

Kageno Roots

Planting the seeds to grow places of hope.

A Newsletter

volume 11 spring 2011

Progress Report

Because of the tremendous support from individuals, organizations, and foundations around the world, Kageno Worldwide has been able to live up to its name of being "A Place of Hope".



Kageno office, Banda Village, Rwanda

We have already begun to make 2011 the most successful year since our inception in 2004. As we look forward and begin to plan exciting new programs, we have decided that, going forward, the organization will emphasize the English translation of its name to reflect our work in communities other than the Dholouo community in Kenya, where we began. Kageno will always be the official name of the organization, but "A Place of Hope - Kageno" will allow us to more seamlessly communicate the essence of the organization in any community around the world.

Before we tell you about what you can expect in 2011, we would like to take a moment to share with you the current progress Kageno has made with the help of its generous supporters.



Kageno compound from afar, Banda Village

As most of you know, Kageno Kenya programs have been successfully handed over to the community. We are now applying what we learned from our time in Kenya as we focus our attention on and begin scaling up our program in Banda Village, Rwanda.

At the end of 2010, Kageno partnered with the consulting firm [Richard Male and Associates](#) to perform an organizational analysis of our strengths and development opportunities as a non-profit organization. With the insight gained through this analysis, Kageno Worldwide will be taking the necessary steps to create a more stable, sustainable foundation for its global operations.



Kageno staff member Elise reading a letter from a sponsor to a sponsored child

It is important for us to keep our administrative costs low as this ensures that the majority of our donations go directly to supporting our programs in Africa.

However, realistically, we require a sound structure for our organization here, in the U.S., to be able to expand donor relationships and sustain funding for overseas programs. In the interest of broadening our reach, protecting our partners, and supporting our extended family, A Place of Hope - Kageno is pleased to announce the addition of Ruxandra Giumanca as the acting book-keeper and Nicole Otero as Development Director and Assistant to the Director, Dr. Frank Andolino.

For a more in-depth look at our 2010 accomplishments please [click here to view our 2010 annual report](#).

In Other News....



Kageno nursery school child (photo provided by Rachel Goldstein)

We are proud to announce that 300 Rwandan nursery school children were given the chance to lead healthy and productive lives through Kageno's **SL Nursery School**, which provides a daily nutritious meal, clean water, and a safe and familiar setting for all students.



Kageno nursery school busy writing sponsorship updates (photo provided by Lara Ross)

Progress Report

(Continued)

As mentioned in our last newsletter, A Place of Hope has established a successful partnership with [Table for Two](#), ("TFT") the driving force behind our feeding program and briquette initiative in Rwanda for the last year.



Children learning at the SL Nursery School (Photo provided by Kevin Kollenda)

For 2011, TFT has agreed to maintain that support as well as to provide school uniforms for the children and agricultural activities for local families. We are so grateful for their contributions thus far and look forward to further developing our partnership.

In addition to TFT's direct support, they have also helped raise awareness in their home country of Japan. Three distinctive individuals there have now decided to help Kageno.

A professional baseball player, Shigeki Ushida of the Yokohama Baystars will

donate some of his salary to Kageno, stating, "one day I would like to visit the Banda village and teach baseball to the lovely kids I saw in a photo."

Another addition to the Kageno family is a leading Japanese fashion designer who will donate a portions of sales of cycling clothing that he designed to support Kageno's efforts in Banda.

Lastly, a friend of TFT who left McKinsey to pursue a cooking school business in Tokyo has asked many of her students to donate money for Kageno. A portion of the schooling fee, sales of cooking utensils and other creative ideas for funding will all go to Kageno. She said, "one day I would like to visit the Banda village and teach mothers of children how to cook Japanese food with local ingredients".



Preparing the ingredients to make the briquettes

The **Bio-Intensive Agriculture** program in Banda Village encourages diversity, nutrition, and crop growth without the use of artificial fertilizers, chemical pesticides, or synthetic growth hormones. The three components of this initiative are: educating and training farmers on improved agricultural techniques, diversifying the local crop selection, and the use of animals whose manure can be composted for soil fertilization.

The **Briquette Program** is set to begin in Banda and we anticipate a successful launch. The program will give the community an alternative fuel source and underscores our environmental

conservation efforts. Specifically, the program includes recycling organic waste and utilizing it as a substitute for cooking fuel.



