



SUITCASES for AFRICA

News Letter

Winter/ Spring2019



Table of Contents

Page 2-3 ... Joshua's
3rd Well

Page 4 ... Our High
School Graduates

Pages 5-8
...Sponsored
Students Special Day

Page 9..... Mosquito
Net Distribution

Page10-11....Visits to
Past Projects & Old
Friends

Pages 12-15.. Making
a Difference: Gerald &
Lenore's African Bike
Tour to Fund a Well in
Shamoni Community

Pages 16-23...Thank
You to Our Volunteers
& Donors

Pages 24-25
Coming Events,
Summer Fair
Plant & Bake Sale

Page 26... Strength in
Community

Page 27... HOW YOU
CAN HELP



A Lot to Smile About!

Official Opening of Joshua's 3rd Well at Indulusia Primary School

Anytime that Suitcases for Africa gets to commemorate the opening of another well is cause for great celebration! This was the case on February 27th when Wendy & Michele were present for the official opening of Joshua's 3rd. Well at Indulusia Primary School.



And it certainly was a great celebration. The event was attended by dignitaries, clergy members, politicians, community members, school staff and students and kids in trees! There was singing, dancing and recitations by way of entertainment. Joshua's story was shared and he was praised for his continued commitment to bringing clean, safe drinking water to so many communities.

The success of this project is thanks to the invaluable administrative skills and experience of Susan Nanjala and her team.

We are so thankful that Steven was once again the contractor on this project and we are grateful for his exemplary work ethic!

It was definitely a day of joyous celebration.





Steven addresses the crowd.

Water is Life



Thank you Joshua!



Congratulations to our High School Graduates 2018-19

This year was a very exciting year for many students in our education program. Many students graduated from High School. This is an amazing feat when we remember that when we started this program our goal was to assist students up to grade 8. Once attaining this level a student is eligible for apprenticeship programs. We soon discovered that most of our students were enthusiastic learners and aspired to continue their education beyond this level.

Thanks to our dedicated donors we were able to offer them the opportunity to go on to high school. It was a struggle for many learners and it sometimes took time to achieve their goals but 8 students graduated from high school in December 2018! We wish them all the best as they decide their path for this year.



Shamoni Group students with caregivers



A Special Day with our Sponsored Students



In February Michele, Wendy, Susan & Esther spent a wonderful afternoon with our students in Khayega celebrating their achievements over the past year.

All of the students were successful in passing their year and were looking forward to working hard to accomplish the same results in this school year.

Children played with games and toys that were brought from Canada – especially the soccer balls! They read letters from their sponsors and then wrote letters back – this is always a highlight of the visit. They spent time colouring and sharing a meal. For Wendy & Michele this is always one of the days of the trip that they treasure.

