



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter

Summer 2010



Table of Contents

Page 2

..... Update on The
Mukumu
Children's Home

Page 3

.....Our New Hearing
Aid Project.

..... New Poultry
Projects Hatch!

Page 4

..... Community Well
Celebration.

Page 5

..... Distribution of
Suitcases - July
2010.

Page 6

...Thank you to
all our Knitting
Friends!
... Fr. Erambo Visits
Canada

Page 7

... Lemonade for SFA
...St Edmund Charity
Auction
... A Comedy Night
Success

Page 8

..... Noah's Ark
Winners
..... Profile of a
Volunteer

Page 9..

..... HOW YOU CAN
HELP

Welcome! A lot of exciting things have happened this summer at SFA. As of July 2, Suitcases for Africa became a Registered Canadian Charity! We will now be able to give tax receipts to our generous donors. With this newsletter we would like to take you to Kenya, to witness, as we did this summer, the life changing projects that have been made possible due to your support.



At Sacred Shrine community a young girl cares for a baby. The orphan crisis in Kenya makes young children assume parenting roles, effectively limiting their own opportunity to attend school.

Update on The Mukumu Children's Home

Many of you have been following the story of Grace and her 35 orphans. When we found them in 2009 they were living in poverty, not knowing where their next meal would come from. The children slept on the cold, damp ground. As many were ill with HIV/Aids or parasitic infections their health was deteriorating.



This summer our volunteers took part in painting the two newly expanded and furnished dormitories. The new beds, mattresses and mosquito nets ensure better health and safety from malaria. In addition the funds enabled the building of new latrines farther away from the home for better sanitation. The entire home was opened up, cleaned and transformed.



With your donations life has turned around at Mukumu Home. Over the past year an emergency food program was started, a chicken coop was built and stocked, a large vegetable garden was planted and a small corn farm was funded to help. Grace and the children send their greetings and appreciation for helping them toward self sufficiency in the future. In this photo the children give a “thumbs-up” for their new life. The energy and laughter we saw during games of “duck, duck, goose” and soccer this summer testified to their improved health levels.

For more details on this story and others visit www.suitcasesforafrica.com

Our New Hearing Aid Project



During the July 2010 summer visit we spent a day visiting with some of the children who were funded to receive new hearing aids. We have the good fortune to have Mr. David Eshihuula as one of our agents on the ground in Kenya. David is a teaching specialist for hearing impaired children. We have been working with David for the last 4 years to improve educational opportunities for these children. We learned from David that few can afford a hearing aid and that a child who does have one will often remove and lend their hearing aid to another child so they can listen to music. We were touched by this story and so began a project to help them move beyond their silent world. This year the first 12 children were tested and fitted for a new hearing aid and a two year supply of batteries.

New Poultry Projects Hatch!

This year 4 new poultry projects were installed. Funding of a poultry project covers the cost of coop construction, feeding and watering apparatus, poultry vaccinations, 2 cocks and 18 laying hens. Also funded is a course of instruction on the care and management of the poultry by an animal health officer. To date in 2010 we have installed one each at Mukumu Home, Lion Hill, Upendo and Sacred Shrine Communities. A 5th is under construction now.



Something to cluck about !!

A Joyful Celebration at The Rosario Castrogiovanni Memorial Well

This summer the Beraldo family had the moving experience of traveling to Kenya to be present at the official blessing of the well they funded in Rosario's memory. They took part in the ceremony with the community it now serves. There was much singing, and dancing as the community expressed their happiness and gratitude and everyone got better acquainted.



The well has been in operation since its completion in February 2010 and it was very apparent to those of us who were here in summer 2009 that this well is now making a difference to the health and well being of all. Last year we were very distressed at conditions we saw here. The well has brought much hope.

Distribution of Suitcases - July 2010



Canadians donated 27 suitcases of books, clothes, medical & school supplies



Sr. Bernadette full of surprise when we opened her suitcases of medical supplies



For more info on these stories please visit....

www.suitcasesforafrica.com

Thank you for caring !



A Big Thank You To Our Knitting Friends!



