

Village Volunteers Quarterly

Volume 02

01

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A Note from Founder and Executive Director, Shana Greene

Hello all,

Wherever you live in the world, set aside some time in August to host an ***It Takes a Village Party!*** You'll share food, drink and camaraderie while contributing to the sustainable welfare of rural villagers.

Watch for an email instructing hosts on how to register. Village Volunteers will provide visual aids and a *Host Kit* to help you plan your party.

All hosts are entered into a drawing to win a flight to Africa or Asia to one of the VV programs or the equivalent. Do you have frequent flyer miles to donate? They offer great incentive when fundraising for the betterment of people's lives!

Contact me to learn more:
shana@villagevolunteers.org.



Best wishes,

Shana

A special thanks to alumni volunteer Kim Clune for volunteering her significant talent as a journalist,



Local Kenyan women will be trained as water-health specialists by Kenya Ceramic Products.

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WATER FILTER PROJECT FULLY FUNDED

KENYA

Currently 60% of the deaths that occur in rural Kenyan villages are caused by illnesses related to unsafe water and sanitation. Sadly, the vast majority of deaths occur in children under the age of five (Ministry of Health, Kenya). UNICEF has declared that more than 45% of Kenyans lack access to a safe water source. To combat this overarching health issue, Village Volunteers has received its final funding to build a ceramic water filter manufacturing plant, Kenya Ceramic Products (KCP) in Western Kenyan. This plant will bring both an extensive public health and economic development project to fruition.



Using local materials and labor, KCP will manufacture the filters and certify local women as water-health specialists, training each about water borne diseases, the importance of treating water and about the care and maintenance of the filters. Upon certification the women will wear buttons inviting others to ask them about clean water. These specialists will meet with women's groups, churches and schools to educate their community on the health risks associated with water drawn from lakes, streams, cisterns and shallow bore holes. This approach offers both an economic opportunity for the local women and an effective model for disseminating public health education in a culturally relevant manner.

To make the filters affordable for people with extreme financial limitations in
(Cont'd. on page 2)



As Ellen Degeneres announced on Day 4 of her 12 Days of Givaways ([video clip](#)), jewelry designer [Nicole Khristine](#) has teamed with Village Volunteers to support orphan homes in Ghana's Volta Region.

Nicole Khristine will donate 15% of all proceeds sold from their Tribal Collection, inspired by Ghana's traditional Adinkra symbols, to VV in order to better the lives of Ghana's orphaned children.

Congratulations to Pamela Odoyo from Dago Dala Hera

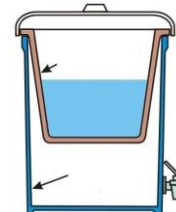


Pamela Adoyo (left) consults with AIDS caregivers Ruth and Susan after church.

During Alexandra Moe's volunteer time at Dago Village, she was moved by the selfless spirit and the grassroots organizing efforts of Pamela Odoyo, one of the directors of Dago Dala Hera Orphanage. [Alex wrote about Pamela](#) for the non-profit news organization New America Media. The story was picked up by One World.net and [Pamela was nominated one of their "People of the Year 2008."](#) You can also [read Pamela's response](#).

rural villages, there will be a 14 month filter payment plan for the \$12 (USD) filters with a small interest rate will be offered on an as-needed basis by the sales force. This will bring the cost of each installment down to a level close to one-time use purification packets. The sales person who collects the monthly payment will earn the interest as commission for the collection duties.

VV is fundraising to provide pre-paid filters for orphan-headed households, schools, clinics and orphan homes. Travel containers have been designed to transport water filters in order to broaden the range of recipients.



For \$20, including packaging and transport up to 8 hours away, you can sponsor a water filter that will provide clean water for 6-8 people for 3 years. Visit www.villagevolunteers.org/donate.

VV is thankful to John Hughes and the Woodinville Rotary Club for their long-standing support and the final \$15,000 in funding; Professor Martha Groom; Walter Hughes; wonderful Nora and Frances Laughlin and the Village Volunteers Action Club at the University of Washington (Bothell campus); and for volunteer Bill Austin, the VV project manager. Together we set this monumental goal into motion in support of a healthier Kenya. ☘



Emmanuel, at 4 mos., was under-nurished with pneumonia prior to care he received at Sister Freda's.

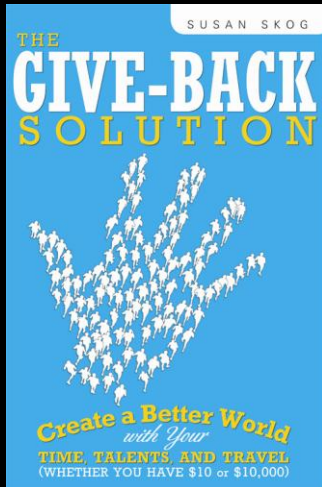
SISTER FREDA'S MEDICAL CENTRE: IMPROVING ORPHANS' LIVES KENYA

Michele Fuji and Caroline Cardosi met as Village Volunteers in late August 2008 when they traveled from Seattle to Sister Freda's Orphanage, a Village Volunteer partner in Kenya. Upon arrival, they found themselves quickly and equally enamored with two children in Sister Freda's care.

