan

Rina O'Riordan

Lea Barclay

James Aita

“The newly formed Toronto Team of SFA has had several meetings with its objective being to continue the good work being done by the Montreal group in the Toronto region. Our initial goal is to ship a 40 foot container of goods identified as being needed in the Kakamega region. We are dedicated to making this a success. “

SUITCASES FOR AFRICA CONTAINER 2015

Thanks to the initiative of the Beraldo Family in Toronto and the members of the SFA Toronto Team there will be a container of supplies going to Kenya sometime in 2015. We have all started collecting items to go in the container. In August a truck containing 75 boxes, 18 bicycles & 6 wheelchairs went to Toronto to be stored until it is time to go.

Sharon & Darlene sorting and packing.

The living room is getting full.



The City of Beaconsfield kindly donated bicycles that will be taken to be donated to healthcare workers and education support volunteers. The bicycles are those that are abandoned in Beaconsfield throughout the summer months. This shipment is going to make a difference in many people's lives.

Clifford, Bruce, Richard & Doug Hawes, head of Public Security, sort through bicycles at Beaconsfield City Storage.



The garage is filling up with Bicycles, Wheelchairs, Boxes & Soccer Balls!!



Richard, Lucas, Joshua & Alex off load the truck at the storage facility in Toronto.



Thank you to everyone who contributed items to go into this shipment.

- **BREAKING NEWS** On Oct. 1 Wendy & Michele will fly to Kenya to visit the projects. We wish them a safe and enjoyable trip and will look forward to all the latest news and photos they shall bring back. They will meet with our administrators on the ground to determine new projects for 2015.

Bon Voyage! Kweheri!

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!

The Gift of Safe Lighting to Study By



Paraffin is a substance that is widely used in developing countries as a fuel source for light.

It is a dangerous fuel and has many side-effects such as headaches for those in the same room as the paraffin lamp.

In an effort to make life a little easier & safer for our educational support students, our administrator Susan suggested that we purchase **solar powered lamps** for each of them. Thanks to the efforts of the **Youth Group at the Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lachine** this became a reality this year. All of our upper elementary & high school students have new solar powered lamps to do their homework.



A Thoughtful Birthday Donation

SFA would like to thank Charlotte Lovell & friends for their recent donation this summer. Instead of enjoying birthday "loot bags" the girls decided to donate to an educational project in Kenya. Pictured in the photo are Emilie Wood, Kiara Pollice, Charlotte Lovell & Kylie Pollice.

In Charlotte's words...

"We are donating to SFA because we care about the education of these kids. Education will give them good jobs and will give them money so they can have a better life and a good future"



WEST ISLAND
PALLIATIVE CARE
RESIDENCE
(www.wipcr.ca)
CONTINUES A
SHARING
TRADITION

Leslie Mitchell, assistant head nurse, was pleased to be able to donate some colostomy supplies for us to take to Kenya. Thank you to all the staff for your enthusiastic support.

Pointe Claire Seniors



A great time was had by all as this enthusiastic group learned how to make bed mats out of milk bags - one of the seniors turned 100 years old this spring!!

CANADA DAY 2014 AT SOKO IN POINTE CLAIRE VILLAGE



Thanks to Michele & Gordon at SOKO for another wonderful day sharing their sidewalk with SFA.

Soccer Donations Sure to Delight



There will be great excitement for many school children in 2015 when the container full of soccer balls and team uniforms arrives in Kenya. A real soccer ball is a rare treat. Children often play with balls they have fashioned out of elastics, string and rags. Most schools have never had uniforms for their teams and will take great pride and joy in receiving them.

Many thanks to the following soccer organizations which have donated:

- West Island Soccer School (WISS)
- Hudson/ Ste. Lazare Soccer Club
- Pointe Claire Soccer Club
- Lakeshore Soccer Club



Upcoming Fundraising Events

This promises to be a great evening. With only 100 tickets available, plan to get your tickets early! The menu looks delicious! You can see recent photos and videos from the projects on screen also. If you have items to donate for the Silent Auction or Raffle please contact us at suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca See you there!



AFRICAN DINNER AND MARKET
to benefit

SUITCASES FOR AFRICA

Saturday November 8th. 2014 6:30PM

St. John Fisher Church

120 Avenue Summerhill

Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 2L7

Come and join us for a scrumptious, authentic Kenyan Dinner and shop at the African Market. This is a great opportunity to get a head start on holiday gift shopping!

