

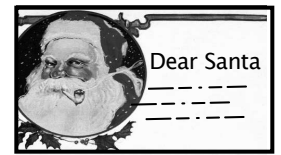


HARAMBEE

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Season of Love and Sharing By Linda Glaeser, SSJ

The Board Members of FIOH-USA are very grateful for the generous support of all our donors. We wish everyone a love-filled holiday season. As you do your last minute shopping for your family and friends I ask you to consider a gift to those FIOH-USA serves in Kenya and Tanzania. They have so little. A small (or large) gift from you will make a huge difference. Below is my letter to Santa.



Dear Santa (and all you Santa impersonators),

FIOH-USA has been very good this year. All of our fund raising successes have been put to good use. Here are a few of our accomplishments. Six of our students have graduated from high school. One of our college graduates has already secured a job! We have funded a new well that is providing clean water to a primary school and the neighboring village. Since we have been good I hope you will give us the presents on our wish list. These gifts will save many lives.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. A new well for a village without water | ₺3000 or a share for ₺50 |
| 2. A micro-loan for income generating business | ₺35 |
| 3. Sponsor a student for high school or college | ₺350/year or a share for ₺50 |
| 4. Provide transportation for an HIV/AIDS patient | ₺120/year |
| 5. Provide sanitary supplies for 10 students | ₺120/year |
| 6. A mosquito net to prevent malaria | ₺5 each |
| 7. A chicken for the youth poultry project | ₺5 each |
| 8. Any other gift you can think will be wonderful | ?????? |

**Thank You
Linda Glaeser, SSJ
and the Board of FIOH-USA**



Why Do We Do What We Do? by Mark Baetzhold

Occasionally people ask me or other members of the Board why we involve ourselves in development work overseas when there is so much need at home. Since the question is often prompted by a person's notion that we *should* be helping at home *instead* of abroad, the answers we might offer rarely satisfy them.

There are a number of explanations I might attempt to give. I could say that the scale of material poverty experienced by the people we assist – people who have no running water or electricity; people who have little more than the clothes on their backs; people who have no or limited access to quality education and economic opportunity; people who regularly suffer from preventable diseases that could be eradicated if the political will to build proper infrastructure existed – these things call out for response to anyone with a longing for justice. On the level of vocation, I feel compelled to act.

I could say that the effort to improve living conditions for the poorest among us, both at home and abroad, is part of the same work to create a world based on the dignity of all people, no matter where they reside or what color their skin may be. The good work done at home parallels the good work done overseas, and attempts to turn these efforts into conflicting or competing interests misses the point that we have a common responsibility to look out for each other in all times and in all the places of the world.

I might even say that I recognize I am part of a society that historically exploited people, resources and regions to achieve its ends; that the effects of that history branch out into the present; that in the privileged life I lead I may inadvertently contribute to the social and historical processes that continue separating us from each other; that I want to minimize the impact of my participation in systems that crown winners while casting off losers; and that as part of my effort to live intentionally within the broken world I have inherited, my involvement with FIOH-USA helps me plug into the struggle to overcome centuries of injustice by building communities rooted in respect for creation and human dignity.



A mother and child sit on a bed in Nyamuswa Tanzania. Their poverty is palpable.

But I would first say this: I watched a little boy die in 2007 as I waited to take a bus from the village of Nyamuswa to the city of Bunda in Tanzania. I would try to convey the shrieks of the young mother who stood helpless with the lifeless child in her arms. I would explain that life-saving health care was not available to him in the village, that the mother couldn't afford to pay for a taxi to take her son to a hospital in Bunda, that she had to wait with the rest of us for a van that would not leave the village until it filled up with enough travelers. I would then explain that the day prior, I had learned that my favorite sports team back home had lost its 2 franchise players to 2 different teams, at an \$87 million price tag over so many years. I would say how hollow my disappointment over that trade then seemed in the light of the tragedy before me; how fundamentally sick I felt by the enormous disparity between people, symbolized by this little one's unnecessary death and the

agonizing howls of his mother on the one hand, and the accumulation of massive amounts of wealth by a select few on the other; how profoundly angry I felt at the misalignment between basic human needs and the systems that shape modern life; how desperately I felt, as the crushing sadness enveloped me, choked me to silence, and filled my eyes with tears, that this was unacceptable and something needed to be done.

