



# SUITCASES for AFRICA

## News Letter

Spring 2010



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Welcome to Suitcases for Africa's first quarterly news letter! With these news letters we hope to keep you informed on the latest progress of some of our projects, and connected to the people whose lives you are changing with your support and donations. They will feature some of the children and their caregivers and introduce some of our trusted assistants who oversee our projects in Kenya as well as local volunteers.



The girls of Itegero Primary School showed us how they used to haul water from the river for their drinking water. They now have a rooftop rain water collection system and storage tank for a cleaner, safer water source.



Your donations at work in 2009!

## Update on The Mukumu Children's Home

Upon our first introduction to this home in 2009 we found this brave woman Grace struggling to provide food, shelter, love and an education for 35 orphaned and abandoned children. Food was scarce and we began with emergency donations through out the year of staple foods such as rice, beans, maize and flour.



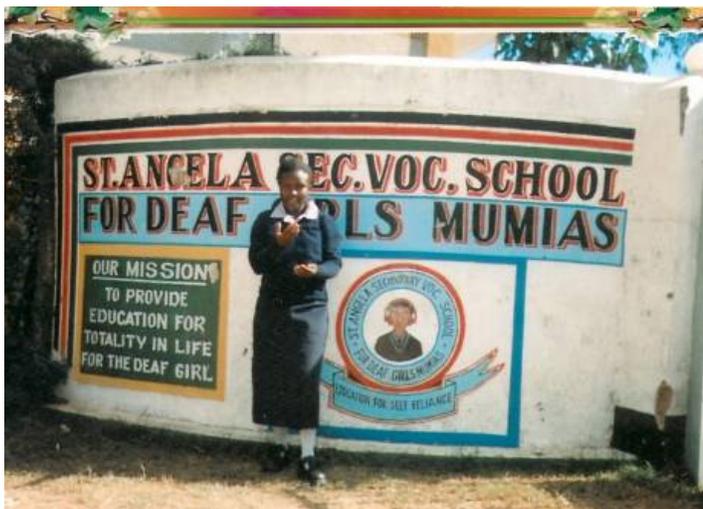
With your donations a chicken coop was also put in and stocked to help with food security. It is currently home to two cocks and 25 mature laying hens with a capacity for

50 chickens. The young girls of the home received a course in chicken care and management to ensure good results. We are excited to now be funding the planting of farmland on the property. With fertilizer, good seed and local hired help the land should be the final step in helping Grace and the children to be self-sufficient for their food needs and no longer facing hunger. Grace and the children send greetings to all their well-wishers.



## Vocational Scholarships

During the July 2009 visit to Kenya a women's sewing co-op was funded so that the care givers of orphans in our feeding program at Kayhega there could begin an income generating business, once again to help them become self supporting. With your donations, cloth and 4 new sewing machines were purchased which enabled them to work in shifts. We were able to purchase the first 38 jackets produced. Many thanks to all our supporters who purchased them from us back in Canada. The funds from sales were used to sponsor two young girls for vocational training as future seamstresses! Above is a photo of Lydia, a young deaf girl from Chekombero School. Orphaned at a young age and having had many difficult years, she will now have a bright future to look forward to. In the photo Lydia is "hand signing "Thank You" to all of you. The second girl, Phylis, will soon begin her tailoring course. She will then be able to support her 94 year old grandmother and her 10 younger siblings and cousins, all of them orphaned by AIDS.



## Update on The Rosario Castrogiovanni Memorial Well

Upon his recent passing, the family and friends of Rosario made memorial donations in his name to fund a well. The community of Sacred Shrine was chosen for this beautiful project. This community touched our hearts last summer as one of the most destitute we have seen. Construction is now underway as seen in the photos on the right.





The gracious members of the Sacred Shrine community waited for us in the hot sun, gave us gifts of sugar cane stalks, and prayed for our good health! We never cease to be amazed by their generosity, hope and strength. We are profoundly happy they will now have clean water and we hope to continue working with them to build their community.

## Emalindi Feeding Program

Women receiving their monthly food supplements of rice and beans at the Emalindi Feeding Program for orphans and Vulnerable children held this month.



## Co-op Farming Project

This spring the newly planted crop of soy beans are coming up in our Co-op Farming Project which is managed by Fr. Paul Ndasiganwa Shikami.



The people can take pride in working the land and growing their own crops with the fertilizer, tools and seed that your donations provided.



Distribution of locally made treated mosquito nets

## For Your Information!

The final total for mosquito nets distributed in 2009 because of your donations was 3,300. Thank you for helping prevent this killer disease!

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## How Canadians are helping in their own way!



### Profile of a Volunteer

We would like to thank **Eric Winn** of St. George's Church in Ste. Anne de Bellevue for his dedication and support. For the last 2 years Eric and his assistant **Heather Fox** have set up and manned "The Book Nook ". Every Saturday throughout the Winter Market held in the church basement you will find them

cheerfully selling second hand books and repairing vintage books. They do this work in return for free will donations to SFA.

In Eric's words..." The book binding allows us to meet the public and bring the message to people about the work of SFA."

We thank you both for being such wonderful ambassadors. The generous gift of your time and talents are life changing for these children!

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## COMING EVENTS! HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Calling All Knitters!

We have a special "hands on" project that you can be a part of: it is planned for this summer's visit to the projects. **We are in need of 8" knitted squares** to bring over with us along with our usual suitcases of library books, bears, educational and medical supplies. We will teach the disabled girls at St. Ursula Special School how to sew them together to make colorful afghans for their beds. The squares can be any color and should have a 1 meter length wool tail left on them (for sewing them together) for more info call Wendy 514 - 697 - 5588. When we gave out the knitted bears last summer we could "see" the love they were knitted with actually transfer to the children as their faces lit up in pure joy. The packing will begin very soon so drop them off as soon as possible.