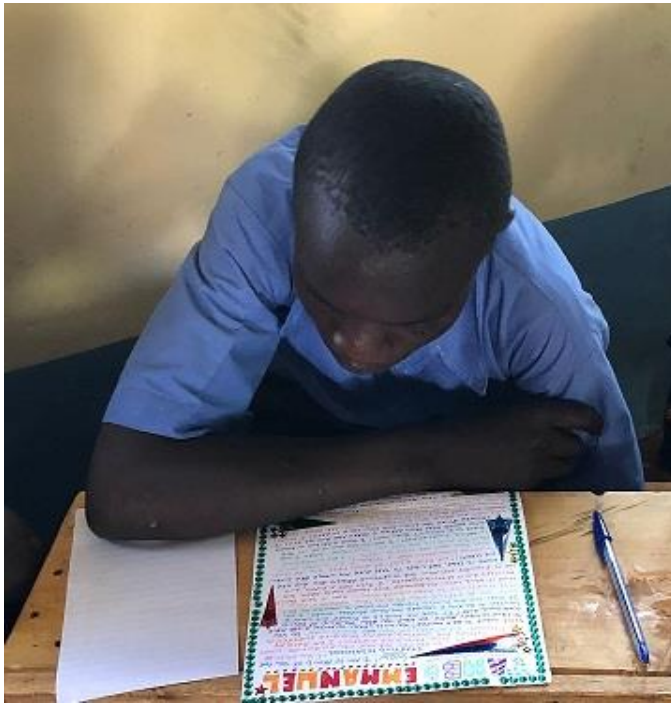


Distributing Soccer Balls and Uniforms

As always, the suitcases full of soccer balls and uniforms are a highlight for the schools and communities who are lucky to receive them. We see so many happy smiles and love to see them jump right into a game!



Letters from Sponsors in Canada



Another special day for everyone happens when the students receive their letters from their sponsors.

They look forward to that with anticipation and happiness. They enjoy the photos, and stickers and drawings within them very much.

Here we see Emmanuel absorbed in reading his letter from his sponsor Dawn-Amber.

We thought you might enjoy reading a few excerpts below from the letters written back to their Canadian sponsors.

Three letters from students

Dear My Mum Cathy,

I hope you are fine and doing well there in Canada. I also hope Mike is fine. I joined High School and I like it. Really secondary life is very good.

I also thank you for encouraging me to put in more efforts in my studies. I would like to be a dentist in future.

We have not yet chosen subjects but I can take subjects containing Maths and Sciences. I promise that I will do my best and hard work at school.

You and Mike look good in your pictures. I thank you for paying my fees and I pray that God may grand you a long life and continue to pay my fees.

For now, my parents are happy for your support.

Receive greetings from my family and greet Mike and your family and those who know me and my family. **Phaxillar**





Dear Maddalena,

I hope you are fine with your family. I have received your letter today and I want to tell you I'm doing well in my studies and I promise you that I will do my best to give a good results.

This year I want to tell you that I have changed from athletics to football and I am playing number 9.

I am still growing vegetables like sukumawiki and cabbages.

I am now in high school. I enjoy going to school every day so that I can improve in my studies. My favourite subject is history.

Thank you for your support and God bless you.

Ibrahim

Dear Mary,

I hope you are going on well in Canada. God chose you to be my sponsor. This was the grace of God.

I hope that this year 2019 is going to be a God blessed year.

I thank you for really supporting me to go to school. Education is the key of life – that's why I am happy to be in school.

Very great wishes in this year

2019. **Kevin**



The 2019 Distribution of Mosquito Nets by SFA



Dr. Ebi Kimanani



SFA is committed to saving lives in the battle against Malaria by providing Mosquito Nets to children and families every year. SFA came into existence in response to the huge loss felt by our community when our dear friend Ebi lost her own life to the illness while working to eradicate it. You can read more about our history and Ebi on our website at www.suitcasesforafrica.com

Exciting news from the World Health Organisation

A new Malaria vaccine is being launched in a trial in 3 African countries including Kenya. It took 30 years of research to get to this trial. Our dear friend Ebi worked towards ethical trials before Malaria took her life. She would be very happy at this news. It will take time so bed nets are still crucial to saving lives. To learn more follow this link

<https://www.who.int/.../23-04-2019-malaria-vaccine-pilot-laun...>

Visits to Past Projects and Old Friends

Chevoso Posho Mill Project: Another Great Success Story.



It was a great joy to hear the wonderful success stories from an amazing group of dedicated volunteers who have reaped the benefits of having the Posho Mill. The Mill is in almost constant use and the community really values the opportunity to grind their maize in such close proximity to their homes.



The Women's Sewing Group



The sewing group is now in its eighth year of operating. SFA provided sewing machines to the group and start-up funds for material. Over the years the women have created colourful jackets, quilts, placemats and more. SFA continues to bring some of their fashions to Canada for sale at our events. **Well done ladies!**

Masha Mapya Cow Project

What a delight it was to spend some time with our Masha Mapya “Cow Project” Group. The members of the group are all doing very well.

