

Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

June 2011

FKSW Safari January 2011

FKSW Safaris provide a great opportunity to learn about Kenya and its people. During our three week safari in January, we took our guests to visit school and community gardens in Molo and on Kokwa Island, saw completed projects like the Tuinuane Nursery School in Molo and classrooms and toilets at Endonyio Sidai, and met with community leaders at Kachiuru Primary School to plan a water project and a school lunch program. We visited ten schools and gave student scholarship funds to parents of the 144 children sponsored through FKSWS.

As visitors meet the local people with whom we work and learn about their lives, they can see that whether the greatest need in a community is for health care, education for the children, income to alleviate poverty, clean water or nutrition and food security, the “pieces” of community development are connected. Even where there are schools, children who are sick and hungry can’t learn. If parents have no way to support their families or are sick themselves, it’s children who pick up their burden. Our holistic approach to development takes all of this into account and contributions from communities in decision making and provision of resources are critical to the process and its success.



Mikael shows students at Kokwa Primary School photos from home

But safaris are not all about work! Three days viewing wildlife in the Masai Mara and a visit to the beautiful Kenyan coast ended a great adventure for all of us. Ten-year old Mikael Murphy was the most popular visitor on this trip. He became an instant celebrity in every school we visited, with students eager to meet him and see the photos he had brought from Oregon. Mikael told the students about his school in Eugene and about his favorite activities at home. At Endonyio Sidai Primary School, he joined a class for a geography lesson and at Kokwa Primary School gave a demonstration of Taekwondo for the students, who were fascinated by his moves. The Kokwa students reciprocated with a song and dance to end the memorable visit.



Stars denote locations of FKSWS activities

Livelihoods for HIV/AIDS Affected Kenyan Families

Since 2007, FKSWS has partnered with Kenyan NGO Network for Eco Farming in Africa (NECOFA). Based in Molo, and directed by Samuel Muhonyu, NECOFA and its staff are indispensable to our work. As FKSWS’s original focus broadened from education to other areas, we needed someone in Kenya to coordinate projects, visit communities and provide oversight and follow-up for activities. Samuel does all that for us and also makes connections between leaders of communities, government officials and potential participants for individual development activities. NECOFA and FKSWS work together jointly on projects to address needs identified in communities. The HIV/AIDS project is one initiated by NECOFA last year on the Global Giving website and was supported by a number of FKSWS donors.

According to project manager Jane Karanja, “While most Kenyan families face poverty and hunger, those affected by HIV/AIDS have the additional responsibility of taking care of family members with the virus who require even more attention to their nutrition. The project equips families in Molo with skills and materials to produce balanced and nutritious food and earn income by providing materials (seeds, fertilizers, tools, livestock) and training on sustainable agriculture focused on indigenous crops, small livestock farming, food preservation and basic business skills and bookkeeping.

Two hundred households have benefited from the establishment of kitchen gardens, fruit and vegetable stalls and rearing of small livestock. The initial beneficiaries have earned income from sales to pay school fees, buy school uniforms and supplement family needs.

One success has been the inclusion of rabbit meat in the beneficiaries’ diet. Traditionally rabbit was consumed only by young boys, but through awareness and nutrition information, households are benefiting from rabbits. They also sell them to other members of the community.”



Ann Wambui with one of her rabbits.

The Molo Wool Project: Changing Lives



Jane Wambui of the Karunga Women's Group

The Molo Wool Project is changing lives for members of the Karunga Women's Group in Molo. Since 2007, the women have been knitting, spinning, weaving and dyeing. Sales of their products, specifically their hand knit animals, have brought in more than \$23,000 in income. FKSWS has supported the women with skill training in fiber arts and business, provision of knitting, spinning and weaving supplies and by selling their products here in the U.S. We've also given the group a microloan to purchase seedlings to start a tree nursery to generate income.

Jane Wambui is a thirty year old mother of two girls and is a member of the Karunga Women's group. She is a knitter and more than half of the income she makes comes from sale of the animals she makes by hand. In January, we visited Jane at her home and asked her to talk about how the Molo Wool project has impacted her life.

"With payment for my work I was able to buy this plot of land on which we built our house. I was able to accumulate payments until I had 30,000 Kenya shillings in my MPESA account. (MPESA is an innovative cell phone banking system in Kenya). I'm also a member of the Karunga Women's Group revolving credit fund. It's the loans that I acquired from the group that we used to build the house. With payments in September I purchased materials for the construction and with another payment in October I bought iron sheets for the roof.

I'm also able to feed my children and they're well dressed by the local standards. We live well. I'm very grateful because this has made a lot of development in our lives. I used to rent a house, but now I don't pay rent. Now I live in my own house where I feel so good and it's all because of the knitting. I make kangaroos, monkeys, giraffes, Oregon Ducks, OSU Beavers and many other products. I'm very grateful to FKSWS because they help us market our products. And I also thank Mr. Muhunyu for linking us with FKSWS because now in the group we feel we are dignified women. I am able to feed my children well, even my husband.

