



KAGENO ROOTS



Planting the seeds to grow places of hope

Newsletter

Volume 14 | Spring 2012

Progress Report

Spring is about growth and new life, and our projects in Africa embody just that spirit this season! We're building new programs, growing new opportunities and thriving, all thanks to your help.



Banda's new kitchen, under construction, March

Constructing Healthier Lives

Last year, Japanese online organic grocer, Oisix, in partnership with Table for Two (TFT), hosted a fundraising campaign on their website for Kageno. Although we target communities on different continents, Oisix and Kageno came together in a shared vision: to promote healthy eating and provide nutritious meals.

Oisix's generous customers raised more than \$25,000 to build Kageno a new community kitchen. Scheduled for completion in May, the structure will be equipped with briquette-ready stoves, multiple latrines, an increased capacity to cook meals for more children, and plenty of space for the community.

In addition to feeding a greater number of under-nourished students, the kitchen will serve as a vehicle for promoting good nutrition and alternative fuel through the use of briquettes and biogas. Most

importantly, it's a resource for the community to feed their families.

Checking In -- Banda Edition

One of the best parts of our project sites is getting to share them with our Kageno family. In March, board members, Louis Re and Candice Wexler, and donor/volunteer Teresa Connors joined Kageno for an exciting visit to Rwanda.

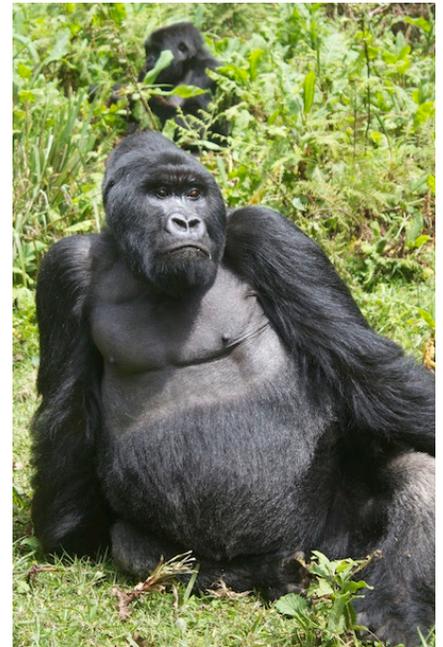
The group checked in on all of Banda's programs, gave an official welcome to the 4 new cows who provide more milk for the feeding program and hiked to the future ecolodge site. Their trip was a first-hand opportunity to see fruits of our volunteers' hard work and our donors' generous contributions.



Teeth brushing after sosoma at the SL Nursery School

As Candice described, the Kageno Compound was "a vibrant scene of busy people working with focus and commitment" on all of the projects. With the new kitchen construction well underway, women were adding more to the kitchen gardens, kids lined up on benches in the sun to carefully brush their teeth, and nurses darted between the clinic and pharmacy. We also brought along Seattle filmmaker, Brett Renville to document our hard work on the ground. We look forward to sharing those videos with you very soon!

Site visits and volunteer trips provide a unique opportunity to foster a new connection with Kageno's work.



But the trips aren't all work and no play; the group visited Parc des Volcans to see one of Rwanda's other treasures, its mountain gorillas.

If you'd like to visit Rwanda or Kenya with Kageno, please email info@kageno.org and we'll help you plan your trip!



Board Member, Dr. Louis Re & LA Donor Teresa Connors post gorilla trekking

Everything Growing Organically in Kenya

Kageno Kenya is a project where the attitude and determination of the community members makes larger things possible. On Rusigna Island, three volunteer teachers are teaching 84 children on the Kageno site. The parents of these children have bonded together to provide uji (porridge) three times a week for the group. It is this sort of perseverance that inspires Kageno to continue its work with the community.



Practicing good hygiene before feeding time

On Mfangano, we formed a small team of women to feed more than 180 children there. The meals are varied and balanced with fruits, vegetables and omena (sardines), an omega 3-rich protein source.

We decided not to stop there. We don't just want to feed children, we'd like to teach the community how to better feed themselves.



