



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter

Winter 2013



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**... HOW YOU CAN
HELP**

A Total Transformation
From a leaking, unfurnished structure to a
dry, safe and cheerful home complete with
new beds and mattresses for all!
Thank you!



**In this edition, enjoy seeing photos of the renovation
of the Girls' Dormitory Project for the Emalindi
Orphan Hostel.**

Our Donors Transform the Dormitory

We are happy to share the good news. The quality of life for these young girls has been greatly improved as you can see from the before and after photos. Gone are the rusty, leaking roof, the broken wet floor where the rain accumulated through the damaged walls and foundation and the few broken beds and mattresses. The cheerfully painted and weather tight building is now a HOME!

Many thanks go to all who purchased beds and helped to fund the renovation. Thank you for acting so quickly to change the situation from bleak to beautiful.



Asante rafiki
Thank you friends

The New Emalindi Orphan Hostel



DORMITORY BEFORE



DORMITORY AFTER



2 OLD LATRINES



**4 NEW
LATRINES**



**60 NEW BEDS &
MATTRESSES ARRIVE**



MANY HAPPY GIRLS!

Welcome to the 11 New Children in Our Educational Sponsorship Program for 2013

We would like to thank the families and individuals who have signed up recently to sponsor these 11 beautiful children who have become the newest members of the program in 2013. We now have a total of 41 children enrolled in the primary school educational program. Each and every one of these children will have a chance to obtain the education they need with the assistance of paid school fees, uniforms, books, school supplies and one nutritious meal a day. The children have compelling stories and many challenges in their daily lives but they now have the hope of a better future. Without the minimum of a grade 8 level education they would end up facing a future of menial or hard labour jobs for a salary of \$1 a day. Many of these jobs are abusive. Our administrator Susan Nanjala has done an excellent job in selecting the most vulnerable children who also have the desire to go to school and to learn.



Branis



Christine



Elvis



Irene



Melvin



Ivy





Gaudencia

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
Nelson Mandela

Our Seamstress Scholarship 2013

Many of you have been following the story of Lydia. We met Lydia in 2009 in Chekombero community. Lydia was orphaned, alone and living in terrible conditions, struggling to finish primary school off and on as she could. With funds raised by the sale of Kenyan jackets made

by women in our sewing co-op, we were able to send her to secondary school.



We are happy to see Lydia now entering her final year of secondary school training to become a seamstress. Lydia is doing well in her studies at the St. Angela's School for Hearing Impaired Girls in Mumias. Lydia has overcome many challenges and hardships. In this photo Lydia is out shopping for her school supplies before starting the January semester. She is shown using sign language to say "thank you" We are excited to know Lydia will have a bright, independent future.

From Disadvantaged to Dignified

BY DAVID ESHIHUULA

After getting assistance from Suitcases for Africa to start a chicken farming project, a community plots its way from a disadvantaged life to a life of dignity for vulnerable children through poultry and dairy farming.



A determined group in Shanyinya community is literally changing the lives of vulnerable children. After being orphaned at a tender age the children have had to undergo many hardships and overcome so many adversities. The condition of these children is changing positively day by day. "It was apparent that we could not continue watching these children go without meals or feel sorry for ourselves due to our economic status. Immediately after we got

funding from Suitcases for Africa, coming out of this position of disadvantage became a feasible possibility", said the group's chairperson, Mr. Isaac Miheso. The group now has 100 indigenous chickens.

This poultry project, funded by an SFA donor, provides eggs. As the flock increases some chickens will be sold and others will provide meat for the most vulnerable children who attend nursery school at the church hall. The group chairperson ensures that vaccines are administered and the chickens are fed for healthy growth. With limited space they have made the best out of a difficult situation.

The group also rears a cow funded by Suitcases for Africa that provides milk for the children. The cow bore a calf a few months ago which will increase the benefit.



The group is now comfortably providing meals for 50 children under the age of 8 years. The children no longer belong to the desperate lot. Less than three years ago, life for these children was a struggle. They would go without meals for a day but now the story is different. The cow provides milk which enriches porridge they take on a daily basis. This has greatly improved the nutritional status and health of the children.



Recently Suitcase for Africa sent a grant which enabled the children to get uniforms, shoes and socks. These were given to the most vulnerable children. The children were attending school in torn clothes and without good shoes. At the moment all 50 children have uniforms, shoes and socks. The completed projects in this community will not only help the children get a decent education but also realize the joy usually associated with childhood.