If perhaps the work we do at FIOH-USA prevents even one innocent child from dying a death like that of the child I witnessed, then the answer to why FIOH-USA does what it does needs no further justification.

I would try to convey the shrieks of the young mother who stood helpless with the lifeless child in her arms.

Please Share Your Time and Talent With FIOH-USA

By Barb Diebold

As you ponder all the requests you receive this season of giving, we hope you'll consider one more from FIOH-USA. While we always need and appreciate monetary donations, FIOH-USA also needs your time and talent. In an effort to strengthen our organization and better serve villagers in Kenya and Tanzania, FIOH-USA has developed committees to oversee and implement organizational tasks. Do you have any skills that you may offer in one or more areas?

Leadership oversees the work of all committees and suggests ways to carry out our strategic vision. The leadership committee is also responsible for recruiting new members to the Board of Directors. If you're interested in volunteering or joining the Board, talk to our leadership committee and they will match your talent with our needs.

Fundraising hopes to expand our financial resources and take better advantage of established ones. They are reviewing past successes and will initiate new ones you offer. Can you help with current projects? This is as simple as helping to sell fair trade coffee or Bon Ton discount books. As we consider other events can you give advice and guidance? Do you have special talents organizing fundraising projects?

Networking seeks to develop relationships with other local, national and international organizations that share a similar vision. Its goal is to build mutually beneficial partnerships that strengthen capacity for carrying out effective projects. Do you belong to an organization that supports poverty reduction and quality of life initiatives in the developing world? Would you be willing to partner with us?

Finance works to strengthen our situation and to analyze our resources for expansion.

Communications and Marketing will be working with all the ways we position and promote the message of FIOH-USA. Do you have graphics talents, writing skills, web skills, ideas? Can you help design and produce print, online, and offline materials? Would you be willing to accompany speakers to events, or to be one yourself?

African Programs works closely with our partner organizations in Kenya and Tanzania to ensure that projects are effective and that allocated funds are used properly. They examine our current projects and in conjunctions with our partners recommend ways to improve, expand or develop new ones.

We hope you will consider sharing your talents and help us become more effective in our work. Share yourself by contacting: Sister Linda Glaeser, SSJ 716-837-4898; email: lglaserssj@gmail.com

Ads! Ads! Ads!

In order to help cover the costs of mailings, FIOH-USA is offering you the opportunity to advertise your business or upcoming events. The cost of a business card sized ad is \$25.00. Larger sized ads are available upon request. Please send copy-ready information with a \$25.00 check to FIOH-USA, c/o Sandy Warner, 5200 Bank St., Clarence, NY 14031. If preferred you can email your ad information to lglaserssj@gmail.com. Your ad will be seen by over 800 of our supporters. If you have any questions please call Linda Glaeser, SSJ at 837-4898. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated.



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**Visit
FIOH-USA website
futureinourhandsusa.org**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Make donations payable to:
FIOH-USA
Please mail to:
Sandy Warner-Treasurer
5200 Bank St.
Clarence NY 14031
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.

DON'T GOOGLE - "GOODSEARCH" YOUR INTERNET SEARCHES AND ONLINE SHOPPING



Future In Our Hands - USA can earn a penny each time you search the internet or shop online. Simply use the yahoo powered search engine at **goodsearch.com**. Choose Future In Our Hands-USA as the charity you support.
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:

- Helen Battista
- Susan Davis PhD
- Karen W. Kham
- Sr. Dolores Ann O'Dowd GNSH
- Shayley, Anya, Rene, Phedra
- Joan Quinjanio
- Steve Ricigliano
- Terri and Ricig Ricigliano
- Tup Ricigliano

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

- Norine and Red Glaeser
- "Trey" Hennig
- W, T, Melanson



FIOH-USA is grateful to **THE COPY STORE** who printed our newsletter. Thanks go also to **ABSOLUTE MARKETING** and **BOCES BEST PROGRAM** who arranged for mailing.