



Reason2Smile Gazette

MARCH 2011

WWW.REASON2SMILE.ORG

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Don't Miss Out



I am often reminded of just how easily I can get swept away from seeing the true beauty and joy that exists in our world. I'm not reminded of my wasted time during those days when I'm amidst the crisis, but rather in those moments when life seems to slow to a halt and nothing seems all that urgent or important. It's at these times that I think, "Why can't I be in the moment and recognize the beauty and joy all the time or even the majority of the time?" It's in these moments that I realize just how much time I spend doing quite the opposite... rushing through, stressing out, thinking circles

around some issue that seems so important.

One of my strongest recent "in the moment" times was during my last trip to Kenya. The 45 students who live at the school along with four adults and myself, had travelled about 5 miles via Kenya's public transport system (matatus) to Pirates, the public beach. On a Sunday afternoon the public beach is known to be jam-packed and during the couple of days prior to our trip, I came up with every reason why this outing was not a good idea. It was going to be too tough to find space on the public vehicles for all of us. The beach was going to be far too full and we were bound to lose one of the children. There were so many other projects that remained to be completed during my short trip, there just wasn't enough time to squeeze in an afternoon at the beach. I wasn't feeling too well, maybe I'd just stay home. Luckily, despite all of my reasons against the trip, I still put on my bathing suit, gathered the children, and headed to the beach.

That afternoon was filled with splashing in the water, running along the sand, urging young ones to gather the nerve to enter into the unknown, and laughing... so much laughing. But it wasn't until we had all swam until our hearts were content, drank our juice and eaten our cookies, gathered our things, and piled back into a vehicle to head back to the school that I realized I had almost missed out on the best afternoon I had experienced in a long time. As the Kenyan breeze brushed my salty face... as the palm trees and mud huts rushed passed... as 25 of my brothers and sisters sang loudly to the music coming over the radio... time came to a stand still. It was then that I felt my heart nearly burst with joy. Despite all the struggles in life, despite all the pain and stress, despite all the worries and anxieties... life was good. It really, truly was... it really, truly is.

Next time I try to talk myself out of an experience, I hope I am able to remember that afternoon in Kenya and really think before I make my decision. Because who knows, it may just be an experience I will never forget; and surely, it will be an experience never repeated. It is my hope that we can all learn to live in the joy and beauty of the moment. Let's start, one moment at a time.... Let's not miss out!

Smiles,

Keela Dates

Executive Director, Reason2Smile Inc.

Student Spotlight



Babu is a nine-year-old energetic boy who always has a bright smile spread wide across his face. He attends third grade at Jambo Jipya School and although he is lucky enough to have a home to live in, Babu is fatherless. Babu's father died HIV positive and left his wife with two children to care for. Babu's mother is HIV positive as well and she struggles often with ailments. It seems it is only a matter of time before this adorable, happy little boy is orphaned. In the meantime, Jambo Jipya School provides Babu and his sister with a happy and healthy place to learn and play; and that Babu does! His laughter can be heard echoing throughout the schoolyard as he chases after his friends. If you are interested in ensuring that Babu continues to have a safe and happy place to learn and play, please consider sponsoring him for \$15 per month. Thank you for your consideration!

Upcoming Events

March is going to be a busy and fun month! Those events listed "public" are open for any and all to join. We hope to see you soon!

Reason2Smile Arts Night – Sat. March 5th at 7pm at the LPCA in Lake Placid - PUBLIC

Paul Smiths College Presentation – Thurs. March 10th at 7pm in the Adk Rm - PUBLIC

Robert C. Parker School – Tues. March 15th at 10:30am – t-shirt exchange project

Lake Placid Kiwanis Club – Tues. March 22nd at 6pm in Lake Placid, NY

AA Cole Elementary School – Fri. March 25th at 2:45pm in Constantia, NY

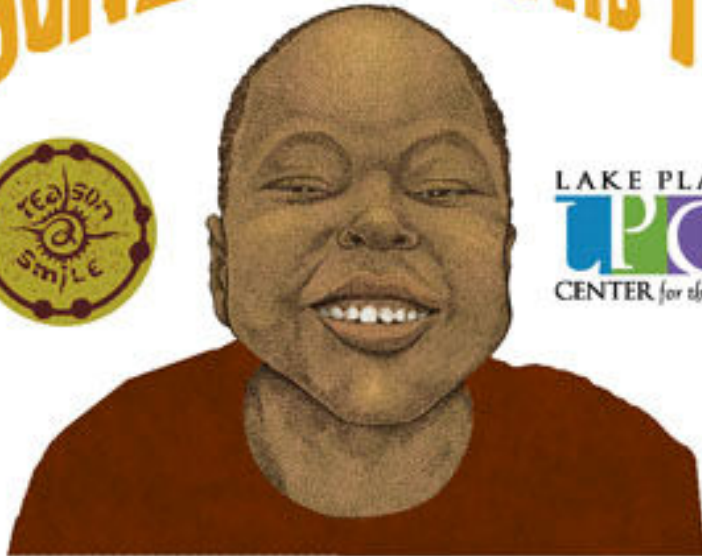
African Festival – Friday March 25th from 5:30-7:30 at Cato-Meridian Elem. – PUBLIC

First UMC message – Sun. March 27th at 9:45pm in Burlington, Vermont - PUBLIC



Mwanahamisi showing off the t-shirt that she made for her 't-shirt pal' at Robert C. Parker School.

REASON2 SMILE ARTS NIGHT



reason2smile.org

Saturday, March 5 • 7pm

doors open at 6pm

@



For pre-sale tickets and any questions, contact: (518) 523-2512

Featuring performances by Wulaba Drum, Somabeats, UVM Top Cats, and Saranac Lake High School Choir. Artwork for sale by area students and local artists. Keela Dates will also share music and pictures from the Jambo Jipya School. Kenyan goods will be available for purchase in the Marketplace.

\$8 - Adults

MARKET PLACE

**OPEN: BEFORE
& INTERMISSION**

\$5 - 12 & under

All proceeds benefit Reason2Smile Inc & Jambo Jipya School

Kayak for Kenya

During the next few months we will be raffling off a kayak, paddle, and life-vest generously donated by Steve Doxzon at Adirondack Lakes and Trails in Saranac Lake, NY. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Please contact Keela if you'd like to purchase a ticket!

**"Kayak for Kenya"
Raffle**

Benefitting

Reason2Smile Inc
www.reason2smile.org

- Swift Saranac 14 Sport Kevlar Fusion Kayak (Red with Champagne hull)
- Werner Skagit Kayak Paddle
- Stohlquist Get Away Life-Vest

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

2010 Retail Value of Package:
\$3,005⁰⁰

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

Give Them a Reason 2 Smile!

Tax deductible donations can be made by giving online via the website: www.reason2smile.org or by making a check payable to "Reason2Smile Inc" and sending 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! May you be blessed!!