Special Guest: Fr. Paul Ndasiganwa

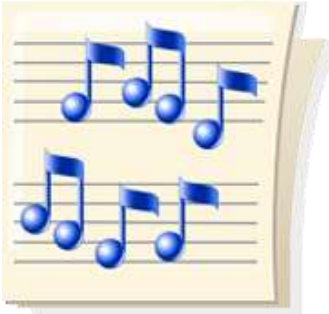
Tickets: Adults \$30; 6-12yrs \$20; under 6 FREE

Cash Wine Bar Silent Auction Raffle Gift Ideas

For tickets & information call:

514-697-5588 or 514-696-9664 or 514-457-3786

Upcoming Events continued..



A Coffee House honouring The Beatles!

Saturday November 1st. 7:00

A Special Presentation by the students of:

Kerry-Anne Kutz

Lakeshore Unitarian Church

5065 Sherbrooke St., Lachine, Quebec

Please go to our website for further information.

St. Barnabus Church Bake Sale

12301 Colin Rd.

Pierrefonds

November 9th 11:30 am

Come along to purchase home- made treats and say hello to Fr. Paul who will join us there



CORE FITNESS CLUB - CRAFT SALE

to benefit SFA & NOVA West Island

275 Elm St., Beaconsfield **Nov. 17th. - 21st.**

Mon. Wed. Fri. 7:00 - 7:00

Tues. & Thurs. 7:00 - 12:00; 5:00 - 7:00



Upcoming Events continued...

Soko Shopping Night



Come shop at Soko for beautiful gifts on Thurs. Nov. 20th from 6-9pm and owner Michele Shepard will donate 25% of all sales that evening to Suitcases for Africa.

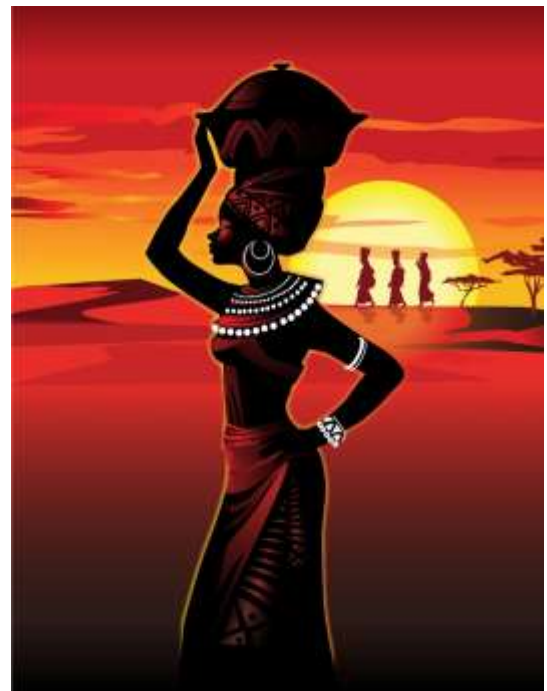
Soko is located at:
319 Chemin Bord du Lac, in
Pointe Claire Village.

Fr. Paul from Kenya and our members will be on hand to meet you and answer questions about our work.

Corpus Christi Parish Bake Sale & Kenyan Market

To be held at Corpus Christi Parish,
16 Pacific Ave. in Senneville
Sun Dec. 7, after the 10 am. Mass.

- Come purchase delicious baking for the Holidays and support the parish volunteers who will donate the funds to life saving projects for orphans.
- Christmas Gift Cards will be on sale as well as Kenyan jewelry, crafts & clothes.



DONATION GIFT CARDS

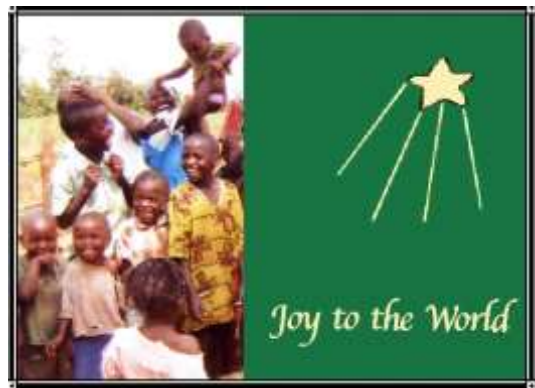
Looking for a Special Gift this Christmas?
We have several Donation Christmas cards this year.
For each card you can choose an insert describing
the project you wish to support. Then give the card
as a gift. We have had wonderful feedback from
those who receive them.



Cards can be purchased for \$10.00 and up and are great as a gift for a teacher, a business contact, or for friends and family.



To Purchase
call **Wendy** at
**514 - 697-
5588** or
Darlene at
**514 - 457-
3786.**



Coming this November.....

New Memorial card and Christmas card designed for
2014/15

Check our website for the new designs next month.

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 suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca

