



NEWSLETTER

Abundant Love for Kenyan Children

Volume 2 Issue 2

Letter from the President and CEO

Dear Walindwa Supporters,

Greetings from Kenya! I would like to take this moment to thank you all again for your continued support of the children of Kenya. I write this on my last day in Kenya until I return again in December. It's been a joy and an adventure hosting another team to experience the allure of this wonderful country. One thing that profoundly struck me on this trip was the relationships that are constantly being built in the mission field. I witnessed the transformation of Holli and her daughter, Sarah, on their first mission trip. They really opened their hearts to the kids at EBCCK and even created a new family for themselves by sponsoring Denis K. To experience Kenya through new eyes is always a treat for me. I love to see how "closed, independent" Westerners tear down their "walls" and become vulnerable to love from these children. It was one of the saddest goodbyes I've ever seen from the kids at EBCCK. God created us to experience joy and love, and the best way to do that is getting to know the kids at EBCCK. Now the feeling of love can continue for Holli and Sarah as they sponsor Denis to go to school and see this boy become a thriving young man in the years to come.

Together in Christ,

Jill I. Weller



Jill Weller, President and CEO

In This Issue:

- Letter from the President
- Mammograms for Mamas
- Update from the IRS
- Lantern Update
- Art Forum
- EBCCK Update
- Summer 2013 Trip Report
- Mission of the Month
- Child Sponsorship Update

Walindwa Charitable Corporation
P.O. Box 270024
San Diego, CA 92198-2024
(619) 203-8715

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please e-mail walindwa@walindwa.org or click 'unsubscribe from this list' at the end of this e-mail.

*Check out our
website for the latest updates:
www.walindwa.org*



Some of the women who received mammograms

Mammograms for Mamas Update

By Jill Weller

On August 7th, we did a follow up with the Mammograms for Mamas group. Judy Birir, Elma Barnett Board Member & Treasurer, arranged for the women of our team (Holli Crawford, Jan Farley, Lori Edwards and I) to meet with the ladies over lunch. We met at Alice's house, one of the 32 women that received a mammogram in April 2013. They cooked us a real proper Kenyan meal including, beef stew, chapati, rice, cabbage, ugali, traditional green kales, and even slaughtered chickens for the occasion. We were humbled by such a welcoming group. After lunch we gathered on the grass outside under the afternoon sun, Pastor Jan lead us in a devotion and then we went around the circle sharing offerings of thanksgiving for the project. Judy expressed her appreciation and said that she even wove it into their bible study theme of "creation" at Mom's in Prayer group. She said the women have learned to appreciate their bodies more and are inspired to take better care of themselves. She hopes we can partner in the future for a Pap smears project as most women haven't had that preventative test either. She said they were being good examples to their daughters, husbands and other family members by being proactive about health issues. As God said in Psalms 139:14, "We are fearfully and wonderfully made." We thank the donors for such a magnificent outcome, as it wouldn't have been possible without them!



Update from the IRS: Thanksgiving and Praise!

On September 12, 2013, Walindwa received a letter from the IRS that our application has been approved for federal tax exempt status! We filed on August 31, 2012 and were so relieved to finally receive the joyous news! We want to thank all those that have been praying for this outcome.

We know our future is bright when we have Jesus Christ as our leader!



Another Solar Lantern Update

By Jill Weller



Women with their solar lanterns

On August 14, I went out to the Rongai district area of Kampi ya Moto with EBCCK Board Member, Jenifer Kigen, founder of ROSEWO - Rongai Social and Economic Women Organization. We traveled about 45 minutes off of the main road over train tracks, mud puddles and a lot of rocks and bumps! Thank goodness for 4 wheel drive. Sure enough, we did get lost, because what we thought was a small path was actually a washed out road that led to a small house.

This is where we met with two dozen women focused on microfinance and empowerment. This group meets monthly to pool their funds to help support others in the group with different business ventures, such as raising chickens or selling vegetables. After the introductions by the field coordinator and Mrs. Kigen, I explained to them the direct benefits about how the d.light solar lanterns worked and disbursed them. They were extremely elated and grateful for this unexpected gift. They were very anxious to try them out!

In the next 12 months my goal is to see how much these women have saved on kerosene and how much more they are able to reinvest in their microfinance groups. Our initial goal was to help children study at night, but the benefits have been in so many areas.

ROSEWO has over 20 groups of 25 in the Rongai district. The empowerment program reaches over 500 women in this area.

Art Forum

The Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church hosted an Art Forum during the month of July. The art gallery in the main hallway of the church exhibited missions the church supports and each mission displayed art depicting their objective.

A staff of Walindwa volunteers arranged the items for the Elma Barnett Children's Centre. On display were shukas and beaded jewelry made by local women. PVC pipe and corn stalks were arranged to indicate the water brought to the Centre for ease of bathing and cooking as well as to irrigate crops for nourishment. Pictures of the kitchen and chapel showed past projects and the initiation of the high school indicated future developments. A letter from one of the children at the home shared the transformation of his life and how important the mission of Walindwa is to this group of children God has given us to care for.

Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong (EBCCCK) Update

On August 3rd, EBCCCK had an "Announcement Day" for Elma Barnett High School. The Kamonong community, local leaders, distinguished guests from the Kenyan Government, relatives for some of the children, and overseas visitors were present. We called it an announcement day because we already broke ground on the project earlier this year and wanted to "announce" the high school officially to the community. Over 200 people attended the event, with a special lunch for the dignitaries and sandwiches for the community. EBCCCK is trying to stir up local Kenyan support from businesses and private benefactors to help fund the school so it is not solely dependent on overseas funds. We are currently working on the construction of two classrooms with an opening date in January 2014. (The Kenyan school year is Jan – Nov) We hope to start with Form 1 (9th grade), and add another grade each year. Thus, in four years we will be at full capacity with all four grades.

The idea of having a local Christian day high school was conceived by the Kamonong community. Most good secondary schools in Kenya are boarding schools and fees can be very costly. This will make it possible to send local children to a day school and they can return home at night because of its close proximity. Our goal is to have enough of the community pay school fees to make the high school a self-supporting or even an income generating project for EBCCCK. Our current prayer request is that we raise enough funds to finish the high school and that we find a good Christian principal. We are currently recruiting and hope to employ someone by September or October.

On August 4th we had the privilege to witness seven children from EBCCCK being baptized at AIC Town Church in Eldama Ravine. A local Kamonong elder, Pastor Tanui, led the catechism classes over a six week period. It was a joyous day to see so many young people dedicate their lives to a Christian way of life. As they exited the full emersion baptismal, they were wrapped in their new towel thanks to donors from RBCPC and the Village Church. It was especially wonderful to have the Edwards family present where Graham Edwards was baptized in the same church three years prior. Afterwards we celebrated with a special lunch of sausage, chips (french fries) and soda at a local restaurant. The kids were giddy with delight since this is such a treat for them! We praise God for our new babes in Christ.



Roy Stover speaking in front of the new school



Caroline being baptized

Mission of the Month

EBCK was featured as the July "Mission of the Month" at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church (RBCPC) in San Diego. Throughout the month, information on EBCK was presented on the church website and Facebook page, in addition to being featured on the digital message boards scattered around the church campus. On the weekend of July 21 the story of EBCK and Jill Weller, Walindwa's President, was told through a short video shown to the congregation during the worship services. We invite and encourage you to hear Jill's amazing story through this link on the Walindwa website: <http://walindwa.org/videos/>

In conjunction with the Mission of the Month program, Walindwa announced a towel and underwear drive for the kids at EBCK, with the intent of delivering the items during our recent trip to Kenya. Your generosity totally blew us away! You donated \$985, enough to provide all the children with underwear and towels – and some clothes and shoes besides. Even more wondrously, one of the RBCPC members was so moved by Jill's testimony that she made a \$ 5,000 donation on behalf of the EBCK kids. Abundant love indeed! We can't thank you enough for joining with us to care for the children both physically and spiritually!



Summer 2013 Trip

A team of seven members of the Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe, CA, returned from their recent trip to Kenya with a new perspective on what it means to trust God. Upon arriving at the home, the team was awed by the growth and positive changes they witnessed - new buildings, a committed and loving teaching staff, and two warm and caring dorm mothers greeted the seven visitors along with the polite, respectful children.

During their stay, they took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for EBCK's new Christian day high school, taught Sunday School at a local town church with over 460 kids in attendance, and participated in the EBCK baptisms. Walindwa board members met with the EBCK local community board members to discuss issues such as financing, Christian curriculum, community support, etc. for the new high school.

The team also carried out a week-long VBS program with the children, during which they shared the love of Jesus through Bible lessons, crafts, songs, and games. The highlight was the lesson of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, after which basins of water, soap, lotion and towels were brought, and the team proceeded to wash the feet of the children and staff. Soon places were exchanged, as the children and staff insisted on washing the visitors' feet in an act of love and servitude. The bonds created through our time together laughing, playing, and praising God will not soon be forgotten.



Sponsorship Update

Walindwa's major ongoing program is the facilitation of a sponsor for each student at EBCCK and support of the relationship between the child and the sponsoring adult or family. You continue to open your hearts to these children and young adults and we are delighted to report that several new sponsors have come forward recently, bringing us to a total of 25 sponsored students.

Primary Students:

Brenda K, Christine K, Daniel K, Denis Kipruto,
Denis N, Dennis K, Isaac M, Mercy C, Natasha M,
Norah C, Patrick M, Sarah C, Sharon J, Stella K,
Timothy N, Vincent K

Secondary Students:

Josephine C, Keffa L, Milton L, Tyson L

Higher Education Students:

Evans K, Henry O, Jennifer J, Julius K, Julius O

To learn more about the sponsorship program, please visit the Walindwa website at walindwa.org/sponsorships/ or email Walindwa at walindwa@walindwa.org. To learn more about the individual students at EBCCK, please visit elmabarnettchildrenscentre.org.



Tyson L



Denis K with sponsor family Sarah & Holli

Josephine C with sponsor Sarah



Child Sponsorship at EBCCK in Kenya

Here's my donation in the amount of \$ _____

to support all of the kids at Elma Barnett Children's Centre Kamonong.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tell me more about sponsoring a student at EBCCK!

_____ Please mail an information packet to the address above.

_____ Please call me at _____

_____ Please email me at _____

Return this card to:

Walindwa

P.O. Box 270024

San Diego, CA 92198-2024

619-203-8715

walindwa@walindwa.org



Abundant Love for Kenyan Children