The younger child, Emmanuel, was brought to Sister Freda by his elderly grandmother who had no means to support him. Emmanuel's mother died shortly after giving birth. At four months of age, weighing a mere 2.5 kg (about 5 lbs.), Emmanuel was malnourished, dehydrated and likely suffered from pneumonia. Caroline says, "Although he was very sick, Emmanuel was very happy and curious baby, always smiling and looking around."

(Cont'd. on page 3)

**Village Volunteers in
New Book
by Susan Skog**



Village Volunteers is one of many organizations featured in Susan Skog's new book, *The Give Back Solution: Create a Better World with Your Time, Talents, and Travel (Whether You Have \$10 or \$10,000)*.

This book, packed with information on worthwhile organizations and destinations and dozens of volunteers' give-back stories, can be purchased on Amazon.com starting March 17th, 2009.

Susan is the author of six non-fiction books highlighting humanitarian issues.

Magnify Your Text



Your PDF reader has a zoom feature under the "view" menu or you can change the the page size to a value greater than 100%.
Happy reading!

When Michele first held him, she recalls, "I was so cautious because he was so tiny, but he smiled." Over the course of two months, Emmanuel improved greatly.



Michele said, "He drank milk and ate porridge and soon his belly became so big that we had to tell the nurses not to feed him as much. And then he started to grow, started to fill out. The loose skin that was hanging and wrinkly started to disappear and his face began to change. He became chubby! His grandmother came to visit almost twice a week and she would say 'asante sana' (thank you very much) to everyone at the clinic."

The older child, Boaz, is eighteen years old and has never been able to walk or talk. He suffers from a severe form of cerebral palsy that struck when he was a baby. His father left the family, unable to accept his son, and his mother struggles alone to feed and care for all of her children. Facing such hardships, his mother brought Boaz to Sister Freda's Medical Centre where he has been a permanent patient since December 2007. Through it all, Boaz remains an exceptionally happy boy. Caroline says, "You can always hear him laughing even from outside the hospital." Michele agrees, "His laughter is contagious; just ask anyone who has met him."

Michele and Caroline, upon seeing his crib, assembled a large bed donated by a previous volunteer so that Boaz could fully stretch out. They took him outside in his wheelchair and supported him on each side so Boaz could walk up and down the halls kicking a ball to gain strength. Michele also searched for images of walkers on her Blackberry and found one that would be easy to make. "We went to a welder and I showed him the photo on my phone. He said no problem! In 3 days the frame was completed." When Boaz was first placed in the walker, Michele says, "He loved every minute of it."



Boaz wasn't the only one who loved it. According to Caroline, "Boaz's mother came to visit him one day when we were there. She was incredibly grateful for the care and attention Boaz was receiving. The next week, she showed up at the hospital with a chicken to give Michele and me as a gift. It was a huge honor."

Emmanuel and Boaz have overcome tremendous hurdles with the help of Sister Freda, her staff, Caroline and Michele, and yet there is still a long road ahead. When Michele returned home, Emmanuel was still in need of a Kenyan family of his own. Boaz will need continued stretching therapy in order to fully utilize his new walker and he will never be self sufficient.

To help support these boys and other children like them, please donate to Village Volunteers and note "Sister Freda's" in the memo line. Pulling together, we all can make a tremendous difference. ⌘



Online Resources: Get Connected!



Join the Village Volunteers Social Network

<http://villagevolunteers.ning.com>



Are you a VV alumni?
Help a new volunteer.

Answer questions on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com>
(search Village Volunteers)



Read the Village Volunteers Blog

<http://villagevolunteers.blogspot.com>



Check the website for regular updates

<http://www.villagevolunteers.org>



Spread the word to friends and family!



Lara Macintosh of Wassa Dance leads an annual Thanksgiving African dance class to support Village Volunteers. Dance class photos courtesy of <http://wassadance.com>.

WASSA DANCE THANKSGIVING FUND RAISER GHANA

Five years ago, Lara Macintosh, founder of the popular Seattle-based Wassa Dance, felt inspired to give holiday thanks by raising money for women in rural villages through Village Volunteers. Lara, along with some of the best percussionists in Seattle, have since lead an annual Thanksgiving and African-inspired morning dance class.



This year more than 100 participants arrived with enthusiasm on Thanksgiving morning to support village women through dance. \$2,550 was raised to support a micro credit fund in Atorkor Village, Ghana started by volunteer Samantha Rayner.



Among the five groups started, three textile cooperatives were formed in a small coastal village where the fishing industry has substantially declined leaving the majority of residents without a means to survive. The vision for this project is to create products to preserve the authenticity of textile traditions where foreign reproductions compete in the marketplace.

The opportunity to help still exists. To donate to the village micro credit program, to volunteer in the micro-credit program or to have your own fund raising event using dance, exercise or even yoga, contact info@villagevolunteers.org.