I also farm and get supplemental income as a casual laborer on the farm. I also knit other products for people...sweaters and table cloths. When I'm paid, I save part of the money through my MPESA account. The other portion I save through the group revolving fund. Then whenever I have need, I take loans from the group funds or use my MPESA account if I've exhausted the other money. The knitting is the backbone upon which everything else depends. This has transformed my life. I have my own land and my own house. The knitting is my backbone. I believe I will continue in the knitting and eventually build another room. I am very happy and God bless you."



Jane's new house

Kokwa Island Community Gardens Provide Food and Income for Families



A community garden project on Kokwa Island begun last year by FKSWS and NECFOA is also changing lives. Last September Nolmangi Lekuparet harvested 2 gallons of cow peas and green grams (mung beans) from her garden on the shores of Kokwa Island in Lake Baringo. Before she began gardening last year, she had never grown, or even eaten vegetables. Now she tends these crops so that her elderly husband can enjoy a more nutritious diet and for the income they bring when she sells the produce.

Nolmangi first learned about gardening on a field trip organized by NECOFA. Men and women from Kokwa visited a neighboring community where NECOFA had assisted a women's group to learn how to garden. What Nolmangi saw there made her realize that she could grow crops to bring her a small income and improve the nutrition of her family.

With help from her children, who were learning about gardening through a school garden project at Kokwa Primary School,

another joint FKSWS/ NECOFA effort, she planted seeds and began to tend her new garden. Nolmangi says she likes gardening very much. When her children are home, they help her with the hoeing and watering or she hires someone to assist her. She says that watering is the most challenging part because it takes many trips back and forth from the lake with her watering can to irrigate the garden.

Nolmangi shares seeds with her neighbors, and sells seeds to others. From her last sale, she bought more seeds, sugar and salt. She pays her women's group dues from the proceeds and now is able to pay boat fare to go to the mainland. She says "I thank FKSWS and NECOFA for their assistance and involvement in this project. This is a good job for women, but the men assist us, too, with preparation and fencing. Thanks to this project, my husband's health is also improving."



Nolmangi's cow peas

FKSW Student Scholarship Program

In 2002, Kenya abolished fees for primary school tuition, enabling many students to attend school for the first time. Nevertheless, a large number of students still are unable to attend school because their parents cannot afford even the small amount for required uniforms and shoes, nor are they able to pay other incidental fees. The costs at secondary school are even higher. These fees keep many bright and eager students from pursuing their dreams. In 2003 beginning with 2 students, FKSWS initiated a school scholarship program which today supports 141 students in six communities. Of those students, 81 are girls and 60 are boys.

One hundred and eighteen primary school students receive \$50 each year for uniforms, shoes, books and incidental fees. One of these students, Mulan Lekaranga, is deaf. Thanks to Roosevelt Middle School Active and Caring Teens, Mulan attends Ochii Primary Boarding School where he is learning sign language and to read and write.

KOKWA ISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL									
SCHOOL MOTTO: STRIVE TO EXCEL									
TERM 1 SCHOOL ENROLMENT: 2011									
CLASS	STD 1	STD 2	STD 3	STD 4	STD 5	STD 6	STD 7	STD 8	TOTAL
BOYS	25	15	12	10	5	9	12	5	90
GIRLS	31	11	14	16	19	10	26	20	144
TOTAL	56	26	26	26	24	19	38	25	234



Young students on Kokwa Island

Twenty girls at Kokwa Primary School receive \$125 boarding scholarships that cover room and board for a year and allow them to remain at school where they can study and enjoy some leisure time. FKSWS also sponsors three girls to attend secondary boarding school at approximately \$500 per year.

Students are selected to receive scholarships by their local school committee. For example, in November of last year, the new 16 member Kokwa Island school committee, which includes headmen from each village on the island, parents, teachers and the local chief, spent a day setting criteria for scholarships. Their decision was that children who are orphans or who have a disability, whose parents are unemployed, or who live with a single parent, grandparent or parents with disabilities should be considered first. The committee invited parents to fill out applications for the coming school year and out of 80 applications, the committee selected the 30 neediest students based on the criteria they had created.

Parents receive the scholarship funds in January at the beginning of the school year. At that time, we visit schools to meet with the head teacher, the classroom teacher, the parents and each scholarship recipient to review the child's attendance, grades, behavior, health and extra-curricular activities. If a child's attendance is poor, his marks low, if he has health problems or if there are family problems, we work with the teachers and parents to address issues that may be affecting the child's education. The team will then make decisions about appropriate actions to take. This process is repeated by our Kenyan partners at the end of the summer and winter terms for each child when we are not in Kenya.

