



Quality Education for Children in East Africa™

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Volume 3, Issue 2

Letter from the President

As we enter the second half of 2008,

I pause to admire the many giving hearts connecting across the oceans to combine the strength of their determined spirits to improve the quality of education in East Africa. During two Board member visits earlier this year, we admired the hard work and results of our many projects underway. Completing class 8 room at Jeremy Academy translates into 60 children being able to sit for the National exam for the first time ever at this secondary school. With the construction of toilets at 3 schools, there is better sanitation, less time waiting in line, and healthier children in classrooms. The completed water project translates to girls being able to attend classes now that they are not walking 7km round trip for water.



Erna and Sister Mary purchased 1,100 textbooks

One highlight from my April visit was the delivery of 1,100 text books to a secondary school experiencing a desperate shortage of books. Headmistress, Sister Mary, met us in Nairobi where we personally purchased books for every subject for all grades and most students. Providing children with their own books has significant impact on their ability to study outside the classrooms and prepare for critical exams that determine whether they will be allowed to progress to the next grade level. The excitement was in the air as students were given their books and realized that they would have a much greater chance for success.

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Pausing in July to look forward, we see we have much underway:

On the African side of the ocean: Construction is underway at two schools in Kenya. We just completed the construction of a number of toilets in Tanzania, and Term 2 has kicked off in both Tanzania and Kenya for 50 + boarding students and 31 nursery aged day schooled children sponsored by Asante Africa Foundation.

On the American side of the Ocean: The second half of the year promises to be exciting in the USA as well. There are many youth teams involved in spreading the word and raising funds for Asante Africa foundation (everything from lemonade stands to friendship bracelets to garage sales), and we're gearing up to host our Maasai friends and partners in September and October. They will be visiting schools and other groups, leading warrior training, and

What We Believe

Every child deserves an education and the opportunity to choose his or her future, regardless of the latitude or longitude in which they are born. Through education, each child can make their dreams a reality, help their families struggle less, and help their communities become self sustaining.

Our Vision

By improving the quality of and access to education in East Africa, Asante Africa Foundation gives children the tools to help shape the future of their communities and their cultures.

Our Mission

Asante Africa Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of and access to nursery, primary and secondary education in East Africa by:

- Creating healthier places to learn by building infrastructure to improve basic conditions at school
- Helping teachers be better teachers by providing them with necessary resources
- Providing scholarships for academically talented or highly motivated children in need

working with American youth on how they can help fellow students a world away. Please contact us if you are interested in having our visitors come to your school or company.

To stay connected with all we're doing and learn more about how you can be part of the great momentum, check out our recent web updates:

- The 2007 annual report
- Recent photos from our visits to Africa, and Maasai visitors in May
- Fundraising kits for creative ideas on how to get involved
- Coming soon....calendar of events for our Fall Maasai visitors.



Students with New Textbooks

WOW!! It's amazing to see what is possible through the energy and commitment of our donors, volunteers and leadership team. Our network of support is growing in numbers and in the ways people are helping. We look forward to seeing these creative solutions help us throughout the remainder of the year to meet our aggressive fundraising and project goals.

Asante sana!

Erna Grasz
Founder and CEO

Springtime Maasai Visit



Warriors leading a classroom presentation

Maasai chief, warrior, and healer Salaton Ole Ntutu visited us in the USA recently, joined by fellow community leader and warrior Sabore Ole Oyie. They are leaders in the community of Maji Moto, where Asante Africa is actively improving education through student sponsorship and teacher resources, and now a school construction project in conjunction with the Polish government. Salaton and Sabore came to personally help ensure the success of

that project by bolstering awareness for their commitment to maintain their culture in the modern world, which can only be done by informed and educated citizens. They want to let people know how important the Asante Africa projects are to improving education in their community, so that they don't need to send their children far from their home and culture. During their visit, they shared stories of their lives and inspired others in many ways, from large student assemblies, to corporate meetings at SAP, and meeting friendly people on the trails of Muir Woods and the ferry to San Francisco.