In past years, Wassa Dance has raised money for Village Volunteers' partners in Kenya and Ghana, buying milking goats, bicycles, bee keeping supplies, and micro-credit for women's cooperatives. The proceeds of this annual event, given in the spirit of Thanksgiving, are always received with tremendous gratitude. ☘

The Sirua Aulo Academy Roof is Complete!



THE INITIAL PROJECT

Sirua Aulo Academy is now a reality thanks to the vision and passion of Emmanuel Tasur, founder and director of Namunyak Maasai Welfare. The roof has been completed on three new classrooms as well as an office block in Transmara, Kenya.

The school currently has 163 students in attendance and that number is quickly growing. This growth is, in part, due to many wonderful donors, Jarod Ramirez and his family, and Village Volunteer Steven Biggs who has contributed six months of his construction skills and support.

MORE IN STORE

Plans are being completed by Australian architect, Brad Jamieson, to build two new dormitories. These buildings will house orphaned children or children who live far from the school so that they can receive an education.

YOU CAN HELP

To donate, visit:

<http://www.villagevolunteers.org/donation/donate-welcome>.

We are thrilled to present to you three new and growing programs that help to empower Kenyan villages. Whether your interests lie with volunteering, donating, or fundraising, *you* can be part of a sustainable solution!

Environmental Youth Action Corps

Environmental Youth Action Corps (EYAC), launched in Dago Village, Kenya, trains local youth to protect natural resources. Using their new knowledge, they enlighten others about human-caused sources of pollution such as improper battery disposal, burning plastics, farm chemicals and the effects on public health. EYAC also plants trees purchased by donors and Village Volunteers. When training is successfully completed, each participant takes a pledge of advocacy, earns a certificate and button proclaiming them "Earth's Caretaker" and is given an environmentally friendly solar flashlight.



Apply to volunteer today at www.villagevolunteers.org
Donate a tree at www.villagevolunteers.org/donate.

Youth Outreach Mentors

Youth Outreach Mentors (YOM), founded by alumni Devon de Lena, empowers, inspires and educates youth on HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equality and healthy lifestyle practices. During her second trip to Kenya, volunteer Caroline Cardosi joined the YOM team and trained over 300 mentors: 45 USAID health care workers, a group of male construction workers, and a very ambitious youth group in Dago that has since registered officially with the Kenyan government. Mabel Nakyazze is the now the new YOM country coordinator. You too can make an impact.



To be a Youth Outreach Mentor in either Ghana or Kenya, apply today at www.villagevolunteers.org!

Feed Villages Starts "Teach to Learn" Project

Pathfinder Academy students will soon take part in a "Teach to Learn" Project headed by Joshua Machinga of Kenya's Common Ground Program. They will teach in April, August and December at the newly purchased Feed Villages demonstration farm in Kiminini as well as in local communities. Additional Feed Villages sites are developing through Village Volunteers' partners. Food grown at the Feed Villages demonstration garden is donated to local feeding programs and schools.



Apply to volunteer at www.villagevolunteers.org or donate to Feed Villages by specifying the "Teach to Learn" project at www.villagevolunteers.org/donate.

Manage Your VVQ Subscription

Visit the new online
[VVQ Subscription Management](http://www.village-volunteers.org/vvq-subscription-management)

(<http://www.village-volunteers.org/mail/newsletter/user/login.php>)

or
write the VVQ editor, Kim Clune,
at Kim@villagevolunteers.org.

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Umoja ni nguvu

A Swahili proverb meaning
"Unity is Strength"



*Sebastian Pedersen (left)
and Jacob Ward (right)
help to support the children
at the Atorkor School
in Ghana.*

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE SEATTLE

Seven-year-old Sebastian Pedersen wanted to make a difference, and that is exactly what he did. Participating in a new project annually, Sebastian collected eye glasses to send to Africa through the Lions Club last year. This year Sebastian chose to help support Atorkor School in Ghana through Village Volunteers and the Atorkor Development Foundation.

With help from his parents, Sebastian sent flyers with information about the Atorkor school along with order forms for solar flashlights to parents of classmates attending Chestnut Hill Academy Elementary in Bellevue, WA. By donating \$20 they received one solar flashlight and another was donated to the Atorkor School. Not only will the solar flashlights light the way for students at night, they will alleviate the leaching of battery acid into the Ghanaian soil and water. Sebastian was responsible for the accrual of 35 donated flashlights.

Sebastian and his friend Jacob Ward also collected nearly 100 pieces of educational software appropriate for ages 5 and up. From phonics CDs to number games, the donated software will be sent with volunteers traveling to Atorkor. ☘

Village
Volunteers

SUPPORT VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS SEATTLE

In these difficult financial times, Village Volunteers is facing operational challenges. With even a small donation to assist Village Volunteers administration, our small, dedicated staff can continue to develop and support village programs in Kenya, Ghana, India and Nepal. Please consider a donation today. You will have our most sincere gratitude for enabling us to continue the important work we do. ☘