

Kageno Roots

Planting the seeds to grow places of hope.



A Quarterly Newsletter

volume 6 spring 2007



Spring Celebration - Spring Success!

The Kageno Spring Celebration was held on May 8th at PM Lounge in the fashionable meatpacking district of New York City. The Celebration marked the official launch of the Orphan Assistance & Sponsorship Program and groundbreaking on the Kageno Rwanda project.

The evening was a resounding success with generous supporters sponsoring 41 orphaned children, providing these children the chance for a better and brighter future.

The Kageno Orphan Assistance & Sponsorship Program was conceived to address the immediate and long-term needs of children attending the Kageno Nursery School and to create lasting change by strengthening the communities in which they live. Gifts from sponsors are combined to provide the assistance the community needs most — access to clean water and sanitation, improved nutrition, health care, education and vocational training.

Guests were also treated to a sneak preview of the Kageno Rwanda Project building designs - courtesy of SPG Architects. The SPG team has donated their services and has been busy

working on building design since last November. (See *SPG Architects & Kageno Rwanda* on page 3)

Naming opportunities for the 8 structures that will be constructed during the first 2 phases of the project were available and we are very excited to announce that the Library and Computer Center were funded during the Spring Celebration. In total, over \$30,000 was raised that evening.

We are most grateful to all the people who attended and to those who helped make this event possible. Special mention is given to Brown Betty Events who treated guests to tasty exotic hors d'oeuvres and to our beverage sponsors: Krait Beer, General Bilmoria Wine, Armarula, Hendrick's Gin and Reyka vodka.

It is only with your support that Kageno is able to transform communities suffering from inhumane poverty into places of opportunity and hope. For more information about the Kageno Orphan Assistance & Sponsorship Program or to inquire about remaining naming opportunities for the Rwanda project please contact info@kageno.org

A message from
Sponsorship
Spokesperson
Drena DeNiro:



I am so happy and honored to be part of the Kageno Orphan Sponsorship Program. In 2006, I chose 3 orphans to sponsor, Ronnie Owino, Grace Akinyi and Geoffrey Odhiambo. I recently heard from all three through letters transcribed to Harry Thuku and got news of their health and progress in school. Words cannot express the overwhelming joy I feel in knowing that not only am I making a difference in three children's lives across the world but that I am also contributing to the empowerment, growth and education of these young children within their own community and culture. Kageno has made it possible for many people who have known only hardship, disease and suffering to have the opportunity to flourish within and celebrate their culture and the world around them. It is truly a privilege to be a part of such a great and visionary program.

Sincerely,

Drena DeNiro

Every child deserves the chance to go to school and have a hopeful future. Investing in education helps break the cycle of HIV/AIDS, hunger, illiteracy and extreme poverty. Each additional year of education is an investment in the future that helps these children live longer, more productive, and healthier lives.

If you would like to help us make a difference, please visit www.kageno.org. Donations can be made on-line to one of our specific programs or to support the organization as a whole. Thank you.

Progress Report

The first quarter of 2007 has been one of robust growth for Kageno thanks to generous financial support and in-kind donations.

Shamba la Watoto

In early January Kageno Kenya purchased land to be used for "Shamba la Watoto" or "Farm for the Children". The Shamba la Watoto will be cultivated; with fruits and vegetables being used to supplement the meal of porridge provided to Kageno Nursery School children each day.

Penguin book donation

A second shipment of books arrived in February, just in time for students returning from winter break. The books were a donation from the Pearson Foundation and Penguin books.



Kageno Nursery School children enjoying their new books courtesy of The Pearson Foundation & Penguin books.

DHF follow-up

Mary Muyoka from The Dreyfus Health Foundation (DHF) returned to Rusinga in late February to evaluate the progress of the 28 health related projects that were initiated during the 3-day workshop last July.

In July 2006, DHF organized a workshop for Kageno Kenya Trust on Rusinga Island. This was a three-day workshop and 28 community members were trained as problem solvers in a program called Problem Solving for Better Health (PSBH). After the three days, the participants were awarded merit certificates as problem solvers for better health.

The training emphasized communication and collaboration locally and internationally to

accelerate progress towards better health for all people.

The participants were guided on proposal writing and after the training they developed their own proposals and realistic action plans. The project proposals were about the problems that they are facing in the community and the possible solutions for the problems and methodology that would be used in solving the problems.