They are now hoping to start to mentor another aids survivors group.

Fantastic!



The Shitochi Goat Project

Watching goats as they skip around is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon! Our goat project is going well. Some members of the group found it necessary to sell their first goat for various reasons and have managed to get a second goat. They are all very appreciative of the opportunity to rear their goats for the milk and as income when they are sold.

Thank you to all of our donors who helped get this project established.

Thanks to You, SFA is Making a Difference One Child at a Time... One Community at a Time



Shamoni Community Children



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!

Cairo – Cape Town Bike Tour 2019

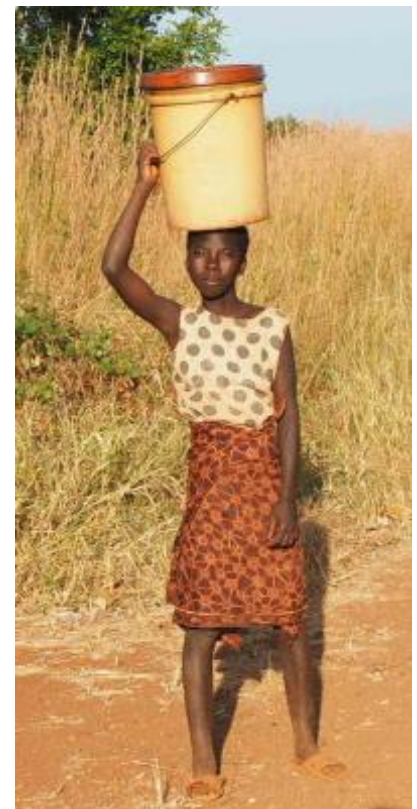
In support of funding for
The Shamoni Community Well Project

Gerald and Lenore are raising funds to help SFA install a new Community Well. The bike tour is taking them through several countries, numerous cultures, different landscapes, climates and challenges to say the least.

They are taking all of us along on the journey with their fascinating blog which you can follow at this link: <https://africa2019.blog/>



During the Kenya leg of the journey Gerald and Lenore announced their intention to raise funds for a new well for the Shamoni Community. This well will improve the lives of 1,050 people and will serve 2 churches and 1 school. They will no longer have to draw drinking water from a contaminated source. Learn about this community and the new well project on the following page.....



Thank you Gerald & Lenore!



COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR TRANSFORMATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SHAMONI COMMUNITY'S PROFILE:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Shamoni Community is based in Shianda Location, Shamoni Sub-Location, Kakamega North District, Malava Sub- County in Western Kenya. There are two Churches within the Community who share the

same resources available e.g. water sources, Schools and Social amenities.

PROBLEM:

The community is faced with a water problem whereby the current water sources are quite far away from where the families live. Women and children bear the burden of walking long distances in search of water. The sources are unprotected leading to high incidences of diarrheal diseases and exposes the children to the risk of rape if they go to the water source very early in the morning /evening.

COMMUNITY'S FELT NEED:

Shamoni Community is in need of a water point that will be easily available / accessible so as to ease women / children from the burden of walking long distances in search of water. The water should also be sufficient for domestic and animal use that is clean and safe.

TITLE OF THE WATER PROJECT:

The Title will be SHAMONI COMMUNITY WATER PROJECT.

BENEFICIARIES:

DIRECT

Direct beneficiaries will be SHAMONI COMMUNITY.

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES:

These will be members from two churches within the community.

TARGET POPULATION:

This is the population that will benefit from the project both direct /indirect whereby the community has 600 people and members from the two local churches are 450. The target population to benefit from the project is 1,050 persons.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILTY

The community has been awarded the water project through NAMBOKA WOMEN GROUP. The group shall be responsible for ensuring there is community participation during project implementation. It will also monitor / follow and ensure the project is sustained after completion. It is therefore going to be a linkage between CCTD and SHAMONI Community.