Kids at the Mfangano feeding enjoying fruit

Our friends at Organic Health Response, are experts in organic farming techniques, with a speciality in alternatives that work specifically on the islands. That's why we

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chose OHR as our partner for a farming training initiative between Mfangano and Rusinga.

Next month, a small group of farmers from Rusinga, who struggle with problems of irrigation, soil erosion, and low crop yields, will travel to Mfangano for in-depth organic farming workshop with OHR. The farmers will learn about organic and sustainable systems that they can replicate in their own gardens to increase their crop yields and provide a more balanced diet for their families.

Kageno will also build a demonstration plot on Rusinga to teach other farmers and practice the techniques taught by OHR. Feeding isn't just about meal programs, it's also about developing the skills to provide for a family and to improve the community's resources.



Mfangano feeding time, February 2012

Kageno Events

An Unlikely Pairing -- Kageno travels to India!

Sure, Modern Indian Art doesn't sound like it has anything to do with community development in Africa, but a desire to help communities combat poverty certainly does. And that's exactly what art curator and Indian art scholar, Siddhartha Shah cares about.

As an art dealer of Indian and Nepalese art, he shares the stories of often disadvantaged artists in developing countries, and he actively supports

organizations trying to help individuals in a similar reality. That's why Kageno teamed up with him once again for a day of art appreciation and awareness.



Sarasvati by Kishan Duriseti, watercolor on paper, 2011

Siddhartha led a small group tour of the Rubin Museum's "The Body Unbound" exhibit. After the tour, guests enjoyed an art salon and cocktail reception, at which Siddhartha generously donated a percentage of all art sales to Kageno.

The event raised over \$6,000 for Kageno's programs in Kenya and Rwanda. Thanks to Siddhartha for his exciting stories, beautiful artwork, and continual kindness.



Like Us on Facebook!

It's time to get your calendars out-- Kageno has a bunch of exciting events lined up and we'd be happy to host you.

Who said raising awareness and funding can't be fun? ...

save the date
wednesday may 23rd, 2012
7-10pm

please join
kevin kollenda, anouck lepere,
danielle levine, samira nasr for
kageno's spring party

to benefit
the SL school and orphan program
in banda village, rwanda



Kageno Partnership

Creative Collaborations -- Even More Kageno Jewelry

Kageno prides itself on having a diverse support base that leads to exciting collaborations and dynamic partnerships.

There's the Me&Ro Kageno Unity Bracelet, Repossi's Banda Collection of embellished woven jewelry, a Lois Hill watch, and now thanks to designers, Marie Gallo (Ashley Park Design) and Deric Metzger (DeMer Jewelry), we're adding another piece of jewelry to the Kageno market.

Springtime is for Kageno Cocktails!

For Kageno and our incredible network of supporters, there can never be too many parties or too many occasions to help our partner communities in Africa.

Join hosts Danielle Levine, Anouck Lepere, Kevin Kollenda and Samira Nasr for a Spring Party in support of Banda's children and the SL Nursery School.

On **May 23rd**, enjoy a cocktail that counts: help support early childhood education and healthcare for the youth of Banda. Festivities will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at NYC's The Park.

An evening of fun for Kageno kids -- We'll drink to that!

Longtime Kageno supporter, Drena DeNiro is starring in the off-broadway performance of "She's of a Certain Age" at the Beckett Theater and Kageno gets to take the stage with her!

Cause Célèbre helps spread awareness for important causes and organizations through theater. The May 31st performance of "She's of a Certain Age" will honor Kageno's work.

Our information will be featured in the evening's Playbill and a Kageno representative will share our mission with the audience.

Tickets for Kageno's performance: \$52 regular seats, \$65 premium seats
Please contact info@kageno.org for more information



Marie Gallo's Driftwood Ouroboros charm for Kageno

The Driftwood Ouroboros charm includes a sterling silver driftwood circle with an 18k golden orchid root growing through it. A blue sapphire, the stone of wisdom, represents the water that the orchid's roots seek for strength. Their message in creating this beautiful piece whose profits go right to Kageno: "May we all have wisdom to bring new life and hope to the world where others see only futility."

A special thanks to Marie Gallo for such a thoughtful addition to Kageno's jewelry for a cause.

