

KAGENO ROOTS



Planting the seeds to grow places of hope

Newsletter

Volume 13 Winter 2011



2011 Achievements

Kenya

- Launched a new Microloan Program on Rusinga geared towards disadvantaged or widowed women in need of income
- Hosted a three-day World AIDS Day celebration that welcomed 1250 people each day for sports activities, informational sessions and crucial preventative health services
- Spearheaded a new, more extensive feeding program on Mfangano to serve uji and also fruits and vegetables to the students through a partnership with Table for Two



Rwanda

- Welcomed our new nurse, Jeremiah, and new agronomist, Pierre, to the project.



- Developed a brand new briquette program to promote conservation and introduce a new, more sustainable cooking technique in the village
- Constructed a cow shed to eventually accommodate six cows pledged to the project
- Fulfilled our first order of bracelets to House of Repossi as part of a collaboration between Anouck Lepere and Repossi - now on sale at Colette in Paris
- Hosted Canadian music therapy organization, Musikiva, for a two-week long music therapy and culture exchange

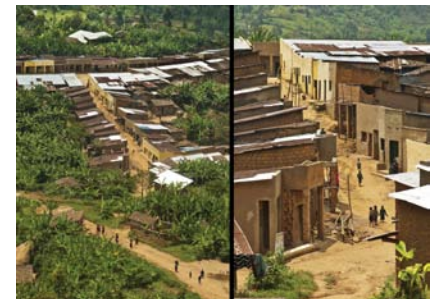
- Hosted TFT and Japan's Grazia magazine for a photo shoot to profile Banda Village and TFT's work with Kageno

Worldwide

- Welcomed volunteers Trisha Boulogne, Wieland Brendel, and Dartmouth Humanitarian Engineering members Theodore Summers, Emily Porter and Wiley Dunlap-Shohl
- Dr. Bill Weber joined the Board of Directors; hired Nicole Otero & Ruxandra Guimanca



- Hosted "Art of an African Child" at Brian Farrell's art studio on May 24th in New York City



- Co-Hosted a tour of the "Mother India: the Goddess in Indian Art" exhibition at the Met and cocktail reception with curator Siddhartha Shah on September 11th in New York City

- Japanese organic online grocer, Oisix, started an exciting fundraising campaign to fund a new, permanent kitchen & extended feeding program in Banda Village

- Anouck Lepere & House of Repossi's jewelry collaboration for Kageno featured on Cahier de Style & The Banda Collection by Anouck Lepere & Repossi goes on sale at Colette in Paris

- Celebrated our most successful Harambee to date, "Imagine" on November 7th

Progress Report

As 2011 draws to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible Kageno family for making this year's achievements possible. Thank you!



World AIDS Day: Rusinga Island is Aiming for Zero



December 1st was World AIDS Day. Our friends on Rusinga Island held a three-day series of workshops to generate awareness and to update the community on its progress in eradicating a disease of epidemic proportions. This year's theme, "Getting to Zero" embraced the hope for a healthy, AIDS-free future. The focus was less on the severe problems surrounding AIDS and the continuous struggle to find sufficient funding to address the spread of HIV that we know all too well. Instead, we worked to educate the community and provide important clinical services that help prevent the contraction of the disease. WAD was also a celebration of how far a country like Kenya has come in its fight against AIDS.

Sporting activities highlighted the event. From football, netball and volleyball to tug-of-war and bicycle racing, more than 1,250 people participated in the festivities each day. In addition to sports, there were poem recitals and theatrical performances. The community took advantage of

indispensable clinical health services made possible by Kageno and local organizations. The National AIDS Control Body used the 3-day festivities to target couples and expand education about defense against HIV & AIDS.

With the help of the International Medical Corps, 79 couples and 103 children were tested for HIV/AIDS.



WAD Festivities, Football Tournaments

Testing wasn't the only concern for WAD; efforts were also focused on minimizing the spread of AIDS. In 2007, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of the foremost medical research organizations, conducted randomized controlled trials



WAD's Energetic host addressing the crowd

in Kenya and Uganda. Their trials found that circumcision can reduce the transmission of HIV by 60 percent. This year, as part of our WAD activities, the importance of circumcision as a preventative was emphasized. The local Impact Research & Development Organization launched a mobilization unit that shuttled young men and boys who wanted to undergo medical circumcision to their facilities in Mbita. In total, forty males underwent the procedure on December 1st.

WAD was a successful, productive and positive celebration of awareness, prevention and encouragement that we will one day get to "Zero".

70,000 = # of cups of sosoma served to the nursery school students in the Banda Village -- Because of you



Partnerships

Fighting Poverty Through Partnership

There always a wealth of progress to report on our valuable partnership with Table for Two. We reported in our summer newsletter our productive trip to Banda with TFT and the Japanese magazine, Grazia, that profiled our work. TFT's two pronged mission to end malnutrition abroad and battle Western obesity is in harmony with Kageno's efforts to feed the youth in places like Banda Village and Mfangano Island.

