

James Kariithia and his mom. James lives in Timau, Kenya And is being supported by Joining Hearts and Hands

Joining Hearts and Hands

Summer Newsletter July 2015

Happy Summer from all of us at Joining Hearts and Hands!

We are so happy to report all of the good happenings in Kenya and Tanzania since our last newsletter in the spring.

Annual Fundraiser



The annual May fundraiser was not only a financial success, but a whole lot of fun! We hope to see you next May at Flower City Station for fun, food, friendship and great music.

Hannah's Hope Water Project



Community Gathers at New JH&H Water Tanks

We are just completing a water harvesting project at Hannah's Hope. This involves collecting rain water from the school roofs in two large (10,000 gallon each) collection tanks. Check out the happy Hannah's Hope community surrounding the tanks!

Security Fencing underway at Mbaka Oromo in Maseno Kenya



Fencing at Mbaka Oromo

Construction is underway for a security project at Mbaka Oromo Primary school in Maseno, Kenya. This project involves surrounding the entire campus in fencing and with security gates. The fencing is necessary to keep animals out of the compound and prevent people from using the schools toilets. This is a massive project as the compound consists of over 10 acres of campus. Check out the progress above. Fencing includes pressure treated posts and barbed wire. The Mbaka Oromo school community is planting "live fencing" all along the fencing. Live fencing consists of plants (generally with thorns) that weave their way through the fence and make a solid wall and virtually impenetrable. Joining Hearts and Hands completed a similar project in Lufumbo earlier this year.



Gate and Fencing at Lufumbo

Third Annual Eye Camp

Our most important projects we have done are health clinics and annual eye clinics. Every year we hold an eye clinic, the most recent this past January. We examine over 1000 people at each clinic. To date we have seen over 3000 people, distributing nearly 1000 pairs of eye glasses, provided countless medications for a variety eye ailments and have performed 290 cataract surgeries.



Kenyan opthalmologist examines Katito student

Books and Supplies arrive in Kenya after a VERY long journey!!

Four years ago we collected nearly 20,000 books in Fairport from Fairport families. All of the Fairport elementary schools contributed greatly to this cause. Sending a shipping container to Kenya and then getting it out of the port of Mombasa is a herculean task. Our partner in this project is Kevin Mann of Shoreham, Long Island (Where Bill Cala was superintendent before Fairport). Kevin has been working the Kenyan system for the past several years. It is a miracle that the goods actually arrived. This has been an act of hope and faith. The goods arrived this week. Although a bit wet from the transport, we believe that all will be salvaged. This shipment included not only the books we collected in Fairport, but books given to us from Kevin via the Shoreham-Wading River School District's Briarcliff school that closed. Briarcliff was a primary school and we have their entire library delivered to Kenya. We were able to obtain handicapped equipment for children. Thanks to Monroe #1 BOCES and Rochester City Schools for giving us equipment that they could not use but will be a lifesaver for our schools for the disabled in Madyani, Kenya.



Lufumbo Principal checking out the amazing delivery

A few thousand of the over 20,000 books delivered



Wheel chairs and walkers from Rochester

Usambara Girls School is completed by Joining Hearts and Hands

We have just finished our fifth and final building at Usambara Girls' High School in Korogwe, Tanzania. This is a total of 13 classrooms we have built for this wonderful school for girls. Usambara Girls School is educating over 500 girls in rural Tanzania. Joining Hearts and Hands came to the aid of this new school several years ago when there was just one classroom block with only three classrooms on the property serving only Form I students. We have built the classrooms for Form 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The British high school system has 6 Forms or Grades.



Form VI Classroom built by Joining Hearts and Hands

Joining Hearts and Hands Builds School on Lake Victoria

Joining Hearts and Hands is building an elementary school on Lake Victoria in Homa Bay in a village called Suba. Earlier this year we built the latrines. We are currently constructing a three-classroom block. Students are currently housed in temporary shelters make out of metal sheeting.



Lake View Boda School with Bill and Joanne on the Left Front (Check out the Lake in the Background)



Lake View Boda Classrooms Currently under construction

Thanks for all of your support. Without YOU, none of this could happen. Thanks for your generosity. Thanks for your encouragement. Thanks for your love. Thanks for your prayers.

With hope, faith and thanks,

Bill and Joanne Cala