Thank you for making this possible!

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 Sculpture Contest Winner



And the winner is

Michele Shepard, shown above left, has just drawn the winning ticket for the sculpture entitled *Leaving Childhood Behind*. This beautiful treasure was won by Ellen Goehlent who lives in Vermont. Ellen's friend Edwina Mattinson, above right, accepts the sculpture on her behalf. Edwina has been enjoying temporary custody of the sculpture but will have to relinquish her soon.

Many thanks to all who entered the Sculpture contest.

Thank You to our Web Host

We would like to thank James Riordan who has generously hosted our website at no charge for the last 5 years with his webserver company www.outofcontrol.ca

Thank you James!

The Great Pumpkin Sale Buys Beds for Orphans!



Another ingenious idea! A team of teenage hockey players helped to raise funds for beds for the children living in the Emalindi Orphan Hostel. The account of the difficult living conditions was featured in the Fall 2012 Newsletter and the boys went straight to work to change their story.

While the plight of people living in Africa is difficult to comprehend for us living in the West Island, the ability to help is not.

As team manager of a local hockey team, I have always tried to engage the team to give back and this year was no exception. The team once again rallied together to purchase one (1) bed for a Kenyan Orphanage.

On October 27 & 28, 2012, The Lakeshore Bantam CC Panthers hockey team consisting of 18 young men from the West Island (*Juliano Malizia, Tyler Shanks, Paul Labelle, Zackary Pelletier, Omar El-Sewify, Andrew Rainone, Delano Brown, Tyler Alexander Nickson, Michael Tsitouras, Kevin Marsolais, Nathan Johnston, Andrik Terauds, Charles Argento, Seiji Martone, Mitchell DiPerna, Steven Roche, Andrew Doucet, Matteo Masciotra*) sold Pumpkins as a Team Fundraiser.

They sold lots and lots of Pumpkins! They worked very hard and their efforts were rewarded. Once again we were able to Give Back in a big way. What originally was an offer to purchase one (1) bed for a Kenyan Orphanage turned into three (3)!!

We are extremely proud of our sons for stepping up to the plate and doing their part for the community both here at home and abroad.

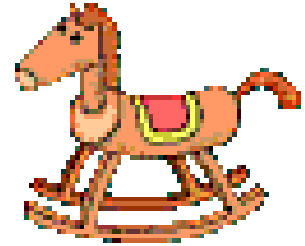
Thank you for allowing us the privilege of making a difference.
Kindest Regards on behalf of the 2012-2013 Lakeshore Bantam CC Panthers. **Donna Keough**



Thank you Panthers for leading by example!

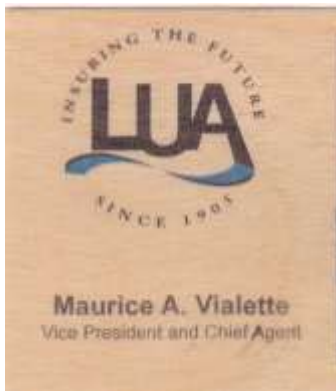
St. Edmund of Canterbury Church Toy Sale

We would like to thank the parishioners of St. Edmund Church and the organizers of this wonderful event who have donated a lot of time and energy into converting gently used and no longer needed toys into funds. This year's sale raised \$1,159.00. Over the last several years the funds raised at this event and donated to SFA have fed thousands of children.



Lumberman's Underwriting Alliance

SUITCASES FOR AFRICA owes a huge thank you to Maurice Vialette of Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance for thinking of us when he was faced with the task of closing the company's Dorval office. Maurice very generously allowed Wendy & Darlene to go "shopping" for office supplies as well as materials that could be shipped to Kenya for our schools and our administrators. We gathered pens, pencils, paper clips, memo pads, envelopes, paper, file folders, staplers, calculators etc... We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go back several times and share the products with other not-for-profit organizations like Villa Beaurepaire and Laurie Dotto in Beaconsfield who was filling a container to go to Malawi. Maurice was always patient with our excitement over our good fortune. The money we have saved in office supplies will now be freed up to go to projects in Kenya.



Asante Maurice & good luck with your move out west.

Thank you to "Senneville Shares" for their donation of \$300.00 towards new projects for 2013.