Rwanda site visit

Kenya Country Director Alphonse Okuku and Director of Operations Karl Baker paid a visit to Levi Ngilimana, the Country Director for Kageno Rwanda, in early March. Levi, Alphonse and Karl met with many Government officials, Ministries, local leaders and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that Kageno will be partnering with in our Rwanda project. Groups as diverse and varied as The Wildlife Conservation Society, Partners in Health, USAID, Family Health International, and Orphans of Rwanda met the Kageno team members to lay the groundwork for the Kageno initiative in Banda Village, Rwanda.

Greening Rusinga

While Alphonse, Levi and Karl were busy in Rwanda, Kageno Kenya general manager Debrah Oweggi was holding down the fort on Rusinga Island. Debrah worked with the women involved in the UNDP sponsored "Greening of Rusinga" initiative.



Seedlings ready for planting

The Greening Rusinga Initiative is a project implemented through a joint venture of Kageno, Africa Now, Care Kenya, Njakele Women's group and local primary and secondary schools to address desertification problems by planting of at least 1 million trees on Rusinga Island. The Beach Greening program is coordinated by Kageno with funding from UNDP through its Small Grants Program.

The objectives of Greening Rusinga Initiative are:

- 1. To raise tree cover on Rusinga Island from the current estimate of about 5% to at least 40% by planting 1 million indigenous trees*
- 2. To promote Biodiversity conservation and protection of international waters*
- 3. To improve livelihood of the Rusinga community members.*

Through the Afforestation Project Kageno has established ten woodlots with 5,000 trees each, on the shoreline. A total of more than 50,000 trees have been planted and the trees are successfully growing. Kageno has also encouraged the beach communities to establish on-farm individual woodlots apart from tree planting along the footpaths.

The raising of more seedlings is targeting the community to plant more trees and currently more than 35,000 seedlings are waiting to be planted. The Greening Rusinga Initiative project is currently building two fishing boats for each of the ten beach groups to help generate income for the people involved in the planting of trees and, to support fishermen and community members.

Floresta workshop

Most recently, Floresta Tanzania staff visited Kageno Kenya to offer training in Bio-Intensive Agriculture (BIA). The BIA technology focuses primarily on increased vegetable production. The objective of this workshop was to train farmers from the Kageno community in BIA technology. A total of 37 practicing farmers attended the workshop.

Bio-Intensive Agriculture is the intensive production of different food crops in a small area of land. It involves the digging of special double-dug raised planting beds, which are made from compost materials.

Bio-Intensive Agriculture method has four pillars that include:

1. Composting
2. Special double-dugs
3. Use of companion plants
4. Medicinal herbs and pesticides use

Bio-Intensive Agriculture does not include the use of inorganic or industrial fertilizers. BIA produces good quality plants and is very useful for vegetable production. BIA technology makes it possible to feed many people from a small plot of land.

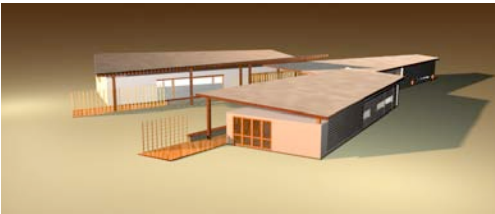
The training was successful and highly appreciated by both Kageno and Floresta. Kageno looks forward to continued collaboration and partnership with Floresta.

The BIA technique is currently being employed in the Shamba la Watoto.

SPG Architects & Kageno Rwanda

Adjacent to Rwanda's picturesque Nyungwe National Forest lies the isolated village of Banda. Located on property donated by members of the community in a valley of terraced farmland between two rivers, a modern collection of community buildings, designed by SPG Architects, will address the concerns of the villagers as conveyed to Kageno team members. The three largest issues facing the town are 1) Healthcare, 2) Education and 3) Job opportunity.

The new group of planned buildings will accommodate much needed facilities in an architectural gesture that gathers community members and visitors alike along the main road to the National Forest. Until now, the nearest healthcare clinic was a 3-hour walk and the nearest hospital a 6-hour trek. With more orphans than any community should have, nursery school classrooms will provide education and hope for the future. Gathering spaces for community events and for the production of local crafts will allow for meager agricultural earnings to be supplemented.



Innovative Community Center (ICC)

Finally, increased eco-tourism is possible with the first facilities in the region serving outside visitors while providing incentives to preserve the local ecology and provide much needed influx of outside money.



