



Joining Hearts & Hands

www.joiningheartsandhands.org

4TH ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

Save a life!
Fund a Scholarship
TODAY!
See details on Page 3



Look Mom!! I have Shoes!!
See Story on Page 3

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Carolyne is 24 years old and lives in a rural village called Homa Bay. Homa Bay town on the south shore of Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria in western Kenya in the Nyanza Province. At 14 years of age, Carolyne had no choice but to marry an older man with 9 children in order to fend off starvation. In due time her husband died of AIDS and left her with one child of their own and 9 others. All of the children are under 14 years old.

Carolyne now lives in a traditional mud home with and must take care of the children. She has no means of supporting herself other than occasionally going to market and selling a small silver fish called omena. Food, clothing, medical care and education for her children are dreams not reality.

Joanne and I met Carolyne as the result of a meeting with Sisters Mara, Rose and Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame who have been recently stationed at Homa Bay for community outreach. All of us sat in Carolyne's home and listened to her life story, a tale of desperation. It would have been easy to provide her with a few sacks of maize, beans and rice, walk away and feel that we helped a poor family in Africa. But, this would have been a grave mistake.

Mission: Sustainability!



Some of Carolyne's Children

What would happen to her and her family when the sacks of food were empty? The cycle would continue. Joanne asked Carolyne if she belonged to a women's group as women's groups are very popular in Kenya and used as moral and psychological support. Carolyne said that she and 10 other women meet regularly. Six of the ten women are in the same situation of abject poverty. An untrained eye may view this as a deficit, but we immediately seized this information as a wonderful opportunity. Joining Hearts and Hands has been developing self-sustaining projects with women's groups in Kenya helping them unite, create a business and support their material and emotional needs. And so, we have begun planning with the Sisters of Notre Dame and Carolyne to unite their group with the purpose of supporting themselves through a new micro-business. It was extremely difficult to walk away that day and not provide those

sacks of grain but it would have been more difficult for Carolyne and the other 10 families in her group had we given a one-time handout.

This past year Joining Hearts and Hands has worked tirelessly to help Africans help themselves through projects like these. The women's poultry project in Lufumbo is another success story of African women helping themselves. The Shiebu dairy goat project that was started by JH & H has grown from two breeding centers to three with a fourth on the way. All growth has occurred on their own with no additional financial support. Another goat project will begin within the year in Katito and the people from Shiebu will be selling them the goats they have bred and raised and also training the farmers in Katito. It is amazing what a little start-up funding can do. It has provided jobs and independence to many Africans. A sincere THANK YOU for helping to make people like Carolyne independent and self-sufficient.

May you be blessed with hope and joy this holiday season.

Bill & Joanne

2009 Progress in Kenya & Tanzania



Sr. Philomena receives JH & H Medical Supplies

Joining Hearts & Hands, Ltd.
9 Fieldston Grove
Fairport, New York 14450
Phone: 585-377-8298

Email:
wcala@rochester.rr.com
jcala@rochester.rr.com
Internet:
www.joiningheartsandhands.org

Board
Joanne Cala
William Cala
Margaret Cardona

2009 was a very busy year for us!!

- ◆ 3 Classroom block constructed at Usambara Girls' School in Tanzania
- ◆ Six Joining Hearts and Hands scholarship students graduate from High School!
- ◆ New Kitchen constructed at Kongasis. Ovens used to make and sell bread and muffins by women's group.
- ◆ Shoes were distributed to children in 5 schools in two countries.
- ◆ Completed a 4 classroom renovation at Lufumbo Primary
- ◆ 2 latrine blocks were just completed at Iranda Primary
- ◆ The Shiebu Dairy Goat breeding project has launched its 3rd breeding center with a 4th on the way
- ◆ St. Patrick's Legion of Mary Women's group starts chicken raising business
- ◆ 100 secondary scholarship students enrolled
- ◆ St. Claire's Orphanage in Kisumu gets a medical supply upgrade along with replenishing their food cupboard. Their incubator was given 180 fertilized eggs by JH&H to raise and sell chickens.
- ◆ This year Joining Hearts and Hands

began a partnership with Nazareth College of Rochester and sent 3 student teachers to Tanzania to teach English at Usambara Girls School

- ◆ Phase II of Hannah's Hope begins planning stage. Construction to begin on 2 classroom block in December.
- ◆ New Dairy Goat project to begin in Katito, Kenya. Visitations to Shiebu projects took place in November



JH & H graduates its first group of High School Students!!