JUSTIFICATION:

SHAMONI Community needs the Water project because it is a felt need and Community driven proposal and this will enhance sustainability.

Susan Nanjala
CCTD Administrator/ Director/ Chair.



The community is celebrating the good news that they will have a well in 2019.

Kerry Anne's Coffee House



In November Kerry-Anne Kutz hosted her annual Coffee House in support of Suitcases for Africa and our projects in Kenya.

“Country Tunes for City Folks” was the theme.



Kerry-Anne and her little chicks sang great country tunes such as:

How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away?

There's a Light at the End of the Tunnel - I Hope it's Not a Train!

Those of us who were lucky enough to be in the audience were thoroughly entertained.

Following the entertainment there was a reception where we had the opportunity to share our story and to showcase our merchandise that was brought back from Kenya.



Thank you Kerry-Anne – it is always a pleasure to spend time with you and your students!



SOKO NIGHT for Suitcases for Africa

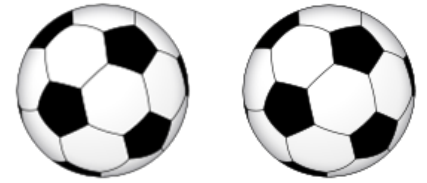
SOKO in Pointe Claire Village was the spot to be on November 8th, 2018. Michele welcomed everyone to a special night of shopping, nibbling and visiting with friends. Proceeds from the evening were forwarded to Suitcases for Africa to fund projects in Kenya. Thank you once again Michele - what a great way to get into the Holiday Spirit and support a great cause at the same time.



*Start where you are. Use what you have.
Do what you can.*

Soccer Balls from St Mary's Anglican Church

In 2018 the Sunday School children at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Kirkland asked for the congregation's assistance in collecting soccer balls that could be taken to Kenya.

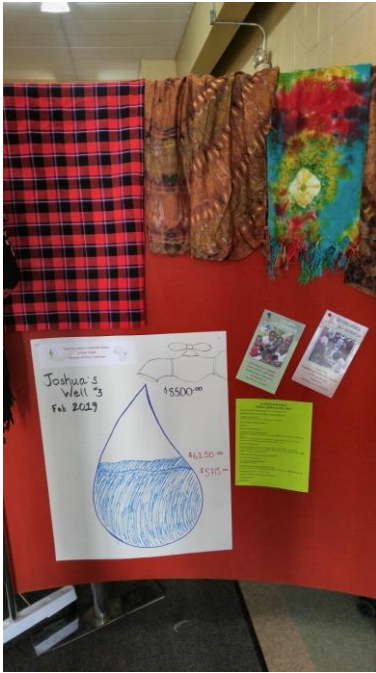


Almost immediately donations began to arrive and before they knew it they had collected two huge bags full. They all had great fun deflating the balls for easy packing for Wendy & Michele to take with them to Kenya. As can be seen also in the earlier photos the balls were a welcome gift for children as well as adults!



Thank you Bethany for spearheading this campaign.

Core Craft Fair



While in Kenya this year Wendy & Michele were grateful for the opportunity to visit each of the wells that were installed thanks to our partnership with Joshua.

Each and every one of the community wells is functioning and the community flourishing.

It was a pleasure to visit friends from well #1 in 2013, well #2 in 2015 and to celebrate Well #3 this year.

We are very proud of Joshua and his commitment to bringing clean safe water to so many communities in Kenya.



Josh is well on his way to raising funds for well #4



Thank you Corpus Christi Parish, Senneville



Thank you to the parish of Corpus Christi for hosting the **Annual Christmas Bake Sale & African Market** which helped to raise funds for our projects. The bakers of the parish

donated delicious treats for sale. Many parishioners shopped for hand crafted Kenyan Christmas gifts and Donation Gift Cards for specific projects in 2019.

Your support is greatly appreciated.



