



# Reason2Smile Gazette

JANUARY 2011

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## A New Year

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Keela with Jambo Jipya students during her first trip to Kenya, February 2007.

Dear Friends,

January always provides an interesting opportunity. Each new day is a chance to start fresh but there's something more definitive about starting a new year. We set resolutions, we make personal and professional goals, we look forward to what this new year might bring, and for months we struggle to write the correct date. There's something exciting about all of this.

The new year eagerness is heightened in a place like Jambo Jipya School (in Mtwapa, Kenya) because not only is the calendar year renewed but the school year is as well. Everyone will be advancing a grade level, which means a new teacher, a new classroom, and a new textbook. And if that wasn't enough excitement, since most of the students don't know their birthdays, everyone increases in age and a huge school wide birthday party unfolds. January is enjoyed by all at Jambo Jipya!

This January also brings an adventure for me. I will be traveling back to Kenya for my 6<sup>th</sup> visit to Jambo Jipya School! It has been a year since my last trip so although this will be my shortest trip to date (3 weeks), it is still highly anticipated by the students and myself alike. I'm greatly looking forward to hearing their laughter and seeing their smiles again!

As this new year begins, may you be filled with joy and anticipation for new beginnings and adventures to come! May your year be filled with prosperity, peace, generosity, and love. Thank you for your support in 2010, may you be blessed in 2011!!

Smiles,  
Keela Dates  
Executive Director, Reason2Smile Inc.

## Renewed Hope



Thanks to your generosity this holiday season, 115 students from Jambo Jipya School have been sponsored for the 2011 year! This is an incredible accomplishment for Reason2Smile and we certainly couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. 115 children are guaranteed to have food, healthcare, clothing, and an education this year. What a blessing!

If you sponsored a child through Reason2Smile this year, you are welcome to send him or her a letter and small item (pencil, eraser, stickers, etc). Due to shipping costs and unreliable mail systems, I ask that you send the items and letters to me at the address on the last page of this newsletter (please have the letter clearly labeled with the child's name) and I will personally deliver them. If you'd like your child to receive the letter this year then you **must** send them to me during the **first two weeks of January** so that I can take them with me. I know your child would greatly appreciate a letter from you and will most likely respond with a letter or drawing of his or her own. It's a great way to show you care about him/her!

## Student Spotlight

Husna is a 17 year old girl at Jambo Jipya who is eagerly awaiting her 8<sup>th</sup> grade exam scores to see if she can advance to 9<sup>th</sup> grade in February. Husna is a sweet girl who approaches life with a sense of responsibility and dedication. She is devoted to her studies as well as to her family. Husna has two younger siblings and although they live with their father, Husna is the primary caregiver for the younger children. Husna is a beautiful girl who is quick to smile. She is quiet and shy but very polite and respectful. Although Husna seems to handle her home responsibilities gracefully, it is obvious that school provides her with a place where she can relax a bit and spend time with her friends. Husna is very athletic. She loves to play futbol (soccer) and is a talented runner. It is obvious that if Husna has the opportunity to stay in school, her future will be bright! We hope you'll help us to provide her with this opportunity by sponsoring Husna during 2011!



## Past Events

December was filled with craft sales and holiday festivities. St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Saranac Lake, NY generously provided us with space to sell our Kenyan goods during their annual Ladies Guild craft sale. Gail Meyer, the mastermind behind "Repurposed with Love," manned the table at Sparkle Village (also in Saranac Lake) and sold many of her handmade Jambo Jipya Tote bags, scarves, pinafores, etc. If you have missed Gail at the last few craft sales and would like an opportunity to see a sampling of her work, please visit her Etsy site at: <http://www.etsy.com/people/repurposedwithlove>  
Her work is spectacular and it provides another way for you to support Reason2Smile and Jambo Jipya School!

We'd also like to share the exciting news regarding a Spell-a-Thon that took place at Skaneateles Middle School in Central NY. Sixth grade students there were fired up following a presentation about Jambo Jipya School in November. After studying hard and recruiting sponsors, they raised \$5,599.70 for Jambo Jipya School! What an incredible feat! A very special "thank you" to all the students, teachers, parents, friends, and relatives who helped make that fundraiser such a success!!



Jambo Jipya Tote Bags made by Gail Meyer and sold on Etsy.

## Make a Difference



Reason2Smile Inc is a tax deductible 501c3 non-profit organization. Please make checks payable to: "Reason2Smile Inc" and send to the address below or give online via the website [www.reason2smile.org](http://www.reason2smile.org)

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Please direct questions, concerns, etc to:  
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Thank you very much for your support in 2010!! We look forward to what lies ahead this year!