



Reason2Smile Gazette

JUNE 2011

WWW.REASON2SMILE.ORG

Letter From the Director

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letter From the Director	1
From Jambo Jipya	1
A Revolution Worth Having	2-3
Reason2Smile Art Show	4
Social Faceworking Show	4
Kayak for Kenya	4
A Reason2Sew	5
Give Them a Reason2Smile	5



Hello Everyone!

I hope this finds you enjoying your spring! We sure are getting some summer-like temperatures in Lake Placid, NY (where the Reason2Smile office is located). Very abnormal for the Adirondacks! Not quite Kenya heat though, which is more than fine with me! However, we have been getting some Kenya rain. When I speak to young children I like to tell them that in Kenya it rains “hippopotamuses and elephants” not just “cats and dogs” like it does in America, but lately I’d say the African animals have been falling from the sky here as well.

In this month’s gazette you’ll find an article that is a little abnormal compared to most of the articles I include. It is a blog post by a friend of mine who goes by “The Journeying Progressive.” I saw his article online and decided it was one you may appreciate and enjoy. I hope you will read it, think about it, and share any thoughts you may have.

There are a lot of presentations and events that have happened and will be happening! **(Don’t forget about the Cabaret Night coming up on June 9th at PVC Middle School in Croton-on-Hudson, NY!)** Thank you to everyone who has been or will be involved in those! Hope to see you at some point this summer! Thank you for your continued thoughts, prayers, encouragement, and support! You’ve given hundreds of children a reason to dream and to smile!

Smiles,
Keela Dates

From Jambo Jipya

Every week Skype (the online phone system) comes in handy at the Reason2Smile office. A key is clicked and seconds later a link is made between a laptop in Lake Placid, NY and a cell phone in Mtwapa, Kenya. The next half hour is filled with greetings, discussions, laughter, and gratitude as Keela catches up with Christine (the director of Jambo Jipya School). The current project is the building of an outside wall that will make the school more secure. Christine assures Keela that the faculty and staff members are working hard and that the children are hardly seen outside of the classroom. Everyone is striving to be the top of their class in order to ensure themselves entrance into some kind of higher education. The conversations always end with “please greet the people of your country and tell them we are so grateful for their support. We love them so much and we are praying for them.” So although Kenya is half a world away... there are people who have jobs and can feed their families because of you, there are children who have the opportunity to be in a safe space and pursue their education because of you, and there are smiles on everyone’s faces and hope in everyone’s hearts because of you!



The outside wall in progress – May 2011

A Revolution Worth Having



I was recently posed this question by a very close friend:

If you could give money to only one charitable cause for the rest of your life, what would it be?

“All one man or woman can ever do is write a sentence, speak a word, lend a hand, take a step, brave a fear. My great hope is that we can look up from our smart phones long enough to make a difference-- and trust that others are doing the same.”

This was preceded--of course--by a long discussion on the myriad of charities out there, each started with the very best of intentions; do-gooders trying to make their mark and change the world we live in for the better. Inevitably, when I consider the number of worthwhile organizations out there, I find that I would go broke several hundred times over supporting them physically or financially with the full force of my convictions.

So many thoughts passed through my mind: *My mother has Multiple Sclerosis. There are far too many homeless veterans out there, or soldiers who have lost so much in support of our country. Poverty is rampant in this country, and a deeper, more deplorable form of that permeates through every country around the world. Cancer, palsy, Alzheimer's, ALS, autism and so many other diseases strike without warning, cause or reason. Drunk driving robs our country of so much promise. Single moms and young women deserve the very best support structure our society can give. There aren't enough homes for all the foster and otherwise orphaned children that live each day. Natural disasters shake entire cities to their core nearly every day. And beyond that, there is so much that humankind has yet to discover, that exists beyond the current reaches of our minds and waits for us to realize, hands stretched up far to the stars and beyond.*

Against these many weighty problems, my pocketbook has a frustratingly small relevance. I have to work and fight each day to replenish that bank account so I can have more relevance in today's society, with the hopes of potentially affecting more positive change today than



Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2



I did yesterday--yet the more I seek to make, the less time I seem to have to make this change.

I envy--without end--and look for example in folks like Keela Dates, Flavia Colgan, Ashley Kumlien and so many others who have taken a brave step forward. *Alright, they say, I can't fix everything, but I'm going to buckle up and affect positive change for those in this cause. I am going to give my all to make this particular part of the world or aspect of life better.*

Which brings me to a point I didn't think I would make when this question was first posed: in this world where having and hoarding is put on such a pedestal, what if each one of us valued--above all else--a cause like Keela's, or Ashley's? What if the top story on CNN isn't when the next edition of the iPhone will come out, but instead how much progress has been made in leukemia treatment and research?

In this age of "choice," how can we make positive change (*for ALL--no exceptions*) sexier than the Kardashians, flashier than the Miami Heat or more addictive than The Jersey Shore? In this era of "free market economics," how can we free our own consciences from the despair of knowing our problems are solvable, but feeling helpless alone to solve them?

