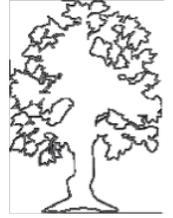




Kageno Roots

Creating Hope and Spreading Opportunities



A Newsletter

Volume 17 Spring 2014

2014 Milestones and Highlights -

[Visit our website for more news and updates](#)

Kenya - Lake Victoria

- ❖ On Rusinga Island, construction of the new Oisix community kitchen is nearing completion and will soon provide a daily meal for the 140 children in our nursery school and more than 1000 children in the nearby primary school.
- ❖ On Mfangano Island, Table for Two continues to sponsor a feeding program at the the Kageno nursery school, serving 181 children every school day.
- ❖ Our micro-loan program is continuing to help the Litare beach community, now with 29 active loans.

[Check out some of our Kenya photos here.](#)



Children being served lunch at our nursery school on Mfangano Island, Kenya.

Rwanda - Banda Village

- ❖ The Table for Two feeding program expansion is now reaching over 2,150 children in the village every school day. We've seen that it's making a tremendous difference in terms of school attendance and alertness.
- ❖ A small solar power system will soon be installed allowing us to power a refrigerator.
- ❖ Our cows and chickens have been active and continue to provide milk, fertilizer and eggs for our agricultural activities, as well as fuel for our biogas system.

[Check out some of our Rwanda photos here.](#)



Children playing on break at our nursery school in Banda Village, Rwanda.

Worldwide - New York and LA

- ❖ SAVE THE DATE of NOVEMBER 3rd for our annual HARAMBEE to celebrate all of our anticipated successes and progress in 2014, and to raise funds to continue our work into 2015 and beyond.
- ❖ Kageno LA has launched it's first major fundraising campaign, with the goal of raising \$15,000 to build sanitary latrines in Banda Village. Check out the article about the campaign on page 2. [Click here to donate to the campaign now.](#)



Farmer training at our site in Banda Village, Rwanda.

Kageno Happenings

[Like us and stay connected!](#)

Thank You Mary Ellen

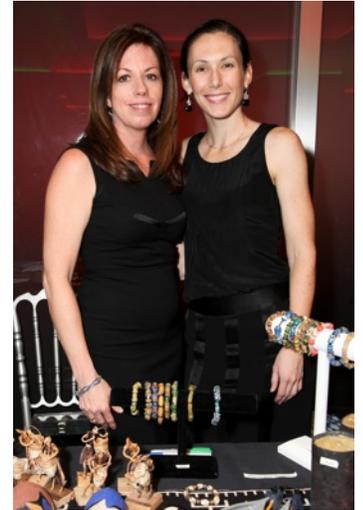
We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to long time Board Member, Mary Ellen McLane for her service and dedication to Kageno. Mary Ellen resigned her position on the Board of Directors. She will continue to volunteer and remain an integral part of our team. For many years, she contributed her time, experience and expertise as our Treasurer and Board member. Thanks for all your invaluable help.

New Advisory Board Member

Kageno has added a new member to our Advisory Board. Linda Rothschild is the Founder and CEO of Cross It Off Your List LLC, a company that provides move management, organizing and lifestyle management services in New York, the Hamptons, Los Angeles and everywhere in between. Linda, a Kageno volunteer for several years, is an Event Committee member for the Harambee, and looks forward to her first trip to Africa to visit our projects.

Updates to Kageno's Social Media

Alexandra Wexler is Kageno's new Social Media Director. Kageno inaugurated this position to manage all our social media communication. Alexandra, a Kageno volunteer and one of the founders of our Young Professionals Committee is a reporter at The Wall Street Journal in New York. She has extensive international experience having studied abroad in Greece and South Africa. Alex's article describing her visit to Kageno's Kenya project was published in The Global Post, which helped her earn the Daniel Pearl Memorial Journalism fellowship. Contact Alex at alexandra.e.wexler@gmail.com.