A Music Concert Thank you to Kerry-Anne Kutz and her talented students

Everyone who came out enjoyed an evening of song as Kerry-Anne's students paid tribute to the most popular & memorable music of Carole King, James Taylor & Elton John. This entertaining event raised \$956.00



Thank you to Soko in Pte. Claire Village



The Shopping Night hosted by Michele Shepard and her staff last December helped to raise \$375.00 for new projects in 2013.

Corpus Christi Parish Christmas Bake Sale

The delicious Christmas baking, card sales, raffle and jewelry sold helped to raise \$2,136.00. Many thanks go out to all who took the time to bake and help out during this very busy season.



St. Georges Anglican Church continues to be a strong foundation of support for SFA's work in Kenya. The "Book Nook" in the church still runs every Saturday at the Winter Market in Ste. Anne de Bellevue with funds raised donated to our projects. We were very touched by the congregation's tremendous support of the Christmas Gift Cards once more this year. Thank you for your partnership.

Coming Events



7th. ANNUAL COMEDY NIGHT to benefit SUITCASES FOR AFRICA

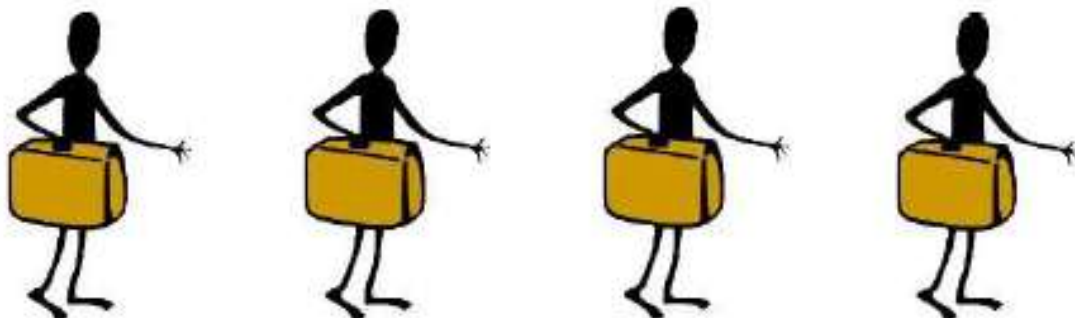
Featuring: Neil Janna & Friends
With Special Guest: Derek Sequin

St. Edmund's Elementary School
115 Beaconsfield Blvd.
Beaconsfield, QC

March 22, 2013
Cocktails: 7pm
Show Starts: 8pm

Adults Only \$20.00
1 free drink with ticket
(Limited number of tickets)

For Tickets contact: Kelly Fraser 514-426-1283 or Wendy Buchanan: 514-697-5588





SUITCASES FOR AFRICA SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday April 12, 2013

St. John Fisher Church

120 Summerhill Rd.

(corner Valois Bay)

Pointe Claire, Qc

Doors Open: 5:30

Dinner: 6:30

Raffle & Silent Auction

African Merchandise Table

Dinner:

Spaghetti with meat or vegetarian sauce, salad, rolls, dessert, juice, tea & coffee. (Wine to purchase)

Tickets (limited number available):

Adults: \$20.00; 6 -12yrs: \$15.00; Under 6 FREE

For Tickets Call:

Wendy 514-697-5588 or Darlene 514-457-3786

THANK YOU FOR CARING

Pennies from Heaven, The Campaign Continues

Now that pennies are about to become extinct we invite you to liberate them from your old jars and tins so they can be put to one final good use.

Perhaps they will feed orphans, help to build a classroom or with what is most urgent!

Please consider donating your pennies to Suitcases for Africa! Let them go out in a blaze of *Glory!*
Thank You!

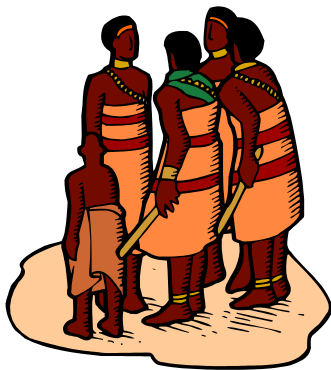
So far close to \$800.00 in pennies have come in. Thank you to those rolling them for us. Can we make it to 1,000?? Let's sure try!



Please email us at suitcasesforafrica@yahoo.ca to find the closest drop off point for your pennies.

We thank **Soko** in Pte. Claire Village for being one convenient drop off point.

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