Learning how to use the briquette machine, March 2011, (photo provided by Jarod Ring)

Following Kenya's example, the A Place of Hope - Kageno program in Banda will use the fuel briquettes to cook daily porridge servings for 300 children and enable individuals to earn a living through the production and sale of briquettes.



Kageno nurse distributing mosquito nets to vulnerable families (photo provided by Erin Robinson)

Since the loss of our nurse last year, the **Sue Folk Health Clinic** has been running with the help of two government nurses. We have now hired a new nurse (see "New Employees" section on pg. 3). This addition is a necessity as we experience a significant increase in the number of people seeking healthcare within the village.



Meeting with Kageno staff and the community (photo provided by Carlyla Dawson)

The **Lillian Vernon and Paolo Martino Community Center** opened in 2010 and has already hosted several exciting events. It is used for Kageno staff meetings, clothing distributions, craft production, and other community gatherings.

We would like to extend an extra special thank you to Kageno Board Members Dr. Louis Peter Re and Kent Belden for providing support to extend the Kageno Water Project. We are very blessed to have them both as part of the Kageno team.

Thanks Kent and Louis!



Women working in the field in Banda Village

Currently, the main economic activity in Banda Village is agriculture. By funding a micro-loan program, Kageno expects to diversify potential occupations in Banda Village and provide more people with income-generating jobs.

The participants of the Kageno micro-loan program will receive money and they will learn the basic techniques necessary to help their businesses thrive.

An important part of the program will be weekly visits and meetings between the loan beneficiaries and Kageno staff. They will share their experiences and discuss step-by-step methods to move forward, improving their business. During the meetings, they will also address health-related matters such as HIV/AIDS prevention, family wellness, and personal financial management.



Banda Village shop owner

With these activities in place, beneficiaries will enjoy the opportunity to generate income and provide food, clothing, healthcare, and education to their families.

"Microloans enable the poor to lift themselves out of poverty through entrepreneurship."

Pierre Omidya

Kageno Spotlight

Micro-Loan Program Banda Village, Rwanda

A primary focus this year will be replicating Kenya's successful **Micro-loan Program** in Banda Village, Rwanda. Providing micro-loans to the people of Kolunga Beach, Kenya, has significantly raised the morale on Rusinga Island by creating a sense of hope and opportunity through potential income generation. The Kageno micro-loan program emerged as a significant business enterprise that helped to improve the living standards on Rusinga. Now, we hope it will do the same for Banda Village.



Local tailor working in the town center (photo provided by Carlyla Dawson)

Some of the skills taught will include: building financial savings techniques, writing sound business plans, bookkeeping, lending, interest calculation, and maximizing group dynamics. Overall, these skills will set a new occupational standard in Banda Village.

Kageno Harambee 2011: Monday, November 7th - Honoring Lillian Vernon and Donna Karan for their continued support over the years!

We are pleased to announce that, in honor of Lillian Vernon and Donna Karan's tremendous support for Kageno over the years, they will both be given an award at the 2011 Harambee. Dr. Paul Farmer, a board member and 2007 award recipient, will present the much-deserved awards to these very special women.



Emily Andolino, Paolo Martino, Lillian Vernon & Frank Andolino at the 2009 Harambee

Also at the Harambee this year, a pendant designed by Robin Renzi of **Me&Ro Jewelry**, will be presented to Lillian and Donna for their contributions. The pendant's design symbolizes compassion and altruism. One side is engraved with "Living Working Heart," and the reverse with an excerpt from the modern version of the Hippocratic Oath, "May I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help".

Please Save the Date for the 2011 Harambee on November 7th at Espace, in New York City.

New Employees

Welcoming Jeremiah and Pierre

Jeremiah Hakizimana, a new addition to the Kageno team in Banda, is joining A Place of Hope - Kageno as a nurse in the clinic. Jeremiah received his bachelor's degree in nursing from Mwaro University in Burundi. During his studies, Jeremiah wrote a publication evaluating the knowledge of and attitudes towards modern contraceptives among childbearing women.

Jeremiah has trained and worked on programs dealing with tuberculosis patients as well as the prevention of HIV/AIDS transference between pregnant mothers and their newborns. We are confident that Jeremiah will bring valuable knowledge and skills to the clinic.