Highlights of the trip included **school assemblies**, in which students learned about daily life as a Maasai child, including how they live amongst the wild and domestic animals, songs they sing, and even a jumping competition. Schools used assembly funds to pay for this educational experience, which will go toward projects in Africa, including Salaton & Sabore's community school. They also visited the **Future Salon**, which is a monthly meeting where trends and innovations in science, technology, business, and society are discussed against the backdrop of accelerating technological change. They discussed the modern pressures on their traditional way of life. Hosted at SAP's offices in Palo Alto, there was a great turnout from the high tech community, who learned a lot from the low tech Maasai leaders. See what they had to say about it in blogs, video,



Big goals are achieved through contributions of all sizes.

Here's what US dollars can provide:

- **\$12,000** builds a classroom
- **\$500** sponsors a student's tuition, room & board, uniforms, personal items and books to for a full year
- **\$120** provides porridge for 1 month for 100+ kids
- **\$90** builds 3 desks/beds/other furniture
- **\$25** provides a child with 6 books

Asante Africa Foundation is a volunteer-run organization that targets 90% of donations to go to programs in East Africa, with 10% invested in our infrastructure to ensure sustainability.

Accomplishments in 2008

- Completed Standard 8 classroom and Phase 1 of 3 new classrooms at Jeremy Academy primary school
- Constructed 32 latrines at primary schools (Ilkurot, Makayuni and St. Mary's Primary)
- Completed interior of 2 classrooms at Mwalimu Anna Nursery and

and photos through the link on our “Recent Events” page:
http://asanteafrica.org/events_recent.html

In September, we will host another Maasai warrior visit, and also welcome our in-country program manager Hellen Nkuraiya. They will share cultural experiences, and help raise funds for projects including the construction of a school in their village. We are proud of the personal relationships we maintain with our partners in East Africa, and the opportunity to share the experience with you through visits and events. Their personal involvement in the USA is a symbol of our shared commitment to be in total collaboration with the leaders of the communities we serve, rather than assuming an American viewpoint for what is best.

A Firsthand Look at the Impact in Ilkurot

Kennedy Reed is no stranger to Africa, and has been a supporter of Asante Africa Foundation since its inception. The physicist from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory spent nearly two decades working with international scientific organizations to develop and strengthen science education and research programs in Africa. On a recent visit to Tanzania for a scientific workshop, jointly arranged by the U.S. Department of State and the Tanzanian Ministry of Science, he visited the small village of Ilkurot to witness firsthand the work of Asante Africa Foundation.



Kennedy Reed, foundation supporter

Donna Duggan, Asante Africa Project Coordinator for Ilkurot, took Kennedy on a tour of the local school. The drab tin-roofed buildings had been brightly decorated with large murals of the solar system, maps and animals, maximizing every available inch of space for teaching.

Donna pointed out the new glass windows that kept the dust out, dramatically reducing the incidence of eye infections and vision problems in the students. She also pointed out the new sanitation facilities—more than four times as many toilets to replace the three that previously served the hundreds of children at the school. These types of projects have a dramatic impact on the quality of the learning environment for these students.



Latrine construction underway

Just as Asante Africa’s donors have opened their hearts to Ilkurot, the village extended its warmth and hospitality to this friend of the Foundation. Kennedy was invited to have tea at the head teacher’s home, and they discussed topics ranging from the village schools to American politics and Barack Obama. Kennedy also discovered that the Asante Africa name is well known

beyond the walls of Ilkurot School when they encountered a village elder.

- Primary Academy
- Built desks and chairs for nursery school (Mwalimu Anna)
- Provided more than 2,000 textbooks (Sr. Mary Stephen Nkoitoo Secondary, Ilkurot Primary, Mwalimu Anna Academy)
- Provided a daily meal for nursery age children at school
- Supported teacher training at local universities for two teachers in Kenya and Tanzania
- Provided 1,000 text books
- Sponsored more than 70 students and orphans

Goals for remainder of 2008

- Starter grant for 40 new desks at Olooltoto Primary
- Build a new nursery school and toilets (jointly with Polish partners)
- Build 4 teacher’s houses
- Continue sponsorship for 70+ students and orphans
- Provide daily meal for nursery age children at school
- Raise funds and approve projects such as a school kitchen, completion of a girls dorm at primary school, additional textbooks for primary and secondary schools, construction of a nursery school classroom, 4 teachers houses, and repair and refurbishment of primary school classrooms.
- Supported teacher training at local universities for two teachers in Kenya and Tanzania
- Provide 1,000 text books
- Sponsor more than 70 students and orphans

Kennedy was introduced as a friend of Erna and Asante Africa, and was met with a welcoming handshake.

