



# Kids for Kids

## What's New! Newsletter Fall 2011

A very full visit again this summer to our projects in Nairobi, Kenya and Kigeme, Rwanda. Here are a few updates to let you know what is going on!

### Kenya

Tumaini School continues to be a very active and place presently with 283 students!! The new building has three of the four floors complete! The fourth floor should be complete by the end of this year. The top floor is presently being used by a secondary school, Neema, that our Belgium partners are very active in trying to develop. It has more of a vocational angle to it, and will be an option for students who pass the National exam, but not at a level to enter another secondary school.

We have 3 students in their first year of secondary here. They were very proud to be attending a secondary school. In January, with the completion of the third floor, 4 more classes should be able



to move into the building. So, joining classes 6, 7 & 8 will be, baby class, nursery, pre-unit and class 4. We were also able to meet again with the board ( a long 3 hour meeting), and get a report on the progress made this year. Kids for Kids have brought back information and photos for 18 students needing

sponsorship, 4 are already spoken for! So if you know of anyone else who may be interested, let us know! This brings our total to 105 Tumaini students! Almost all students in classes 1 to 8 have sponsorship, between Belgium and Canada!

### Kenyan Secondary

While we were visiting, we saw very little of the class 8 students as they were very busy preparing for the national exam that they will write in November, as a matter of fact, they wrote a mock test when we were there! The score they receive on this exam will help to determine which secondary school they will be eligible to attend. That means in 2012, we will have up to 6 more of our students starting secondary school. The fees for our students to attend

secondary are more than presently needed for the primary school, as it includes room and board. We would like sponsors to begin to think about first of all, if they would like to continue sponsorship through secondary, and secondly at either the present rate or if you would think about some additional support. We would like to challenge sponsors to raise their monthly contribution by \$10/month. That would bring the society closer to covering the secondary costs.



Shadrack and Dorothy, 2 of our Neema students!



Our class 8 students!



Samples of shoes purchased for K4K students who were in need. We were also able to ensure that those students who needed uniforms got them. These were purchased through 'Tumaini Tailors'.



## Rwanda

### Secondary School

#### Sponsorship

This year, instead of going out to the different areas, we brought all sponsored students together for



the first 'Youth Camp'. This was a 3 day camp that involved teaching in the morning, and a work camp in the afternoon where we all worked side by side clearing the land for a new school building. The students enjoyed the opportunity to give back, as well as to work alongside our team and ask a lot of questions. It was a fantastic experience, and we were really able to get to know a number of the students, and we had a lot of laughs. We managed to see almost all of our sponsored students in this format, and to collect new pictures and letters for sponsors and some of the school reports! I think this was a hit, and will become an annual event. For the students, out of this came an association designed to support each other,

complete with an executive. The group is called "Kigeme Channels of Blessing".

The message we continued to hear over and over again was the appreciation that students were able to concentrate on their studies that they and their families were not having to struggle to find the finances needed to continue their education.

#### Kigeme Primary

(Now named - St. Emmanuel Secondary, a 9 years basic education school) It was on this campus we were clearing the land for another building. They have a need for 3 more classrooms. Because it has the additional jr. secondary grades, the headmistress has been replaced with someone with more qualifications. With the money they were sent this year, they have purchased supplies for needy students, teaching supplies, and have paid for additional training for staff. They have kept part of the money sent to bring electricity up to the school until they could negotiate a reasonable price. This has been done, and the work should begin soon. Now with the governments push for 9 years free basic education,

students at this school attend with no school fees all the way through grade 1 to grade 9. Other primary schools have also made the transition, and the first three years of secondary can also happen at local primary schools so students do not have to board. Eventually the government of Rwanda would like to transition these schools into 12 years basic education, for more students to get just that, a basic education.



Sponsorship fees! It has come to our attention that the money we are collecting and sending to pay student fees is not quite covering it, due to rising costs. Although students should be encouraged to try and pay some of their own way, it is a hardship for some of them. Therefore, we ask that we increase fees by \$2.08/month which would make the total \$225/year.