All one man or woman can ever do is write a sentence, speak a word, lend a hand, take a step, brave a fear. My great hope is that we can look up from our smart phones long enough to make a difference--and trust that others are doing the same.

Our problems won't be solved by the multitude of our belongings or our own audacious sense of awesomeness. We have the ball on our end of the court, and the question is this: ***How much better can we make all those around us?***

I don't have the answers; in fact, I find myself coming up with more and more questions as the days go along. But maybe--*just maybe*--if we ask them in articles and blog posts, at the water cooler and office cubicles, on the front lines and the ready rooms, at the fitness centers and the football games, at the dinner table and in the classroom--maybe we'll surprise ourselves. ***Maybe that's a revolution worth having.***



By: The Journeying Progressive (<http://journey4progress.blogspot.com/>)

Reason2Smile Art Show



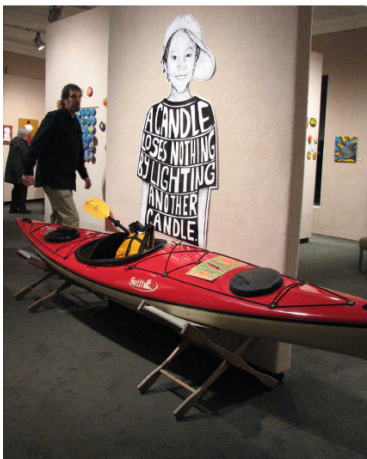
For the fourth year in a row, the Reason2Smile Art Show was a lot of fun! About \$1,200 was raised at this year's event! Thank you very much to all of you who came out and supported this event. A special thanks to BluSeed Studios for hosting the show and to Nip Rogers, Joanne Court, CJ Dates, Chris Dyer, Tim Fortune, Gail Meyer, and Richard Meyer for donating their artwork. Thanks to the hard work of Nip Rogers, CJ Dates, and Michel Dates, this was a beautiful show! Thank you!!

Social Faceworking Show

Nip Rogers, like most of us, has a Facebook page. Nip uses his page not just as a way to catch up with family and friends, but to connect with other artists... throughout the US and around the world. His Social Faceworking Show, which opened on May 20, 2011 at Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, NY, was a culmination of months of networking with artists via Facebook. Forty artists were invited to participate in the event and most did. Nip's portrait of each artist tied the show together while the variety of artistic styles created a unique environment. Opening night was exciting as over a hundred people poured through the door to view the art and speak with the artists (many whom attended). A section of the gallery was dedicated to Reason2Smile and due to the generosity of those present, \$650 was raised during the evening. Many thanks to Nip and all the participating artists, as well as the staff at Proctors!



Kayak for Kenya



"Kayak for Kenya" Raffle

Benefitting Reason2Smile Inc
www.reason2smile.org

Swift Saranac 14 Sport Kevlar Fusion Kayak (Red with Champagne Peel)

Werner Skagit Kayak Paddle
Stokquist Get Away Life-Vest

Donated by:
Adirondack Lakes and Trails Outfitters
www.adirondackoutfitters.com

2010 Retail Value of Package: **\$3,005.00**

\$10 per Ticket/ 3 tickets for \$25

The "Kayak for Kenya" raffle will continue through July 2011. If you would like a chance at a beautiful kayak, paddle, and life-vest (total package valued at \$3,000) please let us know! Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Special thanks to Steve Doxzon at Adirondack Lakes and Trails in Saranac Lake, NY for this generous donation!

A Reason2Sew!



One of Gail's beautiful canvas tote bags.

Gail Meyer has been a dedicated volunteer for Reason2Smile over the last few years. You may have seen her tote bags at various events or craft shows. Well now you don't have to wait until you run into her to order one of her wonderful items! Gail is now selling her Jambo Jipya Totes and other "repurposed" and new goods through her own website and shop www.bindingthreads.org. She has expanded her line of items and offers not only the original felted wool and upholstery totes, one of which honors the Olympic tradition of Lake Placid and Keela's family, but new canvas totes and little girls' pinafores made out of vintage pillowcases as well. Her most recent products are canvas-backed floor quilts, suitable for using on your own floor or for display. She is constantly adding new items, and one third of the proceeds (except the shipping charge included in the purchase price) go directly to Reason2Smile. So, check out www.bindingthreads.org to help support Reason2Smile and Jambo Jipya School. (Also found on the "How You Can Help" page of Reason2Smile's website.) Thank you for all your hard work Gail!

Give Them a Reason 2 Smile!

Tax deductible donations can be made in support for the children at Jambo Jipya School by giving online via the website www.reason2smile.org or by making a check payable to "Reason2Smile Inc." and mailing it to:

Reason2Smile Inc.
151 Hillcrest Ave.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

For any questions or further information please contact Keela at: keela@reason2smile.org

Thank you for your continued support for this organization! Together we can make a difference!