Visitor's center



Bungalow

The buildings that serve to gather the people of Banda into a coherent public space include a community center, a library and office facility, and a kitchen and outdoor space. This dynamic assembly serves as the apex of the "V"



Kageno Rwanda Site Plan

that reaches toward the village. One leg of the radial form is comprised of a health center and pharmacy. Another radiating group of buildings are comprised of 4 classrooms serving 300 children. These two groups of buildings lie on either side of the main road while the 3rd extension of built forms is comprised of a visitor's center and bungalows for visitors and permanent staff. Newly planted trees reinforce the relationship between the various components of Kageno Rwanda.

Inspiration for the site design stemmed from images of the landscape in Rwanda, that when seen from afar appear like patchwork. The roofs of many of the buildings SPG Architects designed weave together in an attempt to create a new landscape. As these roofs overlap interior and exterior spaces, they create interstitial spaces that act as places for people to gather.

As untraditional as the buildings are, they do incorporate building materials and methods that are locally familiar. This will allow villagers to provide the labor as part of their effort to participate in the creation of this life-changing project. Natural ventilation will be provided through a system of double-roofs and louvered openings, helping maintain a degree of comfort in the tropical environment. Local vernacular materials such as brick, stucco, and corrugated metal roofs are the primary building components. While the building materials are familiar, the site planning and building forms are energized and modern, and serve as a symbol of Kageno's message of a hopeful future.

The following is a list of funding and naming opportunities available for Kageno Rwanda.

Nursery School	\$55,000
Library	\$15,000
Innovative Community Center	\$55,000
Health Center	\$40,000
Pharmacy	\$20,000
Eco-tourism Compound	\$125,000

The programs highlighted above serve only as guidelines to provide an idea of the projects we feel are the most pressing for 2007. However, any contribution is appreciated and will help us achieve our goal of making Banda Village a better place. Please consider making a contribution and join us in our effort to transform communities suffering from inhumane poverty into places of opportunity and hope. All contributions, large or small, make a difference. We are grateful for your enduring support.

Kageno Spotlight



Mama Phoebe

My name is Phoebe Ochieng Haga. I am 55 years old and I was born, raised and married on Rusinga Island. I am a widow with three children - two daughters and one son. My husband died in the year 1992.

I have been involved in community work in many ways since my High School education .

In 1970 I joined the Fisheries department in Kisumu and worked as a telephone operator for one year. Subsequently, I worked as an untrained teacher for two years, followed by a position with the Methane Group of companies as telephone operator in Nairobi. I then decided to return home to Rusinga where I joined the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), the focus of my work being basic social development

While working with Christian Children's Fund, I was trained on Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) as well as a CBD - Community Based Distributor. My main work was community outreach, creating awareness and instruction on condom use as well as family planning and distribution of birth control pills.

Through my work as a VCT counselor and Community Based Distributor, I realized that I should go for VCT. I tested HIV+.

While participating in a meeting for a malaria program, I was introduced to the Director of Kageno, Alphonse Okuku by my colleague Dan Okombo. Dan told Alphonse how I was connected with the community and that I was a member of Mbita AIDS Control Committee and how I have been involved with the community. I was once one of the community leaders in Rusinga who could mobilize People Living With AIDS (PLWAs).

Through that introduction, I was asked by the Director to come and present my group of

PLWAs to the WORLD AIDS DAY event that Kageno was hosting in December 2003. I am one of the people who confessed and gave teachings to those attending the function. Alphonse later invited us to make a presentation to a team from Kageno Worldwide led by Dr. Frank Andolino. I quickly joined Kageno as a volunteer.

Currently, I am one of the employees of Kageno Kenya. I manage the Feeding Program that provides one meal a day to the children attending the Kageno Nursery School and also head the Kageno HIV/AIDS Support Group. Members of my support group and other members who have been to Voluntary Counseling and Testing make porridge for the nursery school children. Each day two different members of the support group and I cook the porridge for the children. This rotation provides a small, but steady income for those women interested in participating. I am also doing home visitation to ensure that PLWAs are doing well and that they are having no problems. If they have a problem, I talk to them and refer them to hospitals. I also mobilize people to come for VCT at Kageno.

I am very happy to work with Kageno because what I am getting as a salary is helping me and my family. I really believe in Kageno and love my work.

I am happy and pleased to tell people that my life is now changed and I am living positive and I am very proud of the way I am. My life can continue and now I don't have any problems as before. I have done away with the stigma and I believe that HIV/AIDS is a disease like any other disease.

