



Reason2Smile Gazette

MAY 2010

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From the Director

Hello Everyone!



Keela and Jane.

“April showers bring May flowers.” That’s how the saying goes, right? I suppose the key is that it doesn’t specify whether the showers consist of rain or snow. Well, here in Lake Placid, NY (where the Reason2Smile office is located) the showers were definitely snow! After a warm spell, the temperatures plummeted and over six inches covered our world. In Mtwapa, Kenya (where Jambo Jipya School is located), the showers have been a different sort... rain, and lots of it! After a long dry season, water was the thought on everyone’s mind. There was certainly cause for celebration as the clouds opened up! We can only hope that the Western provinces will be blessed with this heavenly liquid as well, since a large portion of Kenya’s food is grown in those areas. And for those of you who have never experienced an African rainstorm, let me try to help you understand the magnitude of it. In the United States we often use the phrase, “it’s raining cats and dogs;” well, in most areas of Africa the phrase should definitely be edited to “it’s raining hippopotamuses and elephants.” Yup, it’s some kind of rain! Whatever “shower” is happening in your life right now, I hope that you soon experience the “flowers.”

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support! May you be blessed this day and always!

Smiles,
Keela Dates

Water, Water Everywhere!



While we’re on the topic of water, we’ll share the recent well news with you. As the water falls from the sky, water is coming from below also! The well at our new land has water!!! After about three months worth of work and about 110 feet dug by hand, water has been found! A giant thank you to the generous members of the Worldwide Church of God in Syracuse, NY for their continued support for this project. Thanks to them we will soon be purchasing a generator, pump, and tank as well!

Left: Well in January 2010.

Student Spotlight

Jane is a tall and elegant 15-year-old girl who attends 7th grade at Jambo Jipya School. She is an orphan and for years she lived with her older sister, her nephew, and her niece. Often times, living family members in Kenya treat an orphan as an outcast and see them more as a burden than as an individual needing love and care. Jane's story is no different. Her sister would verbally and physically abuse her on a daily basis and Jane was often forced to do all the hard labor around the family's small mud hut, often without even a plate of food as a thank you. Jane's sister also would force her to sleep in the hut next door where many grown men slept. One can only imagine what that may have meant for her.

Christine Mwende (founder and director of Jambo Jipya School) heard about Jane in 2005 and as soon as she had enough funding to provide a bed and consistent meals for the orphaned girl, Christine welcomed Jane in as a member of the Jambo Jipya Future Child Orphanage.

This April marks Jane's third full year living at Jambo Jipya. She is a wonderful helper around the compound. She can cook, clean, and is often found caring for the younger children. Jane has a great zest for life. She loves to jump rope and is an amazing football (soccer) player. She can often be heard laughing and there's no doubt that her smile lights up any room she enters. Jane is very appreciative of the new life that Jambo Jipya has provided for her. Upon Keela's departure from

Kenya in January 2010, Jane wrote her a note saying "Dear Keela, Thank you for being with us here again. I am glad to see you but at this time I'm not glad because you are leaving us but I don't have to worry because you will come back. I am praying for you to have a safe journey back home. Pass my greetings to your parents and also your allies. May God bless you. Your Friend, Jane"

So please know, dear ally, that a beautiful, tall Kenyan girl named Jane sends her greetings to you!



A smile that lights up any room!



Jane with the shirt she made for a student in the U.S.

Funky Art and Fun Times



The welcoming committee.

The 3rd Annual Reason2Smile Art Sale hung for the past two weeks on the upper floor of Bluseed Studios. The wonderfully rustic and funky setting was an ideal location for showing equally funky art. (A special thank you to Carol Vossler and her team at Bluseed for being such gracious hosts!) Works were donated by well-known area artists Tim Fortune, Ken Wiley, and Lionel Bibeau. Local characters Arti Torrence and Michael Sullivan shared their works, along with Bluseed’s own Shaun Ondak and Brooke Noble; and newer artists to this area: Andrew Cziraki, Mary Foster, Nicole Miller, and Colin Firth. And who could forget our very own Nip Rogers?! He directed this event and donated many of his own wonderful pieces as well. Thank you to everyone who donated work and everyone who attended in support for the artists and Jambo Jipya School! If you missed the event and would still like to view the art and possibly purchase a piece, please visit the “How You Can Help” section of our website and click the “3rd Annual Reason2Smile Art

Sale” link on the right hand side of your screen. If you’re an artist looking to donate a piece of work for next year’s show, please don’t hesitate to contact us!



Below Right: Opening reception.
Below: Budding artists at work!



15 From 300

As you may recall from past newsletters, our main fundraising goal for this year is to create a **strong base of 300 individuals who are willing to give \$15 per month** in order to sustain Jambo Jipya School's monthly running costs (\$5,000). This would allow for our other fundraising efforts to focus on sustainability projects like building classrooms, purchasing a vehicle, and harvesting crops. We're pleased to say that 450 pledge cards were sent out in mid-April and we've received responses from 30 people thus far (20 of whom are giving monthly donations of \$15 or more). These twenty monthly donors have pledged \$650 which means that we're on our way to meeting our goal! However, we have a ways to go and need help from the rest of you. **We hope you will consider pledging a monthly donation.**

\$15... 50 cents per day... that is the amount it costs to ensure that one child (like Jane) is able to learn and play in a safe, happy, and healthy environment each day. We hope that you'll seriously consider our request and help us give these children a reason to continue smiling. We look forward to sharing great news with you in next month's newsletter as we move closer to our goal! Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.



You can give online using your debit or credit card via the website www.reason2smile.org or you can send a check made payable to "Reason2Smile Inc." to:

Reason2Smile Inc
151 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946



A very big "THANK YOU" to those who have pledged a monthly donation! We are incredibly grateful for your generosity!