Mary Ellen McLane (left) with fellow volunteer at the Harambee

Kageno LA Launches Fundraiser for Banda Village Latrines by Teresa Connors

There's a hookworm epidemic in Banda. Nearly 90% of the residents are infected with this intestinal parasite that can cause anemia, as well as iron and protein deficiencies. These conditions pose an especially grave threat to children and pregnant women.

What's the reason behind the hookworm epidemic? You guessed it: no access to good latrines.

Plans are underway to build 250 simple pit latrines--inexpensive, self-sustaining and easy to construct, which is important when a community is faced with a sanitation crisis.

Once we raise \$15,000, local carpenters will be hired to build chamber walls of adobe bricks (supplied by the community) with each chamber topped by a vented iron roof. The project will create income for the community members who will be paid for their work building these latrines.

We have on tap three opportunities for folks to help us out:

1. First, we're using the fundraising platform Crowdrise and are asking anyone and everyone we know to not only donate, but to ask everyone they know to do the same. [Click here to check it out.](#)
2. We're also planning a series of dinner parties. Each guest donates \$100 and brings a bottle of wine, and will get the chance to have a delicious chef-prepared meal, with all proceeds going to the latrine project fund.
3. And finally, we're planning a cocktail tutorial: We'll bring in an uber-talented bartender to teach our guests the art of mixology for a donation of \$100.



Proposed latrine structure and design

Help by hosting a party at your swanky home or by corralling all your friends to donate at Crowdrise. Contact me at teresamc@mac.com for additional information.

From the Field

Letter from Rwanda by Jeremiah Hakizimana, Kageno Health Care Program Director

“Greetings all!

Here is some of the latest news from Banda Village.

We welcomed the new Peace Corps Volunteer, Rebecca Heimstra, who has been assisting with the health and nutrition programs. She is helping to measure and monitor the health improvements of the children in the Malnourished Feeding Program. She is training our community health workers and makes home visits with them. We appreciate her coming to Banda and are very proud of her work here. She has shown a love of the people of Banda (she attends wedding ceremonies and other community events) and a commitment to the community projects.

In our health clinic, we inaugurated the new, long awaited laboratory service. Now our clients do not have to walk many hours to the Rangiro Health Center for blood, parasitology, HIV, and pre-natal tests. Solar panels for the clinic have arrived. Once the panels are installed, we will have power for lights and refrigeration.

There are now 18 cows in Banda that supply milk for our feeding program and support in fertilizing our gardens. We also have a successful chicken farm project that supplies eggs to supply the feeding programs. Kageno has launched a new school meal program that has helped to keep children nourished and able to stay in school. We now use our Community Kitchen to train parents with children in the feeding program and community health care workers who later will train others in ways to maintain a balanced diet. Before these people would have had to travel to Rangiro for training.

The SL Nursery School has shown us another benefit to the parents of the school children. Some parents have come to us for classes to help improve their own reading skills. One father of four told us that he was ashamed to see his daughters reading the newspapers and books when he could not. We look forward to the opening of the new Community Library where everyone will have accessibility to reading the large supply of donated books we have collected. Thank you everyone for your support.”

A New Kitchen in Kenya – Oisix’s Fundraising Campaign a Success

Construction on a new kitchen at our Kageno Kenya project site has begun. Through the fundraising efforts of Oisix’s customers and our partnership with Table for Two (TFT), the local community will have a brand new kitchen to provide a safe cooking place for the daily school-feeding program. The building will have three cook stoves, a storage area and an office. In addition, the project will bring piped water from an adjacent storage tank, which will make cleanup of the kitchen’s utensils and cooking materials an easy task.

Once construction of the new kitchen is complete, we will expand our feeding program on Rusinga Island to include the students from nearby primary schools. The feeding program will grow from 140 to 1,140 students every school day. The daily meals will impact more lives in our continuing focus on combating hunger and malnutrition, and will improve school attendance and the children’s ability to learn.