TFT provides funding for our school meals in Banda. This means daily meals for more than 350 children in the SL Nursery School and the extremely



Carrots expanding the Banda feeding program

malnourished children who are in our feeding program. The giving doesn't stop there. The network of support that TFT has opened to Kageno proves there's power in joining forces to combat poverty.

The photographer who shot the story on TFT and Kageno in Banda took his own experience back to his friends and family in Japan. Roland Kirishima raised enough money to purchase four dairy cows for the Kageno project in Banda Village. The effects of this donation will benefit the larger community in multiple ways. It will provide milk for the feeding program, new business opportunities to sell milk at market, agricultural benefits from composting, and educational opportunities for the students.

You may recall that TFT brought Kageno to Oisix, a Japanese online organic grocer who is running an online campaign to fund the construction of a new, increased capacity kitchen in Banda. At last check, the 160,000 yen raised is on the verge of meeting the 180,000 yen goal. TFT is a model of how like-minded organizations can combine resources, and through cooperation and collaboration have a far reaching effect that surpasses their individual goals. We're very grateful to TFT for their continued generosity and also their creative resourcefulness.



donated his time and expertise to create a memorable afternoon that raised \$6,000 for Kageno.

After the tour, guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while continuing their discussions at Lillian Vernon and Paolo Martino's home. Siddhartha's compelling and unique event might seem a long way away from Africa, but as many Kageno friends already know, we welcome the varied interests, passions and activism of our diverse supporters. Thank you for those who joined us for the event. Stay tuned for future events with Siddhartha in 2012.

This holiday season, by donating to Kageno, you can give a gift that gives twice.



Fall Festivities

One World: Kageno's "Mother India" Met Tour Raises Money for Africa

In early September, Siddhartha Shah gave Kageno supporters an insider's guide to the Metropolitan Museum's exhibit: *Mother India: The Goddess in Indian Art*. A small group spent the afternoon observing works from India and gaining expert insight into the role and power of the goddess as she is depicted in Indian art. Mr. Shah is an experienced curator and artist whose knowledge on the topic of Indian and related arts is extensive. He's also a great storyteller. He generously



The Young Peoples Chorus taking the stage in the dining room

2011 Harambee

What happened when we imagined

Our Kageno family came out in full support of this year's eighth annual Harambee on November 7th to make this year's event our most successful to date.

The evening's theme was "Imagine". Together we celebrated what we had imagine and accomplished over the years and what we projects we imagine going forward. Through ticket sales, silent and live auctions, and the incredible generosity of our Kageno family, we raised nearly \$300,000 dollars!



Cocktail reception and silent auction

The Young People's Chorus of New York City joyously began the show with a performance starting with a song whose lyrics in Swahili and Spanish enchanted the guests and finishing off with Louie Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World". Guests bid on an appealing array of silent and live auction items. Art, jewelry, spa and hotel getaways among other specialties led up to an Il Borro getaway and a dinner party by Le Cirque's Sirio Maccioni hosted by Lillian Vernon and Paolo Martino among other very special opportunities to contribute to Kageno with a bonus.

Impassioned volunteer, Trisha Boulogne, relayed her heartfelt Banda experiences and her commitment to Kageno. It is always a highlight of the Harambee to have one of our family relate the story of their visits to our projects and express the profound

effect they take away.



Ms. Boulogne delivering her first-hand account of Banda Village

Dr. Paul Farmer, Kageno board member and a previous recipient of the Kageno Outstanding Achievement Award, honored two of Kageno's most ardent supporters, Ms. Donna Karan and Lillian Vernon. Ms. Karan's daughter, Gabby DeFelice accepted the award on-behalf of her mother. Ms. Vernon's delighted the audience with her moving and humorous acceptance. She reminded us all of the importance and value of helping those in need.



Lillian Vernon accepting her award from Dr. Paul Farmer

event not only possible but an outstanding success. We also send our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended the event or celebrated with us in solidarity. The projects that we imagine, are now achievable in 2012 because of the Harambee's success are this incredible support.



Our amazing Kageno board and volunteers

Kageno is only as strong as its supporters. Thank you for bringing many new friends to the organization in 2011



Looking Ahead

New Year, New Projects: Building Hope in 2012

As 2011 draws to a close, we are focused on essential projects for the coming year. Growth is always important to us, but we also recognize the importance of developing and strengthening the programs we already have in place. In Banda, this means we will ensure the gardens in our agricultural program are continually producing nutrient-rich yields. On Mfangano, with the help of TFT, we're redesigning and implementing a more well balanced feeding program that goes beyond serving uji (porridge) and sugar to the children. And on Rusinga Island, we will reexamine our microloan program to see why some loan recipients are succeeding while others struggle to manage their accounts.

2012 will bring new ideas and new projects. Through the kindness of one donor, we have received \$30,000 to develop a Resource Center and Library in Banda Village. Our hardworking Peace Corps Volunteers, Sarah and Jarod Ring, continue diligently

procuring books from their friends, families, schools, and other organizations. They now have more than 2,000 books on their way to Banda and ready to be shared with the community. The power of this center might seem understated in light of the diminishing relevance of libraries in our own cities, but the impact of a library and computers in a community like Banda is immense.