The Driftwood Ouroboros charm is \$200; profits will be donated to Kageno

SAVE THE DATE: Kageno Harambee: Monday, October 15, 2012



To donate an auction item, discuss corporate sponsorship, or volunteer for the event, please email: info@kageno.org

CAUSE CÉLÈBRE in association with MARY J. DAVIS presents

She's of a CERTAIN AGE

BY SUSAN CHARLOTTE

DIRECTED BY ANTHONY MARSELLIS AND CHRISTOPHER HART

WITH

- Drena De Niro
- Lois Markle
- Robert Newman
- Rosemary Prinz

THE BECKETT THEATRE - LIMITED ENGAGEMENT - APRIL 25 - JUNE 10

Kageno Spotlight

Farewell and a Final Murakoze

It's April and Kageno has seen some bright beginnings. However, we've also had a bitter sweet goodbye. In early April, we said a tearful farewell to our first-ever Peace Corps Volunteers in Banda, Sarah and Jarod Ring.

The Rings spent two years, on-the-ground and immersed in the community of Banda Village. They worked with Kageno to break old obstacles, build new programs, bring new resources, and unite the community. The range of their work included extending Kageno's water source

invaluable assets to the organization and our team and their work was critical to much of the progress Kageno has



achieved in the last two years. We would like to extend a heartfelt "murakoze" to Sarah and Jarod, for their time, efforts and compassion.

Next Up

What we're working on now

Kageno's efforts don't stop there. We're working hard to make 2012 successful. Here are a few projects that are in the works:

- Breaking ground on a Resource Center and Library in Banda Village
- Expanding microloans on Rusinga and starting a new program on Mfangano
- Special trip: Bringing dentists to Rwanda & Kenya for one week in July to provide an indispensable resource to the communities this summer

Regional Insight

News highlighting Rwanda

Check out these interesting pieces covering one of the amazing countries where Kageno operates:

The Global Post highlights how [economic growth is pulling Rwanda out of poverty](#)

Kenya is [investing in renewable, geothermal energy](#) to set them on a path towards clean energy.

2012 Donors to Date

Thank you for your generosity & support. Kageno's work is possible because of you!

Tribal Chief (\$10,000 and above)

Table For Two

Tribal Elder (\$5000 to \$9999)

Barbara & Mark Lyons

Tribal Warrior (\$1000 to \$4999)

Kent Belden & Louis Re

Giancarla Berti

Teresa Connors

Isabel & Gunther Greiner

Paolo Martino

Me&Ro

Siddhartha Shah

Michael Whitman

Candice Wexler

Tribal Family Member (\$500 to \$999)

Linda Rothschild

Tribal Family Friend (\$250 to \$499)

Vickey McLoughlin

Mary Ellen Nitti

Tribal Friend (Up to \$249)

Daphne Fail

Tim Friese

Donna Greenberg

James Henslee

Nadina Lambert

Susie Plaisted

Kimberly Seelbrede

Mary Jo Urbanek

Monika Werner



to the Gasanane Primary School, teaching endless nutrition and HIV/AIDS lessons to the community, bringing more than 1600 books to virtually book-less Banda, and much more.

Of course, their contribution exceeds even these exceptional projects; Sarah and Jarod were friends of the community. Their dedication and compassion allowed them to connect with many villagers in a personal and cultural exchange that will last beyond any two-year service requirement.



Kageno is immensely grateful for our partnership with the Rings. Their patience, resilience and hard work were

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Donating

Your tax-deductible contribution will support the work we do to help these communities help themselves. Kageno is nearly 100% volunteer-based, so you can be sure your donation will go directly to our projects on the ground.

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

Please make checks payable to:

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

Or you can make a donation online, right now, by clicking [HERE](#).

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

Volunteer

Lending a hand, your expertise and skills, or your passion goes just as far as making a donation. Kageno thrives because of dedicated volunteers who help us find real solutions in our work.

Learn how you can get involved in NYC, remotely, or on the ground! Get creative and make a difference.

Email: info@kageno.org for a volunteer application, overview more information and a

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

or contact us at : info@kageno.org

Read the K-Blog: <http://www.kageno.typepad.com/>

Like us on Facebook!

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