Jeremiah standing in front of the clinic, March 2011, (photo provided by Kageno staff)

After many months of searching, we are very happy to welcome Pierre Nkurunziza to the Kageno Rwanda team. Pierre is Kageno's new agronomist in Banda. Pierre brings many years of experience to the current projects. He has multiple certificates in agriculture and forestry, including one professional certificate with distinction in rural development, agricultural, and livestock techniques.



Pierre getting ready to work, March 2011 (photo provided by Kageno staff)

Pierre has 12 years of impressive work experience in rural development with various cooperatives. He began his career

as the forestry technician at the Rangiro Forestry Pilot Project for the Switzerland Technique Cooperative. Afterward, he performed soil protection techniques for 10 years for the Isabatera Cooperative in Kirambo. He has also supervised the soil terracing works at Nyabishunju. Most recently, Pierre worked with the Wildlife Conservation Society helping to conduct a socio-economic survey of activities with communities around Nyungwe National Park. **We are so thrilled to have them both become members of the Kageno family.**

Kageno Outreach

Kageno outreach was particularly strong in 2010-2011 as volunteers from around the world contributed not only money but their time and talents.

The Power of One Volunteer

The power of what one volunteer can do for a community is inspiring, and Samira Nasr's involvement with Kageno embodies this wonder.

In August of 2008, Samira visited Rusinga Island in Kenya and then traveled to Banda Village in Rwanda. During Samira's trip, she spent a great deal of time getting to know the communities and Kageno's programs. She was a tremendous help abroad and has become an asset in the U.S.. She is a perfect model for what one volunteer can do after their goodwill experience.



Samira Nasr with the children in Kenya, August 2008

Kageno Outreach

(Continued)

When Samira returned from Africa to her life in the U.S. she never forgot the people and the places she visited. Building on her work, she shared those experiences with everyone she came into contact with, personally and professionally.

Shortly after she returned, Kageno began to receive emails from Samira's contacts asking us if they could volunteer, and by the beginning of 2010, we had acquired two more enthusiastic volunteers.

In January of 2010, Anouck Lepere, one of these new volunteers visited Banda Village and quickly connected with Samira's bond to Africa, Kageno, and Banda Village. She saw, first-hand, how one volunteer's experience could become a conduit for other volunteers and she was inspired to reach out to her own contacts.

Soon after Anouck's visit, another friend of Samira's, Kevin Kollenda, visited Banda. We cannot say enough good things about Kevin and his work during his stay. He is an amazing aide to Kageno and continues to support our efforts on his [personal blog](#).



Anouck Lepere teaching English in Banda Village

In April of 2010, Anouck came back to Banda with Bonnie Morison, another link through Samira. Shortly after Anouck's second trip to Banda, we received word that Vogue was interested in writing a story about her experience with Kageno. We were grateful for the opportunity and quickly worked to give the editors at

kageno worldwide is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization.

Vogue all the necessary information for the story.



Erin Robinson with the children in Banda Village, November 2010 (photo provided by Erin Robinson)

[The article published in Vogue](#) in October of 2010 brought yet another volunteer to Banda. (If you're keeping track, this is the fourth volunteer to visit Banda in less than a year, all resulting from Samira sharing her experience!)

Anouck, like Samira and Kevin, has been an active advocate for Kageno's programs. When she returned for the third time in January of 2011, she brought another visitor to launch a new and exciting initiative. During this latest visit, Anouck worked with the craft cooperative to start a jewelry project in conjunction with **House of Repossi**, which was featured on [Nowness.com](#).

This story exemplifies not only the tremendous impact one volunteer can have by sharing their experiences with others, but it also proves that together we can create an even greater impact on the communities where we work.



Kevin Kollenda and Anouck Lepere, Kageno Harambee 2010

As a volunteer at our Rwanda project, you have the opportunity to work side-by-side with local people in a wide variety of programs. No specific skill or prior experience is required.



Entrance to the Kageno Community Center Compound, Banda Village, Rwanda

Whether you chose to spend time with orphans, dig pit-latrines, or practice English with community members, you will have a positive impact on the community. Anyone with an interest in helping is able to make a difference.

Volunteering with Kageno is a chance for you to make a personal contribution to our global community while exchanging ideas with and learning from a culture that you might not otherwise encounter.

The volunteer experience highlights the need for communication between people of different races, cultures, and ideologies.