Corpus Christi Level 6 Faith First Students

Thank you also to the Corpus Christi Level 6 Faith First students. At one of their Saturday classes this winter a presentation of photos and videos from Kenya took place. It illustrated some of the challenges faced by their peers in rural Kenya thousands of miles away. The children had many good questions for Darlene and a great discussion took place.

Afterward each of the children wrote and illustrated pages for a book entitled **Four Seasons in Canada**. When compiled and bound it was a beautiful book. The colourful book went to Kenya with Wendy & Michele and was presented to school children there so they would know more about our country too.



SFA Annual Plant Sale 2018

Thank you to all who donated and shopped.

A big thank you goes to Edwina & Joe for hosting this annual event at their home once again last spring. Many came out to shop for beautiful plants on their garden wish list. We also enjoyed the extra fun of sharing this date with the Royal Wedding of Harry and Megan!



We all wore our jewels and fascinators for the occasion.

No doubt we will be celebrating the birth of Baby Sussex at this year's event on May 18th!





From Canada with Love

Many thanks to Amanda Pierlet of the Maxwell Residence who continues each year to knit so much love into the little comfort dolls we take to Kenya. For many these dolls are the very first toy of their own to cuddle. What a precious gift of time and love.



Thank you Forest Hill Senior Students



Following a visit to Forest Hill Senior Elementary School in St. Lazare by Wendy the students in Natalie Perron's grade four class decided that they would like to write letters to the students in Kenya. They wrote short stories and then asked many questions to find out what it was like to be a student in Kenya.

Due to the fact that these students study in French their writings were in French. Tina, Michele & Wendy spent an evening translating the stories & questions into English.

Once over in Kenya, the students in our Education Program at Shimoni Primary School read the letters and responded.

Even the caregivers and staff at Shamoni Primary School got in on the fun.



Imagine our delight when one of the teachers spoke a little French and was delighted to be able to read the stories as written!



Coming Events!

Bring on
Summer
Vendors & Crafters
Fair

SATURDAY MAY 11 TH 2019
10:00AM - 4:00PM

**UNIQUE SOAPS, ART, HOME DECOR, JEWELERY,
BAKED GOODS, FACEPAINTING AND MORE!**

ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
23 PERRAULT STREET, STE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE, QC H9X 2C6

FREE ADMISSION
KID FRIENDLY

in support of Suitcases For Africa
www.suitcasesforafrica.com

<http://suitcasesforafrica.com/event/may-fair-2019-bring-on-summer/>

SFA will have a table at the fair to raise awareness of the work we do. We will also have interesting crafts from Kenya to sell. Hope to see you there!