#### **UDDER PROJECT UPDATE: Veterinary Student:**

We had an opportunity again this year to visit Felicien, the veterinary student that the Udder Project supports. The veterinary faculty at ISAE in Ruhengeri, North Rwanda, where he had been studying, has closed its doors and all veterinary students in the country are now studying at Umutara Polytechnic University located in Eastern Rwanda. This was a decision made by the government of Rwanda in an answer to requests made by the farming community of Eastern Rwanda and, as part of the government's mandate to promote science



and technology in the country. The University is only 6 years old and is located in an area with the densest population of livestock in Rwanda. The University's main focus is with agriculture and veterinary studies and other faculties are there as ancillary studies to prepare future veterinarians for their role in a global community. Felicien is adjusting well to the move to the new university. It is a very different climate there, with only 10 days of rain per year compared to the 300 days of rain in Ruhengeri! The cost of living is also higher there and, as a result, Felicien cannot have his family with him at the new school. His

family are safely in his home village which is located near Kigeme. He misses them, but, he realizes that it is a means to an end and that he will soon be with them. We had the opportunity to tour the university with the Dean of Students being our tour guide. We also had a meeting with the Assistant Rector of the University where Rachael was offered a position as a professor if she ever decided to take a sabbatical!! Rachael was very impressed with the course content and the teaching staff in the veterinary faculty and believes this will be a good change for Felicien. He is just finishing his third year of studies and will be entering his fourth year of five in October 2011.

#### **APAP: Agriculture and Livestock Group:**

It was very nice to see all our old friends from APAP. We were not able to visit as many farms this year as in previous years but were still able to get to 23 of them. We were also able to meet with the APAP Committee on three different occasions and hold a general APAP seminar where Rachael, Kristy, John, Jack and Diane spoke on topics such as the anatomy of the cow's stomach, proper dairy cow nutrition and reproduction. We also reviewed with APAP their progress through the year and their struggles and successes.

# More from the Udder Project!



'Food Security' seminar on composting.



Meeting with a proposed new site for the Food Security Program. Below – The Team & friends after a long walk to APAP farms.



New APAP bull

Unfortunately, the APAP bull that the Udder Project purchased for APAP three years ago died in the fall of 2010 of a liver abscess and heart failure. His death was not in vain however, as there are well over 100 calves from this bull that are now on the ground in the Kigeme diocese and that has helped many families in the area, both APAP and non APAP members.

In addition, with money raised in 2010, the Udder Project was able to give money to APAP to purchase a new bull. We had the opportunity to meet him on this visit and there are already over 30 cows pregnant from his services. They are also trying to use artificial insemination more regularly. The problem is the lack of access to semen and the lack of technicians to perform the this. Viateur, the Food Security veterinarian, is the only one able to perform AI in the area and this is a challenge based on the large geographical distances he must cover. However, progress is being made, it will just take time. To that end, there is a need for more bulls in the area so, the Udder Project is going to fund the purchase of another bull for APAP and others to use. We saw some APAP members that have progressed quite a bit from last year. We visited many farms where there is a more reliable use of concentrate (energy rich food for the cows) and overall better animal husbandry. On these farms, they are seeing improvements in the overall health of their cows and, as a result, are starting to see some increases in milk production. However, we also visited some APAP farms where they had not made any improvements and some, where they had even regressed. When Rachael inquired as to why this may be, she heard that either they could not afford the improvements required or, they tried and did not see success right away, so they stopped. Rachael discussed with the APAP committee ways in which they could improve their overall husbandry while trying to keep costs affordable to all members. In addition, it was discussed that, as an association, they should be aiming to all achieve the same levels in their farming practices and how, those APAP members who were excelling could help those that were struggling. They all agreed and will strive for

more consistency throughout the association.

We also discussed how we can form a partnership between APAP and the Food Security Program that would be mutually beneficial to both groups. It was decided that APAP would be a “model” to the Food Security Beneficiaries who could use APAP as a source of knowledge. In addition, the beneficiaries could take advantage of the concentrate APAP makes in order to better feed their cows. APAP, in this partnership, could then take advantage of the seminars and teachings being held by the Food Security Team. This will benefit many people.

## Food Security Program:

The Food Security Program is progressing nicely. We were very pleased to see what they have done in the year. Since January when the Udder Project began it's support, there have been many activities in the four areas that the program currently supports. There have been training sessions with the beneficiaries on topics such as savings and credit and micro business to help them acquire the skills necessary for their self sufficiency. They have further developed their lands and planted crops to help feed themselves and their livestock. They have had training on composting and its importance for maintaining soil health for their crops. The Food Security staff has also selected four people from each of the food security

sites to be trained as veterinary assistants. They have had two major training sessions so far that have covered such topics as basic anatomy, physiology, nutrition, crop science and some social sciences. These assistants are meant to be the “on the ground” help for each of the sites. They are to help the beneficiaries on a day to day basis with animal health, care and nutrition. In addition, they also report back to the main Food Security Team on any issues that their site may be facing. This has been a very good program to see implemented. It takes the pressure off the Food Security Team as the distance between the four sites is large and it is difficult to keep up with their needs. The assistants were also each given medical bags filled with supplies and a bicycle in order to aid in their work with money raised by the Udder Project.