Sign up for quarterly
E-Newsletters.....E-mail
wcala@rochester.rr.com and type
SUBSCRIBE in the subject box

Kicks for Kids!

Over 1200 pairs of shoes were distributed from November 1 to November 10th . At right, girls from Lufumbo show off their new "kicks." Below, over 2000 pairs of shoes being sorted by Bill, Joanne and John.



Scholarships Save Lives

Joining Hearts and Hands is providing 100 secondary and 14 elementary scholarships to students throughout Western Kenya. Without these scholarships, as school principal in Maseno Kenya William Kabbis has said, "These students would never see the inside of a high school classroom." This year, Joining Hearts and Hands has its first high school graduates. Most of our scholarship students are orphans with absolutely no financial means of furthering their education. High School in Kenya is not free. **The average Kenyan earns between one and two dollars a day, making educating their children an unaffordable luxury.**

Joining Hearts and Hands will follow its graduates and help them seek employment so that they can save for furthering their education or job training. We are working to find jobs for our graduates.

Sponsor an Orphan's Education TODAY!!

Here is what only \$400 per year provides:

- ◆ A full year of High School Education
- ◆ Room and Board
- ◆ A life with hope!

Don't Delay! Send a check today and save Africa's future!



I'm **Frederick Samba**, a Joining Hearts and Hands High School Graduate. **Joining Hearts and Hands** was able to get me a job at the APIC book store in Kisumu the day after I took my final exams!

May we Give A Presentation On Africa For Your Group or Organization?

One of the four major goals of Joining Hearts and Hands is to bridge the cultural divide between the United States and Africa. We would like to do a multi-media presentation for your group! We are currently booking dates to speak to community groups, schools, church groups, organizations and civic clubs (Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Masons, etc.)

Having an educational focus, we love visiting schools and individual classrooms. There is no better way to educate our children about Africa than being able to engage in dialogue and see what most of the rest of the world is experiencing through crisp visuals that "keep it real."

If you would like to schedule an interactive presentation, please call us at:

585-377-8298

or e-mail us at

wcala@rochester.rr.com

or

jcala@rochester.rr.com



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9 Fieldston Grove
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How Can I Help?

We are changing the lives of the needy in Kenya because of YOU.... A result of your generosity. Without your financial commitment, we cannot make the kind of progress that we have made in less than four short years.

- ◆ Keep us and the people of Kenya and Tanzania in your prayers
- ◆ Organize a fundraiser. Everyone is not always able to contribute financially, however, we all have talents to share. Many people have come up with fundraising ideas and have run with them. Can you organize a run? A dance? A dinner? An auction? A Talent Show? There are so many possibilities! Kids have worked wonders with lemonade stands!!

- ◆ Talk to your employers. Since we are a 501 (c) (3) many companies will provide matching funds.
- ◆ Talk to your employer to be a corporate sponsor
- ◆ Set up a presentation with your club, church or group.
- ◆ Donate if possible. Any amount is appreciated.

We are now in the midst of our main annual fundraiser. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, e-mail us at wcala@rochester.rr.com or jcala@rochester.rr.com or call us at **585-377-8298** and we can e-mail or send you a copy. It is also available on-line at: www.joiningheartsandhands.org/brochure12-03-07.pdf

Tax Deductible Donations

Checks can be sent to:

**Joining Hearts and Hands
9 Fieldston Grove
Fairport, NY 14450**

Joining Hearts and Hands is an IRS approved 501 (c) (3). There are no local personnel costs for **Joining Hearts and Hands**. Bill and Joanne Cala take no salaries and pay for all of their accommodations and travel expenses both here and in Africa. Your tax deductible gifts go directly to those in need!