Kennedy had nothing but good things to say about his time in the village. "I'm so glad that I had the opportunity to visit Ilkurot with someone as attuned to the needs of the village and as engaged in the work as Donna," said Kennedy. "I got to see firsthand some of the awesome things that Asante Africa is doing."

Livermore Teens Fill Milk Jugs with Cash

As the school year was wrapping up in May, Mr. Todd Schmokel's Leadership class at Livermore High was still in high gear. After watching a video presentation of Asante Africa's work with students in Africa, they wanted to help. Classmates Kimberly, Puneet, Nick, and Adam saw a chance to apply the leadership skills they had

been honing in class to help their fellow students on the other side of the globe through a few simple actions. They decided to lead a fund raising campaign right away, especially when they heard that two Maasai warriors were arriving from Kenya in a few days to lead a fundraising effort to empower children with education.

They brainstormed ideas, and landed on a simple and quick plan to introduce clean milk jugs at every classroom, cafeteria and five Starbucks stores, with a request to "Fill it up!" In just two weeks, the campaign brought in more than \$600; enough money to send a student to school for one whole year!

Part way through the campaign, Nick coordinated a visit to the school by warriors Salaton and Sabore to boost awareness and donations. Music blaring in the quad brought the students around, and the warriors shared stories about their lives and answered questions. The student team also sold Asante Africa bracelets, and when milk jug donations ran low, they enthusiastically encouraged fellow students to give up their pocket change. In fact, Kimberly reported that a teacher noticed the low contribution in a jug, and quickly pulled out a \$20 note from his pocket to fill it up.

Kenyan-born Board member Joel A'bongo partnered with the Livermore High students, believing that kids truly want to see how they can help. Joel reaches out to students during school presentations by asking, "What is the most difficult decision you have to make every day?" As the students ponder the question, he shares what teenagers in the remote villages of East Africa are facing... is there enough food to feed the family? Do they need to skip school to fetch water? How will they help their families pay school fees? American teens quickly see that they have energy and resources to share with their counterparts across the ocean. Livermore High School students plan to continue sponsoring students in Africa, one fundraising opportunity at a time. With this success, Joel will continue to spread fundraising fever to other schools, starting in September.

This is one of the first Asante Africa fundraising campaigns run entirely by teen volunteers. It was a great success, requiring only the enthusiasm, creativity and commitment of a small group. When the campaign ended, the volunteers felt



Salaton and Sabore speaking with LHS students



How You Can Help...

Donate cash online or by mail

Every penny counts. \$4 buys a text book, \$30 builds a desk, \$20 buys 2 school uniforms, and \$500 sponsors a student in boarding school for a whole year. Choose an area for your donation to be used for, or allow us to apply funds to the most urgent need.

In-kind donations are needed

including **airline mileage** for Foundation staff to oversee projects and for African contacts to come to the US for training. We also need **digital cameras** to document progress overseas, **office equipment** and **office space**. Please call or email us if you can help.

Ask your company about Corporate matching

Now is the time to ask your Human Resources department how Asante Africa Foundation can be included in their matching donation program, which typically begins late Summer, and continues into the Fall. Let us know how we can support you with information, materials or presentations.

Volunteer with us

Asante Africa Foundation is completely volunteer operated. If you would like to volunteer please phone

good about helping others. As Kimberly said, "It was gratifying to know that because of our simple efforts, a kid is sponsored to go to school." As the incoming president of the Livermore High Leadership class, Adam plans to continue fundraising for Asante Africa in the Fall. He hopes to reach out to local businesses, running talent shows and other creative ideas. Fundraising director, Karen Yolton, adds, "When youth get involved in helping other youth, magic happens. They know they're changing the world. We're always looking for teenagers and even younger children to get involved. We'll work with them and provide support to turn an idea into a successful fundraising project." For more information and to find out how you can get involved, contact us at info@asanteafrica.org.

