



HARAMBEE

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Harambee II - A CULTURAL, GASTRONOMICAL and FINANCIAL SUCCESS

By Louise Heubusch

Over 160 people gathered at Clarence United Methodist Church, Clarence, NY on April 2, 2011 for a truly African experience; our major fundraiser for 2011. Kenyan dishes prepared by Betsy Mugo Bevilacqua, Jeanne d'Arc Uwimawa and Zena Ntiranyibagira under the guidance of Chef Kathleen Haggerty were enjoyed by all. The delicious meal included Kuchumbari (salad), Somosas (appetizers), Kuku Puka (coconut chicken), Githeri (mixed vegetables), Pilau (rice pilaf with beef and vegetables, white rice and Kaimati (fried dough dessert).

Dinner was followed by an up-date of FIOH-USA successes and needs by President Linda Glaeser, SSJ, storytelling by Mary Owusu and drummers and dancers from the African American Cultural Center of Buffalo. Everyone was captivated by the entertainment.

After expenses almost \$5,000 was raised thanks to those who attended, donors who were unable to attend, loyalty sponsors who bought full tables and advertising patrons. The evening could not have happened without Clarence United Methodist Church providing the venue, and the 20+ volunteers who set up and cleaned up the hall, cooked, served and washed dishes (yes, we went green by using real china and silverware). Thank you to all.



L to R Zena Ntiranyibagira, Betsy Mugo Bevilacqua, Mary Owusu, and Jeanne d'Arc Uwimawa prepare food for Harambee II

p.s. Recipes are available on our website at futureinourhandsusa.org

Female Population of School Grows Due to FIOH-USA "Stop the Spot" Program

by Linda Glaeser, SSJ

Kanyamedha Mixed Secondary School opened in 2007 with a class of 17 students. When FIOH-USA volunteer, Michele Sprada visited the school in 2008 it had grown to 160 students. During her visit the girls in the school requested that sanitary supplies be provided so they would not have to miss several days of school every month. FIOH-USA responded and the "Stop the Spot" Program was born.

Many more girls have chosen to come to Kanyamedha since the start of the program. As of May 2011 the female population of the school stood at 150. FIOH-USA is presently only able to provide funding for 80 students. The cost is about one dollar a month per student. Below is a message from one of the grateful students:

(continued on page three)

Return From Africa by Mark Baetzhold

Last February I journeyed to East Africa to join my wife as she finished a six-week family medicine rotation at Bugando Hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania. After her rotation ended, we traveled to Nyamuswa near Serengeti National Park to reconnect with the people and projects we became involved with in 2007 and 2008. We encountered the same gracious hospitality we experienced previously, and in many ways we felt like we never left.

We were happy to see that the crop production project that began modestly with the distribution of ten irrigation pumps had now expanded to include a farmers' cooperative and a new agricultural store that had just been constructed in the center of the village, with funding provided by FIOH-USA. Still, the needs expressed by the farmers greatly outweighed what little we had to offer at the time. Although the store will help by selling items like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, larger and more expensive items such as irrigation pumps, water storage tanks, and insecticide pumps remain out of reach for most farmers.

The fact that we were unable to provide more assistance did not keep the farmers from showing their appreciation for the contributions we made. In keeping with their tradition of profound kindness offered to friends and guests of the village (the Swahili word for stranger, *mgeni*, is also the word for guest), the farmers organized a ceremony and presented us gifts. My wife received a beautiful hand woven basket filled with produce, and I received a "Mwalimu" stick, hand crafted exclusively by the villagers of Nyamuswa. Decades ago, villagers presented Tanzania's first president, *Mwalimu Julius Nyerere*, with a similar stick that he carried with him routinely. It was indeed a magnificent gift and I will cherish it and reflect often on the ties I have to those who gave it to me.



Max Madora, coordinator of FIOH-Zinduka in Tanzania and Mark Baetzhold, FIOH-USA board member in front of new agricultural store funded by FIOH-USA



Mark and Alaina Baetzhold holding gifts of a hand woven basket and Mwalimu stick.

When we returned home to Buffalo, almost immediately I felt the pressures of daily life here. But we had already learned after two return trips from Tanzania that it was impossible to resume functioning here without Africa drawing our minds and spirits to the reality there. The gifts from the farmers reminded us further that our own little worlds in Buffalo, NY were linked to the universe of people, cultures and experiences outside our day-to-day spheres, even if our connections to that universe were rarely front and center in our consciousness.

It is even more important now to remind myself of life in East Africa, because it is too easy to slide back into the routines, patterns and comforts of my life without questioning poverty and marginalization, without committing to day to day choices that value the environment or workers' rights over consumerism or convenience, or without recognizing the obligation to work toward ensuring human dignity for our human brothers and sisters everywhere in the world.

