



Reason2Smile Gazette

DECEMBER 2011

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Give the Gift of Hope!

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The holiday season is upon us and what better way to tell someone you're thinking about them and you love them than by sponsoring a child in their honor? There are children all over the world who need our help. Having fresh water to drink, nutritious food to eat, clothes to wear, bandaids when we cut ourselves and medicine when we're sick is unfortunately not a right that everyone is afforded; rather, it is a privilege. We were given that privilege. We won the 'birth lottery.' We didn't do anything to deserve it, just like children in Kenya and other developing countries around the world didn't do anything to not deserve it. It was all by chance... much like the lottery. Because we were given much, I truly believe that it is our duty to share with

others. There is no question in my mind that there is enough on this planet for all of us to live comfortably, but we don't. This world is way out of balance and it's up to us to help shift things a bit. Each and every one of us can make a difference and a wonderful way to do so this holiday season is by sponsoring a child at Jambo Jipya School!

During the month of November, twenty-five individuals who never sponsored a child at Jambo Jipya School before decided to do so! That is absolutely astounding! Not only that but the large majority of you who sponsored children last year have expressed your interest in continuing sponsorship of that child again this year! There are ten students remaining who still need sponsors and there is no doubt in my mind that you will rise to the occasion and all of those children will be matched up with a sponsor before the end of the year. That means that 125 children will be provided with two hot meals each day, clothing, healthcare, and an education during the 2012 year!! What a blessing!

Thank you for your continued support for these deserving children!

Smiles,
Keela Dates
Executive Director, Reason2Smile Inc.

Student Spotlight



Steven is one of the ten children who still needs a sponsor. Don't you think one of your friends or family members would love to look into his eyes this holiday season and know that you loved them so much that you sponsored Steven in their honor? Steven and his family live in a very small shack and struggle to survive each and everyday. Steven most certainly did not win the 'birth lottery,' but there's no reason why you can't share some of your good fortune with him. \$15 per month... 50 cents per day... will give this adorable little guy a chance at a future. Just think about the difference you can make....

A Note From Duncan's Corner

Quickly my first month at Reason2Smile is coming to a close, and everyday I am more excited about coming in and getting to work. I'm quickly learning where I can be most useful.

A lot of my recent work has been on the webpage. We have some great information up there, but what we're doing is shifting to a more dynamic approach that encourages you to visit more often. We will be experimenting with cycling news links about Reason2Smile on the home page, as well as giving our Facebook and Twitter feeds a place to reside. Some of the pages will also be reorganized, with the hope of making information easier to find. For an example, look at Growth and Progress under Jambo Jipya. It's the same information, but in an easier-to-navigate format.

Be sure to follow us on Twitter (@Reason2SmileInc) and like us on Facebook (facebook.com/Reason2SmileInc). We'd love to have you there and keep you up to date on what we are up to here and how the children at Jambo Jipya are doing.

If anyone has any comments, questions, or suggestions, send me an email at duncan@reason2smile.org. You are the people who make all of what we do possible, so your ideas are what we need to succeed in our mission.



Kenyan Crafts Make Great Holiday Gifts!



Every trip Keela takes to Kenya includes a shopping spree at a number of the little artisan 'shops' in Mtwapa. The jewelry makers know her by name and recognize that her annual shopping will fund them for nearly an entire year. The carving man has incredible talent and serves as an apprentice to many local artisans. The seamstresses always share friendly smiles as Keela admires their work. The young man who paints on plates does so to support his younger sisters' high school education. And the wire toy man knows the minute Keela steps foot in the country and is always eager to share his new creations with her.

Kenyan goods were sold at the Adirondack Medical Center Craft Show in Saranac Lake, NY this year. Many individuals admired the artistry and spoke of being able to do all their holiday shopping at one table, and all for a good cause! If you missed it and you live in the North Country, contact Keela and let her know. There are plenty more goods remaining and the Reason2Smile office is always welcoming visitors!

If you're from Central NY and you missed the Serv Bazaar at Red Creek-Westbury UMC this year, be sure to stop by Cato Meridian School this Saturday (December 3rd) for the craft show there. Keela's mother, Kitty Dates, will have a large spread of Kenyan goods.

Remember, by purchasing a Kenyan made good from Reason2Smile you are not only supporting the children at Jambo Jipya School, but you are also supporting the local artisans in Mtwapa. Keela purchases large amounts of goods for tourist prices from the artisans (which most certainly keeps them in business for the coming year) and the profits made when the goods are sold to you, support the children at Jambo Jipya! You can feel great about doing your holiday shopping with Reason2Smile!

On the Road Again!



Donna Rosenblum (Reason2Smile Board member pictured here) and Keela were able to meet and spend a long time speaking with Conor Grennan (author of *Little Princes* and founder of the non-profit organization Next Generation Nepal).

that they could continue to be leaders in their communities and throughout the world. Keela spoke with over 100 high school aged girls who showed an interest in non-profit work. She was able to share her experiences with them as well as help them to tap into their own creativity. Her main piece of advice for them was to pursue a cause they are truly passionate about and continue to find new ways to harness that passion in order to share it with others.

A board meeting took Reason2Smile to Marcellus, NY where an energetic and loving meeting of the minds took place around a dining room table. We welcomed Duncan to the group and spent the next 3 hours sharing thoughts and brainstorming ways to continue to advance Reason2Smile and the work that it does for orphaned and at-risk children. These board meetings are always such a joy! A perfect mix of a reunion of individuals who have come to love and respect each other, good hard work accomplished, and delicious food shared!

To close out November and head into December, Reason2Smile is back in Long Island for a number of presentations at Calhoun High School, Chatterton Elementary School, Castle Hill Middle School, Floral Park High School, and Temple Beth Am; along with an art show opening (Sunday December 4th from 1-5pm) at Merrick Public Library! This art show features the work of Nip Rogers and will hang in the library for the month of December. If you're in the area, please stop by and consider purchasing a piece in support for Reason2Smile and the children at Jambo Jipya School!

November was a busy month for Reason2Smile! The month started off with a trip to Long Island for presentations at Floral Park High School and Queens College. Keela was also able to meet Conor Grennan who wrote the book *Little Princes* about his experiences helping reunite trafficked children in Nepal with their families. Conor was truly inspiring and the students at Floral Park continue to show their love and support for people all over the world who need a helping hand.

Less than a week later we were off to Houston for a number of presentations at the National Girl Scout Leadership Convention. Thousands of girls from across the country gathered at this convention to hear inspirational speakers and brainstorm ways

2012 Reason2Smile Writing Contest



Love to smile?! Love to write?! We are starting a **new annual contest for students in grades two through six**. The contest offers students the opportunity to showcase their talent in response to a specific theme. This year's (2012) theme is **"What is Your Reason 2 Smile?"** Competition categories include **prose** and **poetry**. Students are **not** permitted to submit work independently so kids and parents, tell your teachers about this contest! Entries must be submitted by **March 2nd 2012** and winners will be notified by April 27th 2012. Winning entries will be displayed on the Reason2Smile website as well as right here in the newsletter! To download the contest details and submission release form please visit the "Teachers and Students" portion of the website found on the "How to Help" page or by clicking the link below. We look forward to having you participate and reading all about why you smile! <http://reason2smile.publishpath.com/teachers-and-students>

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

Individuals and groups who donated during 2011 will be listed in next month's gazette. If you would like to be sure you remain anonymous, please email Keela asap. Thank you!

Thank you for continuing to share your 'birth lottery winnings' with the children at Jambo Jipya School!