Calling All Youth: Creative Ways to Give

By Karen Yolton, Asante Africa Board Member, Director of Fundraising

Volunteers, donors and members of the Asante Africa network have found creative ways to give the gift of education. Much of the activity comes from students and teens who have mobilized with innovative ideas and lots of energy. Some fundraising is the result of our Kenya Maasai partners' visit to schools throughout the Bay area. Other activities are simply fueled by the great network of people with a commitment to the programs and children of Asante Africa.



Stephanie (girl on right) hosts her birthday as a benefit for students in East Africa

- After a visit from Maasai warriors Salaton Ole' Ntutu and Sabore Ole Oiyee, a fifth grade class at Sunset School in Livermore, CA collected \$260 in their "loose change campaign."
- Foothill High freshman, Stephanie, threw herself birthday party where the "price" of admission was a child's back-pack. Stephanie and her party guests received a special treat when Salaton and Sabore joined the festivities in Pleasanton, CA to personally thank them for their generosity.
- On the East Coast, Miriam Dreyer's fifth graders held a read-a-thon, netting more than \$2800. This motivating and educational idea is great for students of all ages. It shows that through learning and literacy we can support less fortunate children half a world away who wish for the same opportunities. For more information on how to host or coordinate a read-a-thon, take a look at the [toolkit](#) and follow the easy steps.
- As summer temperatures rise, lemonade stands are raising funds for Asante Africa in Alabama, Florida and Texas. With just a few flyers to promote their businesses, Mobile resident Antonia (age 4) and Avery (age 6) of Texas have set up stands in their respective towns. They're busy raising awareness and dollars in business lobbies and neighborhoods.
- "Teenager at heart" Mike Carter threw himself a birthday party in Livermore, CA and made Asante Africa the recipient of \$600 in birthday gift donations.

More inspirational ideas...

or email us to get more information.

Spread the word and generate donations

Host a group presentation or fundraising event/campaign, forward this newsletter to expand the circle of awareness about our work, talk to your coworkers about ways to contribute. The more people who are interested in the Foundation, the sooner we can provide the desperately needed services to the children and families in Africa. Please contact us for more ideas.

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- **Charity Ball**, complete with ballroom dancing lessons and performances by the drama, dance and theater departments of your school.
- Create a **"Quarter Campaign"** Eighty quarters add up to \$20.00, the cost of two school uniforms for a young child to attend school. With 350 quarters (less than one quarter a day for one year) you get \$120.00 for a one-month supply of porridge that feeds one-hundred students.
- **Cookbook Fundraiser** with fantastic recipe contributions from parents and kids. Sell your cookbook to share good food and good news about Asante Africa.
- **Auctions** hosted by your club or group can include all sorts of treasures and gifts... from beauty treatments (manicure/pedicures), guitar lessons, tutoring, dog-walking or baby-sitting services...
- **"Give It Up"** campaign to ask students and teachers to give up things like Friday night takeout (\$20) or a morning latte (\$3), and donate the money instead. This reminds us all of how much we have to be thankful for and what we can do without for a short period of time to make a big difference for a child.
- **What's your idea?** Car wash, garage sales, summer concerts, read a thons, collect change, Cold Stone/Chevy's 10% sponsorships. Young people are eager to help, and with some adult support can make great contributions of the heart as well as the wallet.



Your fundraising efforts make a big difference

Interested in hosting an Asante Africa event? [Click here.](#)

Featured Volunteer: Judy Damoulos



Judy Damoulos, Superstar Volunteer

Judy Damoulos has been involved with Asante Africa since its inception. She visited Tanzania and Kenya in the Fall of 2005 and came home with a great appreciation for the needs of children in East Africa. She immediately signed on to help her friends Mark and Erna of the Asante Africa Foundation in support of child education. Judy is

one of those amazing women who is available (and even cheerful) for those necessary but not so fun tasks....Cooking in the back room of a winery for a fund raising event with no kitchen, even recruiting several friends to help, writing hundreds of thank you notes while in the midst of a household move, stamping 500 annual report and Holiday greeting notes. She also takes on the more enjoyable tasks of hosting African visitors on their down days and cooking for volunteers and guests.

Her fun loving and high energy spirit is also shared with her 8 grandchildren, and in playing golf and cooking for her many friends. Her dedication and continuous support, organizational skills, and straight talk helps all of us stay on