Because we have been fortunate enough to experience Africa and forge personal ties there, the idea of it as an exotic far away place no longer persists. Nyamuswa is not just an obscure African village struggling to rise from poverty and find its place in the modern world. It is another home for us. People who once were strangers from a foreign land are now like family. We cherish them, want the best for them and miss them, but we are also accountable to them. We are partners in their struggle to build a more just and dignified community. All of us who seek such a community are partners in that struggle, with whomever it involves, wherever it occurs, and whenever it manifests.

FIOH-USA will continue to work with its partner, FIOH-Zinduka, to improve the lives of the farmers and their families in Nyamuswa. Thank you for your part in supporting our work, and thank you for making those connections that create friendships across worlds.

(continued from page one)

I am Sharon Auma in form three (a junior in high school) at Kanyamedha Mixed Secondary School. I want to thank all those who have been donating for the sanitary napkins. When I was in primary school, I used to miss many school days due to my periods. When I heard that Kanyamedha school was issuing girls with sanitary napkins every month I decided to join the school. This has brought a lot of difference in my life because girls no longer miss school days when they have their periods. This has made very many girls from the surrounding area choose Kanyamedha as their school of choice, more than doubling the number that was there before.

When girls miss school during their periods they lag behind and the boys beat them in class work. We would appreciate it if we could get more donors to enable us to stay at school.

Thank you all, Sharon Auma.



Students at Kanyamedha High School prepare to distribute free Sanitary Supplies provided through the "Stop the Spot" Program of FIOH-USA

Providing sanitary supplies would be a perfect project for a high school or college group to take on - especially a women's group. I'm sure every woman can relate to the problem. FIOH-USA would like to respond to the needs of this school and in the future expand to provide supplies to additional schools. If any individual or group would like to respond to this need please contact us. Thank You.

The Feel Good Buzz continues... By Mary Ellen Dye

It does my heart good to greet the many parishioners who stop by our table at St. Joseph University Parish each month to buy Fair Trade coffee, tea or satisfy a sweet tooth. Fair Trade chocolate has become a big seller over the past year. Some are stopping by for the first time while others buy their coffee from us each month. We even have a loyalty program, buy ten bags, get one free, just another way to feel good about buying our coffee.

These supporters do something good for the earth while enjoying a great cup of coffee. Our supplier, Equal Exchange, purchases coffee directly from small-scale farmer co-operatives owned by the farmers themselves. These farmers use sustainable farming methods that help keep the earth green by conserving natural resources and using organic growing methods. Because the farmers are paid a fair price for their crops they are able to invest in their communities, provide homes, education and medical care for their families. Such a deal!

It doesn't stop there. The profits from the coffee go directly to support FIOH-USA's ongoing projects in Kenya and Tanzania. This continued support enables us to carry out projects like "Stop the Spot", the HIV drug transportation program and the agricultural project in Tanzania. It will also allow us to fund new programs such as a proposed micro loan project in Tanzania and to respond to emergency situations as they occur. As an example, the current drought related famine in East Africa needs an immediate response.

Thanks to all the people who buy fair-trade products from us.
It helps in so many ways!



Sr. Lois Badding OSF, assists FIOH-USA by selling fair-trade coffee after the 8.30 AM Mass at St. Joseph University Parish.

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futureinourhandsusa.org**

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You can also donate online



Future in our Hands-USA was founded in December 2005 in response to the needs of the poor in Kenya. It is part of the FUTURE IN OUR HANDS NETWORK that began in Norway in 1974.

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You can also shop at more than 600 GoodShop.com merchants including Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Toys R Us, Ebay and many others. A percentage of your purchase will go to Future In Our Hands-USA. Please follow the online directions to add Goodsearch to your toolbar and use it for all your searches. **Please spread the word.**

PLEASE CONTINUE WITH YOUR GIFTS OF LOVE

A wonderful way to remember your loved ones, living and deceased, is to give a gift in their name to Future In Our Hands-USA. Free Donation cards may be requested featuring photos of our work. To request cards contact Sr. Linda Glaeser, SSJ; 716-837-4898, lglaeserssj@gmail.com or write to the address above. Gifts of love have been received:

IN HONOR OF:
Dr. Susan Davis PhD.
Joseph Giglia
Sister Gail Glenn, SSJ
Sister Theresa Moore, SSJ

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Ruth Dee
Edward Quinlivan
Olive Wahl
Flora Wells

SAVE THE DATE!!!
The Bon Ton Community Day Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2011. Consider buying a book or two. They are a great way to save money while shopping for the holidays. The entire purchase price of \$5.00 goes directly to FIOH-USA. We need more volunteers to sell the books. If you would like to sell books for us, contact Mary Ellen Dye: medye16@yahoo.com.



FIOH-USA is grateful to THE COPY STORE who printed our newsletter and to Boces Best Program and Absolute Marketing who arranged for mailing.