When we asked for volunteers to knit squares this winter we were astounded by your great response! We send our heartfelt thanks to all of those who filled our suitcases with a profusion of colors to choose from. We used them to sew blankets with the disabled children at St. Ursula Special School. The children were so delighted with this project and all the love and warmth of your gift was apparent. Visit our website for many happy photos of the day we shared.

St George's Anglican Church Knitters



Fr. Maurice Erambo Visits

Many thanks To Fr. Benoit and the parish of Corpus Christi, Senneville, for hosting Fr. Maurice during his visit to Canada in May. After attending a conference in California he flew to Canada to join us for the St. Edmund Charity Auction. Thank you for welcoming him so warmly. He had many good memories to take back to Kenya.

How Canadians Are Helping In Their Own Way!

Lemonade never tasted better! Our volunteers start very young learning the power they too have to change someone's life. This very hot summer sister & brother Marijke and Cael and their friends Jessica, Brayden and Amelia raised funds selling lemonade and cookies, and also babysitting a neighbor's guinea pig to help children in Kenya. They requested their funds go to our orphan feeding program. Thank- you boys and girls!



Christmas Park School Parent's Comedy Night A Big Success!

This year's Fourth Annual Comedy Night was much enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to the dedicated school parents who have been raising funds for Kenyan students since the inception of SFA in 2006.

The school shares a special bond with Itegero Primary School. Students at Christmas Park have written & illustrated their own small books for the Itegero library in 2010. They also packed over 200 hygiene kits and helped to load the container shipment to Kenya in 2007.

THIS YEAR'S COMEDY NIGHT RAISED \$1800.00. Thank you also to all the community sponsors.

St. Edmund of Canterbury 'Memories ' Charity Auction

" Tonight's Gonna be a Good, Good Night!" These were the words of the best song of the evening and it certainly was a good night. Those attending shared memories of Beaconsfield's 100th Anniversary, and each others company in many ways. There was a popular Casino Night, Music, Dancing, Great Food and a wonderful Auction, all to raise funds for 2 charities working in third world aid & development, Panama Health Project and Suitcases for Africa. Though final figures are not yet in, the organizers say approximately \$8,500.00 was raised for each charity! Thank you to the many, many volunteers who shared their immense talents and gave so freely of their time to plan his event for over 18 months. We can not thank you enough for the help this will bring to the vulnerable and impoverished we work with in both charities.

Noah's Ark Winners



Fr. Erambo seen here with the Ark & SFA members at a Beaurepaire United event.



The wooden Noah's Ark Raffle winners were The Zampini Family of Dorval.

Profile of a Volunteer....Hilary Adams

We would like to thank 18 year old Hilary Adams who undertook an amazing project to raise funds for Kenyan children. The freshman at Dalhousie University is a talented singer who compiled her own CD at 16 to raise funds for a music program at Itegero Primary School. As a result this year the school was able to set up and stock a music section of their library with some traditional African instruments, drums and, a guitar.



The funds also made possible a part time music teacher. As a result their newly formed choir is blossoming. Hilary also linked Canadian students from St. Edmund School with those in the Kenyan school by making friendship dolls with messages attached, which she delivered when she joined the work team this summer on the ground in Kenya .

In Hilary's own words;

"This summer was an adventure that I will never forget. The people, & the culture, will forever remain in my heart. Those we assisted helped me far more than I helped them. I have grown as a person and their strength, perseverance and faith have taught me to stay hopeful through out my own experiences and to always remember how blessed I am"

For more on this story visit our website.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Purchase a Kenyan Jacket for \$50.00



Jackets made locally in our coop sewing project

- Join us in raising funds and awareness with your own ideas or events.
- Make a donation to support our projects.
- Purchase our gift cards or jackets or skirts made by Kenyan women.
- Our Fall Newsletter will highlight our new and ongoing projects.

Our All Occasion Donation Cards are available throughout the year. Call Wendy at 514 - 697- 5588 or Darlene at 514 - 457- 3786.



These cards raised over \$6,000 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
Contact us by e mail at 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.

