



Reason2Smile Gazette

AUGUST 2011

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Letter From the Director

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Mambo Rafiki!

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy! We sure have had a glorious summer! Lots of warm weather and sunshine, there's nothing better! I hope you're spending time enjoying it! I know I've been blessed to have the time to do lots of canoeing, hiking, biking, swimming, and running. My goal is to do one of the Lake Placid mini-triathlons (800 meter swim, 12 mile bike, 5K run) before the summer is out. Hold me to that!

As you will see, things are certainly cruising along in the life of Reason2Smile! We wrapped up the kayak raffle, held a very successful Ironman Breakfast/Lunch event, and are gearing up for a busy fall! I've spoken with Christine at Jambo Jipya School a few times this past month and things are going well there too. The school will be closed for a week's vacation at the beginning of August before it has three weeks of optional schooling (for kids who want extra help and need the food and safety that the school provides), and then the last term starts in September. The kids are working hard and everyone is preparing themselves for the end of the year exams. I'm hopeful that we will have very positive results to share with you!

Before letting you dive into the rest of the newsletter, I'd just like to extend a special thank you to all the incredible volunteers who help me every step of the way. There are far too many to list but you know who you are! Thank you for putting in all the time and energy to help kids you've never even met! I am so grateful! And for those of you who participate in other ways, whether through your donations, thoughts, prayers, or encouragement... thank you as well! You're all certainly making a difference! Now, enjoy the newsletter and as always, thank you for reading!

Smiles,
Keela Dates
Executive Director, Reason2Smile Inc.

Student Spotlight

Hi! My name is Ndunda. I guess I'm a pretty goofy boy, at least that's what Teacher Keela tells me. I love to have fun and I'm always creating a new game that I can play with my friends. I am 8 years old and this year I am in second grade. I have been going to Jambo Jipya School since I was only 4 years old. My mother has a hard time taking care of my siblings and me so Teacher Madam helps her take care of us. I am the youngest of three children and sometimes I think I drive my older siblings crazy because I have so much energy all the time. My favorite part of the school day is when we get to go to the football field and run around. Now that I'm in second grade they let me go with the older kids. It is so much fun! I am only one of the many kids who go to school at Jambo Jipya. We all need so much help and support so even though there is a kind man in America who sponsors me, I hope you will think about helping one of my friends. Thank you! I know that will make them smile!



Raising Hope

*“Life can be hard with a disability and with no education it just makes it harder.”
~Alyson Dates*



Chai, the boy who Alyson and her family sponsor.

We are fortunate to have our parents and community to help us, schools to teach us and a God who loves us. Keela & her mom have shared stories and pictures of children from Mtwapa, Kenya. The children at Jambo Jipya had no way to support themselves and some of them have no parents to love them. My bible says God wants us to give some of our money to help others. And He wants us to do it cheerfully. He promises that He will always take care of us.

In our VBS classes we raised money for Jambo Jipya and our Sunday school classes collected shoes and shirts for kids to attend school. My family decided to share God’s blessing with a boy who attends this school. He has a hearing problem just like my mom. Life can be hard with a disability and with no education it just makes it harder.

I decided I wanted to share with other children too. This is my 2nd time to raise money through our yard sales. I raised enough money this year to provide five more kids with school uniforms so they can get an education too. They will learn to support themselves and as they grow older they can help others and share God’s love too.

My mom says three good things come from this: God is glorified, the children at Jambo Jipya are receiving God’s love and mine, and they keep all of us in their prayers.

Please read 2 Corinthians 9:7-15

By: Alyson Dates, age 11



Aly at her recent lemonade and popsicle stand .

2011 Reason2Smile Trail Run



Last year's trail run was a relay event for the length of the Jack Rabbit Trail (about 37 miles total). This is the group that celebrated at the finish line!

That's right, it's trail run time of year again! We're still working out all the logistics but the plan is for the run to take place on **Saturday September 17th**. Although a couple of our ambitious Reason2Smile friends have voiced the desire to do another 30 mile + run, we think we've decided that a 6 – 8 mile loop would offer more people the opportunity to participate whether they are running, jogging, or walking. For those of you who like the challenge of longer distances, the option will certainly be out there to go around the loop as many times as you'd like! So, stayed tuned for further details as to where exactly the run will take place (somewhere in the Adirondack Park, probably on the trails at the Visitor's Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths) and let us know if you're interested in participating! This is always a very fun event so don't miss out!

Fall Festival



These homemade donuts truly are incredible!

Are we already talking about fall? Seriously?! It seems like summer just started and I don't know about you, but I'm not ready for it to be over anytime soon! But alas, it's true... fall is right around the corner, and of course there are some very positive aspects to fall. The changing leaves, crisp evenings, apple cider, homemade donuts, and the Fall Festival at the Marcellus Park in Marcellus, NY! **This year's Fall Festival will feature an Irish Road Bowling event!** (A SUPER fun event that includes teams of four people, young and old, trying to roll a hard metal ball down a designated route with the least amount of rolls possible. If the ball goes off the path or stops, you must roll it from where it left off.) There is a **\$50 entry fee for each team of four individuals**. If you'd like to register for a team, please contact Rita Griffin at rglil@aol.com. There will also be a kickball tournament and a golf ball drop again this year. **Kickball teams will be \$100 per team of 8-10 individuals.**

Again, contact Rita

Griffin if you're interested in participating. There are only a limited number of team spaces available so register asap for both Irish Road Bowling and Kickball! The festival will also include games for young kids, crafts, and music, as well as lots of food! What's a Fall Festival without apple cider and homemade donuts?! That's right!! Don't miss them! Looking forward to seeing you on **Sunday September 25th from 12-4pm** for the Marcellus Park and Reason2Smile Fall Festival!!



Last year's participants gather at the start of the Irish Road Bowling event.

An Incredible Day for Ironman!



Photo courtesy of John Eldridge. See more photos on the Reason2Smile Inc Facebook page.

Mid-seventies and partly cloudy is the perfect day for an Ironman event, and that was just what we were blessed with this year! The morning saw the coffee pots and donut makers working hard while the afternoon saw the lemonade flowing and the grills cooking. The figures are still being calculated but we estimate to have brought in about \$4,000 in profits this year for Reason2Smile and Jambo Jipya School! Certainly a successful event! Thank you so very much to the dedicated volunteers (some who put in over a 12 hour day!), to the Adirondack Community Church for allowing us to use the space, and to Edward Roetman and his staff at the Saranac Lake McDonalds. We couldn't have done it without all of you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! And thanks to all who stopped by to show their support! We look forward to seeing you at next year's event on Sunday July 22nd!

Kayak for Kenya Has a Home

Thank you to all who participated in our Kayak for Kenya raffle! We were able to raise \$3,265 through this fundraiser for Reason2Smile and Jambo Jipya School! The lucky winners of the beautiful Swift Kayak package were the Rosenblum Family from Long Island, NY! Congratulations! And a very special thank you to Steve Doxon and Adirondack Lakes and Trails for their incredibly generous donation!

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 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 the deserving children at Jambo Jipya School! You truly are giving them a reason to continue smiling!