"Voluntourism" - a fusion of vacationing and volunteering - offers a tremendous opportunity to travel with a *purpose*. "Voluntourism" provides hands-on interaction balanced by opportunities for sightseeing and immersion in the native culture of the community served.

For more information on our volunteer program please contact info@kageno.org

One for One, Canada Hosts Fundraiser for A Place of Hope - Kageno Micro-loan Program

Last year, former Kageno Rwanda volunteer, Erin Bresnahan, decided to raise money for Kageno to start a micro-loan program in Banda Village.

Kageno Outreach

(Continued)



One for One Dodge Ball tournament

Erin had a ready-made money-generator in place: she is the Founder of a local fundraising team in her hometown of Montreal called **One for One**, a group of young professionals who organize events in their spare time to raise money for good causes.

One for One organized an annual "Do Good and Dodge" dodgeball tournament, which brought this group together on a Saturday to play a sport most hadn't participated in since elementary school.



One for One Dodge Ball tournament

And so, on a snowy day in March of 2010 (Erin is from Canada, where it regularly snows in March), about 120 people

gathered in a high school gym, each having paid a registration fee for the privilege of having balls whipped at their heads and to raise money for Kageno Rwanda.



One for One Dodge Ball tournament

Thank you to all who participated!

Kageno Partnerships

Donna Karan and the Urban Zen Foundation

We would like to extend our gratitude to Donna Karan and the [Urban Zen Foundation](#) for their tremendous support over the years.

With this joint venture, Kageno has been able to raise money and increase awareness through various events held at Donna Karan's Stephen Weiss Studio ([2008 Harambee](#) & [2010 Day of Wellness in Support of Africa](#)).



Kageno Craft Programs candle set, on sale now at the Urban Zen store in New York City

In addition to hosting these events, Donna Karan's Urban Zen store has helped us bring hope and opportunity to many individuals in Banda Village, Rwanda through the A Place of Hope - Kageno Craft Program and is the exclusive outlet in New York City for purchasing Kageno craft products.

"Empowerment through economic partnerships help individuals provide for their families and reach their human potential."

Kageno Volunteer Anouck Lepere Featured on NOWNESS



Banda Villagers, February 2011 (photo provided by Dana Lixenberg on NOWNESS.com)

Since her first trip in 2010, Belgian model, Anouck Lepere, has visited Banda Village three times to volunteer with Kageno. In January of 2011, **NOWNESS** commissioned Dutch photographer Dana Lixenberg to document Anouck's effort to join forces with the women of the craft cooperative in Banda village to launch a jewelry making initiative in collaboration with French accessories brand **Repossi**. To learn more and read the article, visit [Nowness.com](#)

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*A Place of Hope - Kageno urgently needs your support to help our community members meet their critical needs. Donations, no matter how large or small, make a big difference: from buying a chicken to helping build a school. Every contribution matters and we look forward to putting your investment to work on behalf of the communities we serve in Kenya and Rwanda. Your gift will bring opportunity—to an individual, a family, a community— and with it, the hope for a better life!*

# Donating

Your tax-deductible contribution will support the work we do to help people in need through our documented projects. These community projects will provide sustainable interventions in Kenya and Rwanda.

Please help us make lasting, positive change in the lives of people in need - donate now and change lives.

Please make checks payable to: **Kageno Worldwide** and address to:

**Kageno Worldwide, Inc.**  
**261 Broadway 10D**  
**New York, NY 10007**

kageno worldwide is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization EIN # 25-1910983.

**We are now able to accept donations online at [www.kageno.org](http://www.kageno.org)**

# Mission Statement

A Place of Hope - Kageno's MISSION is to transform impoverished communities into places of opportunity and hope – through the development of self-sustaining community directed programs in Education, Health, Ventures (Income Generation), and Environment. We believe it is essential to sustainable development to work with the community rather than giving simple aid or handouts.

Kageno identifies ravaged communities suffering from impoverishment, AIDS, genocide and limited access to health-care, clean water, and education. Working with local leaders to identify needs, we help villages build schools, health centers, pharmacies, and sanitation and clean water systems and develop programs to help them protect their fragile environments.

# More Information

Please visit our website at [www.kageno.org](http://www.kageno.org)

or contact us at : [info@kageno.org](mailto:info@kageno.org)