This center will provide an inconceivable wealth of information and open the world to an extremely remote village in Rwanda. The power of this intellectual awareness and educational inquiry will transform the lives and minds of the youth. To "Google" something is a given in the U.S., but in Banda the ability to actively pursue the answers to questions and solutions to problems will broaden the educational capacity of the community. The learning methods of Banda's students will change and expand exponentially. We will be working hard to raise the additional funds required to complete this center. Progress on books used, sites accessed and information sources used most frequently will be tracked to see where future resources can be expanded most effectively.

Special Recognition

The Impact of Passion Candice Wexler

What do you call a volunteer who offers more than just time? Time is, after all, a precious commodity in our busy lives; it's one of the most valuable items for which we can ask. Enter: Candice Wexler, who gives not only time but also incredible energy to any Kageno project she undertakes. Candice gives from her heart and gives without reservation.

When Candice was first introduced to Kageno, she was not content with simply browsing the website or analyzing our brochure. Candice wanted to really *know* and experience what makes the organization what it is; she wanted to feel connected to the heart of our work. So, she went to Kenya and never looked back. Candice,

and her eldest daughter, Alex, traveled together to Rusinga Island, Kenya, to discover the *real* Kageno. The Wexler women observed the project, toured the facilities, engaged with the children, and met the people who help create Kageno Kenya. Alex wrote a story about her experience in Kenya and her account won her the Daniel Pearl Scholarship, which champions students in pursuit of journalism.

For Candice, she left Kenya with a deep connection to the community who

numerous auction items, and offered endless ideas for new events, projects or solutions to the organization's challenges. Her passion is infectious and she is always willing to infect her friends and family, asking them to consider giving or to at least pay

appreciate your continued support.

As the after effects of a grave recession are felt indiscriminately in all communities around the world, we realize what giving means, now more than ever, and we can't thank you enough for your continued willingness to do so.

Without your efforts, nothing we do would be possible. This season, please remember that because of your help, children in Banda are fed nutritious daily meals, a community is learning English, women are starting businesses on Mfangano, villagers are adding new crops to their yields, an important forest is being protected, a nurse is treating everyone who needs help, and much, much more. Thank you for your hope and opportunities!



Candice getting active on her Kenyan adventure



attention to the serious problem of poverty abroad.

Candice not only exceeds all of the expectations that an organization might envisage for its advocates, but she serves as a testament to the power of lending a hand. Her involvement means a new perspective for Kageno and a world of new ideas to help us grow. We would like to thank Candice for her warm heart and her enthusiastic dedication. We appreciate her participation and look forward to an even brighter future for Kageno with her. Thank you Candice!

struggles for many of the basic resources we take for granted. She also brought back with her a personal link to helping communities like Rusinga and a commitment to opportunity and to hope.

Kageno Worldwide is the grateful beneficiary of Candice's passion. Her helping hand is far-reaching, boundless and genuine. She gives her time, resources, funding, ideas, creativity and humor to every project she commits herself to. In 2011, Candice has edited email blasts at 1am, arrived bright and early for event set-up, served as chair of the Fundraising Committee, collected



If you're still looking for a special gift for your loved ones, the Me&Ro Unity Bracelet is a gift that gives hope.



Thank you to our Kageno family for making hope possible

Each year we call on you to help us tackle the difficult challenge of addressing poverty in Kenya and Rwanda. And every year, you give your time, ideas, donations, and passion. We recognize these tremendous contributions and we



Just a few of the friends Candice and Alex made in Kenya



Kageno would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. See you in 2012!



Asante sana - Murakoze - Thank you!



To the people who make Kageno's work possible:

Tribal Chief (\$10,000 and above)

Brillo-Sonnino Family Fund
Candice & Peter Wexler
Edith McBean
Frank Andolino
Lillian Vernon Foundation
Louis Peter Re & Kent Belden
Meryl Streep, Silver Mountain Foundation
Paolo Martino
Table for Two

Tribal Elder (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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Christina Ehrlich
Damian Weyand
Elizabeth Stern
Gian Paolo & Gabby DeFelice
Joanna Meringoff
Mary Ellen McLane
Michael Carr
Mike Peissis
Neil C. & Elizabeth Kay
Piece2Peace
Teresa Connors

Tribal Warrior (\$1,000-\$4999)

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Andrew Leftt
Anouck Lepere
Ariel Foxman
Bart Andolino
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John & Heidi Helfst
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Lorraine Schwartz
Margot Weinstein
Marie Gallo
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Pat & Denise Malpeso
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Rowland Kirishima
Samira Nasr
Siddhartha Shah
Stephanie Wessel
The HayDay Foundation
Tom Sebring & Steve Vaughn
Where's Your Heart Foundation
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Tom Signorelli
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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

Mission Statement

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

or contact us at : info@kageno.org