SUITCASES for AFRICA

603-321 Lanthier, Pointe Claire, QC, H9S 5K6



info@suitcasesforafrica.com

7th Annual Plant / Bake / Kenyan Market Sale

Date: May 18th. 9-12

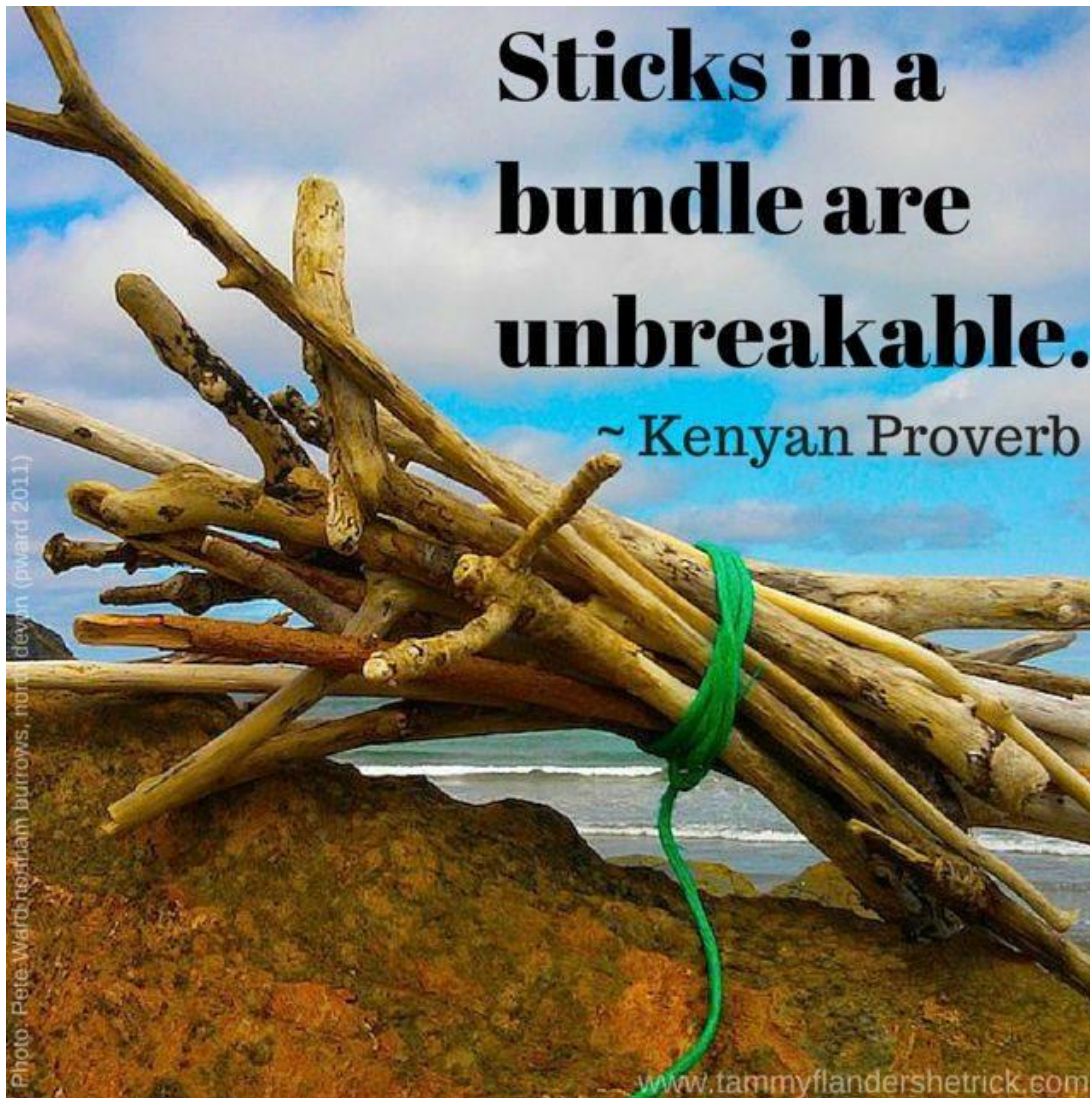
61 Beaconsfield Ct., Beaconsfield



Spring is here at long last! We know all our gardening friends are excited to get outside and work in their gardens once again. We would greatly appreciate the donation of garden perennials and house plants to help us raise funds for 2019 projects. We will also have homemade baking & Kenyan gift items available to purchase.

Plants can be dropped off at the location above a few days before the sale. You may also arrange to drop off plants or baking by calling us at the numbers below.

Information: 514-697-5588 – 524-457-3786



We have seen the power of communities to effect change for their members by working together.

We have seen the benefits that come from working on sustainable projects such as the raising of cows and goats, livestock, sewing and firewood projects to name a few.

We have seen self-confidence grow and leadership blossom with each new achievement.

Community based projects make a difference and build strength.

We believe in Community based projects.

Thank you for making them possible.



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 info@suitcasesforafrica.com

Follow us on Facebook for the latest news and photos at
<https://www.facebook.com/suitcasesforafrica>

“Like” our page to spread the word on social media.

Thank you!