Since the program's inception 8 years ago, all but a very few students have attended school faithfully and placed high in their classes. This coming November, the first group of students sponsored in 2003 will graduate from 8th grade. Most of them hope to make the transition to secondary school next year. Unfortunately, they will face the challenge of significantly higher yearly costs which their families may not be able to cover. Please consider a donation to assist these hard working students with a secondary school scholarship. We also recognize that in order for the program to be sustainable, more parents must have the capacity to pay these costs themselves. To achieve this goal, we support income generation activities in the communities where these students and their families live.



Students at Endonyio Sidai Primary School

These Students Need Sponsors !

Of the 141 students who received scholarships this year, 105 are supported by sponsors and FKSW covers the costs for the remaining 36 students. Please help us fully fund this program. The costs for one year are: primary scholarship \$50, boarding scholarship \$125 and secondary school scholarship \$500. We ask sponsors to make a commitment for at least 4 years and you can make your donation in a lump sum or once each year. We'll send you a photo of your student and bring you information about them when we return from Kenya each year. **Thank you!**



Vivian Lenariri
Kiserian Secondary School



Mpatison Lenaso
Kiserian Priamry



Sasine Kiake
Endonyio Sidai Primary



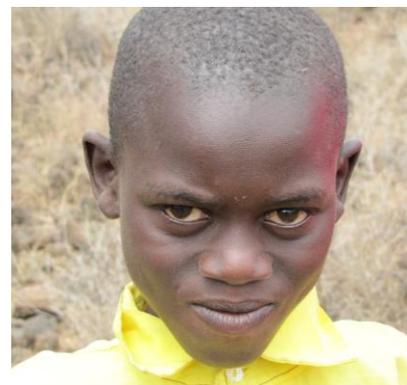
Galma Jillo
Kachiuru Primary



Prisca Lemerai
Kokwa Primary



Nkaru Mosoito
EndonyioSidai Primary



Hassan Lebene
Kokwa Primary



Robert Lekatai
Kokwa Primary



Rukia Osman
Kachiuru Primary



Musa Osman
Kachiuru Primary

FKSW Colleague Karangathi Njoroge Completes Rotary Peace Fellowship



Karangathi Njoroge at Chulalongkorn University

Karangathi Njoroge, Executive Director of Maendeleo Endelevu (Sustainable Development) Action Program in Molo, completed a 3 month course in peace and conflict resolution at the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Karangathi was nominated for this Fellowship by the Eugene Metropolitan Rotary Club of Eugene and selected by Rotary International as one of 16 candidates from countries and cultures around the globe, who were chosen based on their ability to have a significant, positive impact on world peace and conflict resolution during their careers. A colleague of ours since 2008, Karangathi has been involved in peace activities in Kenya for many years.

The Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University provides a three-month professional development certificate program twice each year to people currently working in related fields. The intensive eleven-week course focuses on the core themes of conflict analysis and mapping, conflict tracking, conflict transformation, and peace building. The curriculum offers its Fellows practical tools for conflict resolution and peace building which they can use in their own communities. Peace Fellows are leaders in promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. By building and

strengthening a network of peace builders who graduate from this program, the Rotary Center hopes to make a lasting contribution to peace in communities across the globe.

In his final report to Rotary International and to his sponsors, Karangathi summarized his thoughts for the future. "I will be working in Rift Valley Province in Kenya and the country in general. The magnitude of the work required to ensure sustainable peace, the vastness of Rift Valley and Kenya require a concerted effort. Moreover, there is more to learn and share on peace and conflict issues regionally (Africa) and globally. My Post-Fellowship career plan consist the following actions:

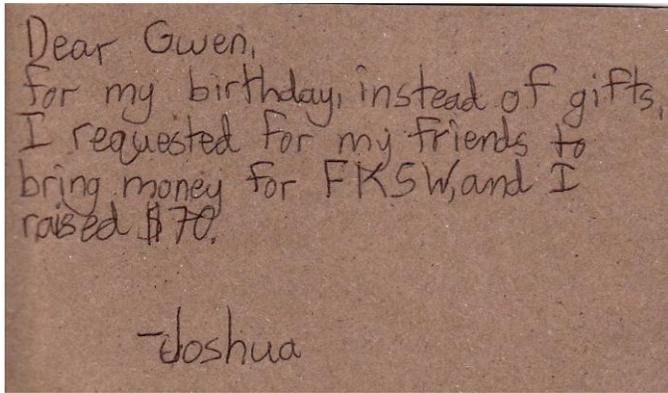
- **Civic education and training:** Community leaders require various skills and knowledge to be able to actively guide and implement peace building activities. Community members need to know about the ongoing reforms in Kenya.
- **Community based peace and conflict resolution:** The likelihood of realizing sustainable peace is ensured when the community takes the lead through community led peace initiatives.
- **Behavior change communication on HIV/AIDS, Drug and Substance Abuse and Developing skills, creating employment and starting income generating activities:** Due to high unemployment and poverty in Kenya, youth are highly vulnerable to recruitment into the drug trade or drug and substance abuse and the situation is aggravated by prevalence of HIV/AIDS that make the youth even more vulnerable. It is important to develop employable skills among the youth and create self-employment through income generating activities in order to reduce their vulnerability to being recruited by drug dealers and those who create conflict.
- **Use of media:** Media if properly used has great potential in informing, educating and sensitizing citizens in peace building. Media also shapes the attitudes and decision making of society necessitating tapping media potential.
- **Lobbying and Advocacy:** Despite government commitment to reforms, there may be laxity among government officers in executing their duties, necessitating lobbying and advocacy activities with a view of enlightening citizens on what to expect from the Government and organizing them to put pressure on the Government and politicians to fulfill their respective commitments.
- **Psychosocial Services and Support:** Very little attention is given to psychosocial problems that arise as a result of violent conflict. However, it is common knowledge that conflict situations contribute greatly to mental health problems like trauma, depression and many others. It is therefore prudent to establish psychosocial services where affected individuals are attended to or given advice on where to get technical support.
- **Networking and collaboration:** I will make a conscious effort to affiliate with networks of like minded organizations locally, nationally, regionally and beyond. As Executive Director of Maendeleo Endelevu Action Program (MEAP), I expect to use this organization as the vehicle to implement the actions."



A Little Background from Gwen Meyer, Director of FKS

During the post-election violence in Kenya in 2008, Molo was one of the areas most affected by conflict. Over 12,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) lived for four months in camps in town while their houses were burned, their livestock stolen and their crops ruined. I worked with NECOFA and MEAP and witnessed their efforts to meet the IDPs' challenges with life in the camps. At the same time Karangathi and Samuel helped them think about and plan for lives they would live after left the camps. Later, through a series of peace meetings with members of the 5 ethnic communities who had been involved in and affected by the violence, they led discussions which allowed people to share experiences, understand what had turned them against each other, and eventually to put the past behind. The new Tuinuane Community in Molo, where FKS built a nursery school last year, was created by former IDPs coming together in peace and pooling their resources to buy land and begin new lives. Tuinuane, which means "let's lift one another" in Swahili, is a testament to the work that Samuel and Karangathi undertook with such commitment.

*****Without peace, sustainable development is not possible*****



Note from a student in the Kenya Dig It/Active Caring Teens class

8th Annual Taste of Kenya at Roosevelt Middle School March 4th, students in Marty Smith and Dee Riley's Active and Caring Teens class at Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene held their 8th annual Taste of Kenya fundraiser for students at Kokwa Primary School at Lake Baringo. ACT students raised over \$1000 for 2 eight year scholarships for students at the school with the remainder to be used for other projects. This brings the number of 8 year scholarships provided by Roosevelt students at Kokwa to 14 and the total amount of donations raised since 2004 to almost \$12,000! Thank you and congratulations on your wonderful effort!!!

And we are grateful to you, our donors, who make everything possible. Asante sana!!

Please join us for a Celebration of Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

For the past 9 years Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife has built schools, funded school scholarships, nurtured locally-based economic development projects, supported clean water projects, and provided aid to refugees of political violence.

Where: Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette Street, Eugene

When: Thursday, July 7th, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

What: Slide show, brief presentation and interesting people to talk to. Food (light fare) and beverages will be provided. And great music! ***Please come and help us celebrate our work, share stories and look to the future!***

Please join us!

Please consider a generous contribution to fund worthwhile projects like the following which will allow us to continue to assist these communities.

- ❖ Train 6 community health workers on Kokwa Island
- ❖ Buy 15 metal bunk beds for the girls' dorm at Kokwa Primary School. (One bed costs \$113)
- ❖ Scholarships for 36 primary school students for one year (or more) at \$50 each

It's easy to give! It just takes moments to:

- ❖ Put a check in the enclosed envelope and drop it in the mail
- ❖ Use the PayPal button on our website (www.fks.org)
- ❖ Make a gift of stock. FKS is set up to receive gifts of stock through an account at Wells Fargo Advisors. If you gift highly appreciated stock, you receive the market value of your stock as the gift amount and avoid capital gains tax on the unrealized appreciation. Let us know if you have questions!

Send a donation to FKS in the name of a friend or family member. The recipient of your gift...

- ❖ Will receive a card acknowledging your donation which lets them know that you're helping to improve the quality of life for Kenyan people.

Thank you!!!!



Nursery school student from Tuinuane Nursery School



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

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