On our visits, our team was also able to hold teaching seminars at each site this year where we covered topics such as cow nutrition, general animal husbandry and reproduction. The attendance at each of the sites for these seminars was excellent and the beneficiaries said they found them useful.

The building of the veterinary clinic is on hold at the moment due to lack of funds. The main funds from the Udder Project are being used for training and support. Currently, we are seeking grant money for the clinic. The veterinary pharmacy is still open and running although the supplies, including pharmaceuticals, are getting low. We were able to bring some supplies from Canada (Rachael and Kristy brought some needed medications and John, Jack and Diane brought necessary surgical and reproduction supplies donated by local veterinary clinics). They purchased a microscope with some funds we left last year and it has proved invaluable to Viateur, the veterinarian. It is also being used by other local veterinarians from surrounding areas. Diagnosis and treatment of certain diseases has been greatly improved with the use of the microscope.

We had extensive meetings with the Food Security Team as to the future plans for the program. It has been decided that once these four original sites become more self sufficient, then the role of the Food Security Team in those areas will be to monitor only, with the veterinary assistants in each site reporting back to the team to ensure all is progressing well. Then, the Food Security Team would move into four new sites requiring help. We were fortunate to visit the proposed four new Food Security Sites when we were in the Kigeme Diocese. These are areas that could benefit greatly from the program as the people in the area are very poor with little resources. So, it was agreed on by the Food Security Team and the Udder Project that this would be the smartest way to proceed. We are hoping to be able



to start working with these four new sites starting in January, 2012.

Viateur with the four Food Security Veterinary Assistants during one of the training sessions.

# Event, reminders & more info!!

## Watch for:

Comedy Night!  
The Comic Strip  
West Edmonton Mall

Partial proceeds will  
benefit the Udder Project!

Annual Wine Cellar Event  
Sechelt

Rwandan and Kenyan  
Craft Sale  
-Sechelt & Edmonton  
dates TBA



**New Students!!!**  
We have many students, both Primary and Secondary, awaiting sponsorship! If you know anyone interested in sponsoring please encourage them to visit our website for more information and out contact numbers!  
[www.k4kpromotingeducation.com](http://www.k4kpromotingeducation.com)

Thanks from the kids!  
Add a photo to the family wall this season!

## Sending Sponsorship Money

Sponsorship money is transferred in both Rwanda and Kenya to coordinate with their school terms:

- 1st Transfer - early January
- 2nd Transfer - April
- 3rd Transfer - September

Please confirm with us how you would like to pay your fees (1 /year, 2/year or monthly), and when we can expect to receive this money so we can ensure we have enough money for our transfers. We will endeavor to send out reminders based on this information.

- Kenyan Primary - \$300 / year
  - \$25 / month (post-dated cheques)
- Kenyan Secondary - \$420/year (If able to increase)
  - \$35/month (post-dated cheques)
- Rwandan Secondary - \$225 / year
  - \$25/month - January - September (post-dated cheques)

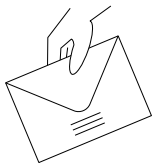
Watch for our 2011/2012 version of our Gift Catalogue! Great ideas for Christmas. We will email you when it is ready!



Thanks to everyone using an IGA reloadable card for their grocery shopping! We are starting to see the results of your efforts! How does it work? We sell the \$50 gift card and you use it at your local store. It is reloadable at the cash register and Kids for Kids receives 5% of what you load on the card!

A great way to support our kids!  
For more info call Brenda  
740 7834

Next batch of letters to ALL students will go in November so as to be there before the students go on Christmas holidays. Please have the letters to us no later than November 1.



**A reminder to make sure we have your current contact info including email! You can email it to Carolyn at [cspence@dccnet.com](mailto:cspence@dccnet.com)**



**We are also trying to build an email list of Udder Project supporters as well so we can send you information specific to our agricultural projects!**

**If you are interested, please email:  
Rachael at [rachaelspence@shaw.ca](mailto:rachaelspence@shaw.ca) or  
Carolyn at [cspence@dccnet.com](mailto:cspence@dccnet.com)**