Table for Two (TFT) is an international organization dedicated to addressing global food imbalance. Oisix is an online Japanese food delivery service. We are very grateful for the support of TFT and Oisix and we look forward to a continued and growing partnership for many years to come.



Jeremiah Hakizimana (right) with fellow staff members at our site in Rwanda



Construction of the new kitchen underway



Construction nearing completion

Kageno Welcomes our New Peace Corps Volunteer to Rwanda

Rebecca Hiemstra began working in Banda Village last fall and has quickly settled into the local community. In her own words, Rebecca shares her experiences over the past months.

“I have been a Peace Corps Volunteer in Banda for seven months. I am from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and studied International Relations at Calvin College graduating in 2012. I have long had an interest in international development and studies. I’ve spent almost four years living in Germany and a year studying in South Africa. I enjoy being in new places, hiking and running, speaking German (and Kinyarwanda!), reading, and doing art.

I arrived in Rwanda last June as a community health volunteer and began the three-month training in a district near the capital. Volunteers don’t get to choose their sites, and I’ll never forget the day I saw Banda for the first time. I was struck immediately by its beauty, the warmth of the community, the rain—even during the dry season—and the Kageno programs, which clearly have a transformative impact. I remember seeing the SL Nursery School full of laughing, happy kids, Kageno’s active community kitchen, Banda’s busy village center, and the nearby rainforest canopy. What I love most about Banda is the openness, generosity, and warmth of its community. I feel like I am living in one big family. I cannot imagine spending these two years anywhere else. I am so thankful to be here.



Rebecca with children and guardians of the feeding program

I have been working on several projects here. One issue Banda struggles with is poor sanitation and hygiene. Many people cannot afford latrines, the lack of which results in contaminated soil and illness. We are beginning a project through the Peace Corps to construct latrines and hold training sessions on hygiene with the goal of reducing the prevalence of intestinal parasites. Jeremiah, Kageno’s health care director, and I work with adolescents in the secondary school on HIV prevention and life skills.

We plan to start a program called Grassroots Soccer with Banda’s youth. The program teaches HIV prevention to youth using activities and games related to soccer in an effort to engage and inspire young people to prevent HIV in their communities. Other areas I am involved with are teaching parents at Kageno, working with Kageno’s community health-care workers, and weighing children in Kageno’s malnourished feeding program.

After work, I enjoy visiting local people, going to the market, or trying to run on Banda’s very mountainous paths. I have amazing neighbors and enjoy spending time with them. I’ve joined my church’s choir, which is rather comical as I’m not musical and often forget song words in Kinyarwanda—but people don’t seem to care!

Sometimes I play soccer with kids at the field by the school. All the girls play barefoot and many are wearing skirts, yet they still dominate me in soccer games! Some weekends, I go to visit Levi, Kageno’s project director, and his wonderful family in Kamembe on Lake Kivu—my adopted family in Rwanda. It is a privilege to be working in Banda with Kageno, and I look forward to my next year here. Thank you for your support and many many greetings from Rwanda.”

Thank you, Rebecca. We are excited about all of your projects, delighted that you are working with us in Banda, and look forward to updates on your projects. Kageno is helping to fundraising for the Latrine Project. [Click here for more information on the latrine fundraising campaign.](#)



Rebecca Hiemstra with fellow Kageno staff members

Asante sana - Murakoze - Thank you!

To the people making our work possible

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 the 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 healthcare, 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.

Volunteering

Volunteering with Kageno is a chance for you to make a personal contribution at the global level while you experience hands-on learning about countries and cultures as you exchange ideas with people you might not otherwise meet.

As a volunteer in one of our Kenya or Rwanda programs, you will 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. Making a difference can be as simple as spending time with orphans, digging pit-latrines, or practicing English with community members.

For more information please visit www.kageno.org or contact us at : info@kageno.org

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 by [donating online now](#) to one of our projects and help us change lives.

Please make checks payable to Kageno Worldwide and mail to:

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