### Welcome-in Spring with Laughter for a Good Cause!

Christmas Park School Parent Committee will host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Comedy Night** on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** at **Christmas Park School**, 422 Beaconsfield Blvd, Qc. H9W4B7. Proceeds to benefit Suitcases for Africa. Tickets cost \$15.00 For tickets call Debbie at 514 – 694 - 8507 **Neil Janna & New Friends** will be entertaining for the evening.



## St Edmund Church "Memories" Charity Auction

St. Edmund Church will host a special event to bring the community together to enjoy a fun-filled evening while raising funds for **Suitcases for Africa and Panama Health Project**. Please see the poster below for details about the evening's entertainment.

Get your friends together and come out and join us for this fun - filled night. To view the auction items or obtain more info please visit the event website at:

[www.webcadesign.com/charity\\_auction](http://www.webcadesign.com/charity_auction)

**Fr. Maurice Erambo** will be a Guest of Honor, visiting from Kenya. He looks forward to meeting the many Canadians who support our projects in his country.

For tickets please contact St Edmund of Canterbury Parish at 514 – 695 – 7100 or Darlene at 514 457-3786 (evenings) or email [suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca](mailto:suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca)

Tickets are \$25.00.

If you or your company would like to sponsor, place an advertisement in the event booklet, or donate an item for the Auction or Silent Auction please contact :

Diane Rosenthal at 514 - 697-7409 [diambianca@gmail.com](mailto:diambianca@gmail.com)

Marlynn Danaher at 514 - 695-1772 [marlynnedanaher@yahoo.com](mailto:marlynnedanaher@yahoo.com)

Tax receipt are available from St. Edmund of Canterbury Church

*May 15, 2010*

*7:00pm*

*Centennial Center  
Macdonald Campus  
21 111 Lakeshore Road  
Ste. Anne de Bellevue*

*Silent and Live Auction,  
Casino, Live Music, Dancing,  
Refreshments, Cash Bar*

*Proceeds to  
Panama Health Project  
and Suitcases For Africa*

For more information and tickets,  
contact St. Edmund of Canterbury  
Parish  
514-695-7100

[www.st-edmund-parish.ca](http://www.st-edmund-parish.ca)

### Memories Charity Auction



*Le 15 mai, 2010*

*19h00*

*Centennial Center  
Campus Macdonald  
21 111 chemin Bord du Lac  
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue*

*Encan silencieux et de vive voix,  
casino, musique, danse,  
rafraichissements, bar à la carte*

*Bénéfices au profit de  
Projet Panama en santé et  
Des Valises pour l'Afrique*

Pour de plus amples renseignements et  
billets, veuillez communiquer avec le  
bureau de St. Edmund of Canterbury  
514-695-7100

[www.st-edmund-parish.ca](http://www.st-edmund-parish.ca)

## Handcrafted Noah's Arks from Kenya

While working in Kenya last summer the team brought back 2 beautiful carved arks to raise funds. Each of these arks are made of dark jacaranda wood (see photo below). The ark comes with 24 carved animals, two by two of course, and Noah's family of 4. These arks were crafted by artist David Kathuwi Mutua of the Kamba tribe.



One of the arks will be awarded to the winner of the Casino Night games at the St. Edmund Memories Charity Auction on May 15.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ark winner will be drawn by our Kenyan guest, Fr. Maurice Erambo, on May 30<sup>th</sup>. To purchase tickets please contact Darlene at 514 - 457- 3786, or Wendy at 514 - 697- 5588.

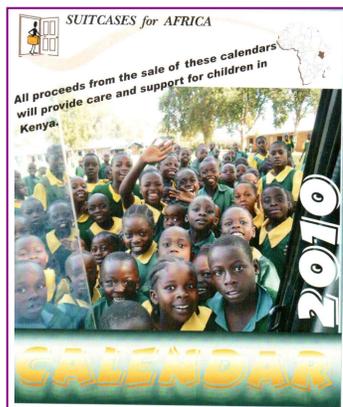
We also still have available the following items for sale:

a few **Kenyan Jackets** at \$50.00 each

a dozen **2010 Calendars** at \$10.00 each

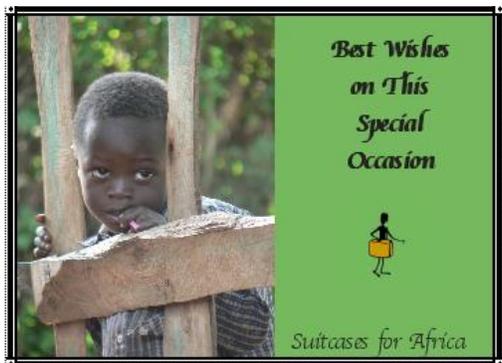


Jackets made locally in our coop sewing project



calendar cover

Our **All Occasion Donation Cards** are available throughout the year which you can obtain by calling Wendy at 514 - 697- 5588 or Darlene at 514 - 457- 3786.



These cards raised over \$6,000.00 for our projects in 2009. Those funds go a long way in Kenyan Schillings!



Visit our website to view these items and to learn more about all our projects past and present: click on [www.suitcasesforafrica.com](http://www.suitcasesforafrica.com)  
Contact us by e mail at [suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca](mailto:suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca)

On behalf of the children and their teachers and caregivers we thank you all for your tremendous help this past year. Without you none of this would be possible.

Thank You for Caring!

