

Letter Home 2016

This year our trip to Kenya arrived much earlier in the year than usual. Instead of coming in the Fall we arrived in mid-February. We left home on Monday February 15th. in minus 28 degrees winter and arrived in Mukumu on Wednesday February 17th. in 32 degrees summer. It was quite a shock! Since being here it has been sunny and warm with one really amazing thunder storm.



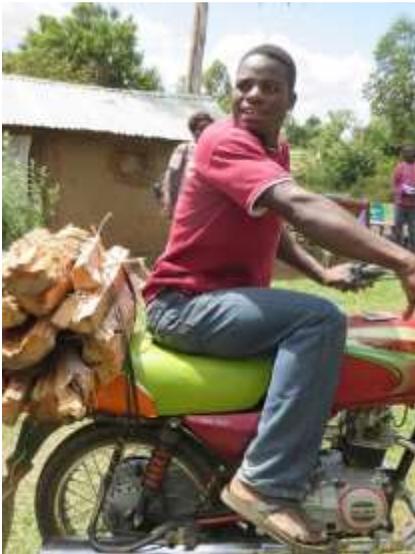
Our main goal for this trip was to unpack, sort, repack and distribute the container items that had arrived in August. It was quite a shock to see how much damage had been done to the contents of the container. The worst damaged were the dental chairs that had been donated from Toronto. Luckily it seems likely that at least a couple of dental chairs will be able to be cobbled together to become useable.

Once we got to work it was fun to see all the items that had been packed almost two years ago! We send sincere thanks to everyone who donated treasures which have brought joy and appreciation from hundreds of people in the Kakamega District. St. Elizabeth Mission Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital in Mumias, The Beraldo Family Medical Centre in Emalindi, The Guividumbali Clinic and The Lirhandu Medical Clinic are just some of the recipients of medical supplies that were distributed. Bicycles went to healthcare workers. Educational supplies have been gladly received by about a dozen schools.

For the first time since SFA started visiting Kenya we had more than enough soccer/footballs to go around. It was great fun. There are now many proud students playing football in matching uniforms thanks to our many soccer clubs who donated their excess uniforms.

Each of our 63 students in our education support program received their own “football” in a very special goodie bag that contained many fun bits and pieces. The highlights were rain ponchos, sun glasses, t-shirts and their balls.

Despite the extreme heat we have been able to complete our task of delivering the treasures from the container. We also had the pleasure of visiting two newly completed projects. For the Shamberere Community Firewood project is already showing great promise. A wood storage unit has been constructed and a chain saw has been purchased. While we were there someone from a local restaurant arrived on a motorcycle to purchase wood to be used in cooking the food for the evening. The custodian of the chain saw was out on a paying job.



The second project that we had the pleasure of visiting was the Shitochi Community Goat Project – what fun it was to actually hand over 10 “she” goats to newly trained group members. The two “he” goats will be delivered next week. Once the project is



complete there will be 20 females and 4 male goats in the community. Milk will be shared and the “kids” will be sold as the goats multiply. There is very little cuter than a baby goat!! Thank you to Susan & Esther for their expertise and guidance getting these projects off the ground.

On our last night in Mukumu we had the pleasure of entertaining our many friends and co-workers in our guest house as a way to say thank you for their assistance and friendship. We ordered delicious samosas from a local street vender and had lots of nibbles and drinks. We brought smoked salmon with us and everyone really enjoy this special treat.

We are now at the Mill Hill Guest House in Kisumu and if possible it is even hotter here. Now we enter the buying phase of our trip. We will be bringing back many treasures that will be available at our up-coming Pasta Supper which will be held on April 9th. We also have appointments in Nairobi for the end of the week as our trip winds down. The time has passed so quickly it is hard to believe that we will be heading home in less than a week.

Please visit our website and watch for our next newsletter for more details on projects mentioned in this letter. Wendy & Michele