The Kageno HIV/AIDS Support Group fosters a support network for the individuals and encourages 'positive living,' through their community involvement; the group also helps dismantle the misunderstood stigma in the community. Being HIV or AIDS-positive does not mean an end to a good life, and these women are testament to the benefits of an active and involved support group.

The group meets on a weekly basis, and discusses any issues that they have or support they may need, as well as generate ideas for activities that they might conduct to reach more people. The public is not aware of what the group's identity or purpose is, thus keeping individuals' status confidential, but as a group they are targeting the community at large to reduce the stigma associated with the disease.

* * *

We must become the change we want to see in the world.

-- Mahatma Gandhi



Harry Thuku

My names are Harry Thuku Okombo, I was born on the 26th July, 1984 and I am married with one child.

I went to Kamasengre primary school and proceeded to Migori High School for my O-level education. After completion of my high school course, I applied for a diploma course in Kenya Institute of Survey and Mapping. I was admitted, but unable to enroll due to lack of school fees. I later went to Nairobi, Electroca Ltd where I was trained in fire safety and servicing of fire fighting equipment. I worked there until I returned home in 2006. While at home on Rusinga Island, I took an interview with the Osienala organization as a Beach Ban Clerk. I qualified for the post and was employed and became the representative of Rusinga Island. I have also worked as a clerk with the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK).

I came to Kageno as a volunteer through the management in Kenya. I work under Kageno Kids Art & Orphan Sponsorship programs. I served as a volunteer full heartedly until I was considered for a paid position.

Currently, I am working with the children from the four local primary schools i.e. Kamasengre, Uya, Dr Williams and Kamayoge. to develop their skills in drawing, writing and discovering new things through their participation in the cultural exchange program. I conduct a weekly library study and a health talk with the children. I also monitor the educational and general health status of the sponsored children and I update the school-teachers and parents on the sponsored children as well as explaining to the community what the sponsorship program does and how the children are chosen. My responsibilities also include collecting information for the program.

Through the hard work of Kageno we have sponsored 41 orphan children, we have taken a group of 40 children on a discovery trip to the bird's island (see April 19th K-Blog posting)and we have published the Kageno Kids website www.kagenokids.org. I therefore love to say that we will and we can bring hope to the existing generation and those to come through Kageno Kids Art/Sponsorship program.

Asante sana (thank you)

The following individuals have been very generous to Kageno in 2007...

Tribal Chief (\$10,000 and above)

Roger C. Kline
The Pelo Family
Cohen Family Charitable Trust
The Shelton School
Carl Phillips
Melissa Lowrey
Nick & Mary Beth DeFabrizio
Schoninger Fund
Phillip & Donell Wiggins
Dr. Frank C Andolino
Dr. Paul Farmer
Beth & Dan Plumlee
Melissa & Paul Stewart

Bishop Lynch High School

Frank & Emily Andolino
Cathy & Salvatore Trentalancia

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

Kids Against Poverty (Brock, Riley & Carter Burgess)
Liz Stern

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

Dashe Orthopedic Supplies, Inc.
Bruce Richman
Tina Trotta
Lois Hill
Robert Spevack
Dr. Louis Re & Kent Belden
Mark Thompson
Paolo Martino & Lillian Vernon
Victoria Lee
Kenneth Cutroneo

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

Tracy Stewart
Caroline Russo
Mary Ellen Nitti
The Burkleo family
Dr. Susan DiMarco
Keith Paulsen

Tribal Warrior (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Edith McBean & Hank Lowenstein
Dee Ann & Marshall Payne
Robin Renzi
Me&Ro Jewelry
Marty Keating

Donating

Your tax-deductible contribution to Kageno will support all the work we do to help people in need through our documented **projects** (found on the website). These community projects will provide sustainable interventions on Rusinga Island, Kenya and Banda Village, Rwanda.

Help us make lasting, positive change in the lives of people in need - donate now to one of our projects and watch it change lives. Please make checks payable to: Kageno Worldwide and post 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 **targets** villages suffering from inhumane poverty, AIDS, limited access to education and healthcare, and genocide.

Living standards are **improved** by offering health services, access to clean water, improved sanitation, job creation, and environmental initiatives.

Kageno **builds** the framework that supports these changes through innovative community centers.

Through a mix of social programs, capitalistic ventures, and technology, under-served individuals are able to participate in the global community and therefore realize better living standards.

More Information

Please visit our website at www.kageno.org or contact us:

frank@kageno.org Frank Andolino

