

positively AFRICA

Fall 2011 Update

Current Projects

positively AFRICA is currently involved in three projects in Kenya - Nissi, Osopet and, less directly, Kibera schools.

Nissi is the orphanage and school in Narok, Kenya where a Kenyan Board manages an annual farming plan, as well as food, accommodation and health care for 50 orphans and the volunteer caregivers looking after them. We have also helped with a few specific projects at Nissi, and friends have been able to assist with needs around education and sack gardens.

positively AFRICA has made health and food security our priorities. However, Nissi is a great place for a team that wants to help build and provide ongoing support for a much-needed school - know anyone?

For information on positively AFRICA's amalgamation with VIDEA, see page 3.



Water Walk Means Clean Water

This past May, positively AFRICA held its first Water Walk. Teams of 10 carried pails of water a distance of 10km to raise money for the purchase of a water truck. It was a soggy Spring day, but everyone's enthusiastic participation made it a great event. To view a video about the walk, please visit www.positivelyafrica.org..

Funds from the walk, along with a generous donation from the Community Access Team at the Garth Homer Society, mean that members of the Osopet community are now proud owners of the water truck (see photo above). It will carry clean drinking water to the families affected by HIV/AIDS. Now, 10 km trips to the river to bring home dirty water will be a thing of the past. Girls, who often could not go to school because they were needed to fetch water from the river, will be relieved of that burden and will be able to attend school.

Overall health in the community will be greatly improved. The Osopet community chose to buy a water truck rather than drill a well because of its capacity to deliver clean water to a large area.

VIDEA Fair Trade Fair

Mark your calendars!...
Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011

positively AFRICA will be participating at this year's Fair Trade Fair, showing off our gorgeous jewellery, colourful fabric bags, donation cards and other crafts.

When? Sat. Nov. 26th from 10am-4pm

Where? First Metropolitan United Church Hall,
932 Balmoral Rd, Victoria BC

Please drop by our table to say hello!

Kibera

Kibera is a slum in Nairobi, Kenya's Capital. Over the years we have purchased Kibera created 'curios' - mostly jewellery from two schools. Revenue from the sale of these has led to greater funding stability and the creation of new classrooms, food storage rooms and teaching aides.

Drought over the past 4 years and the global economic situation has aggravated food shortages in Kenya and the situation in Kibera is desperate. Stores at the schools have run out, and food costs have made it hard to keep the children healthy.

You can help get food to hungry children by hosting a house party and selling curios jewellery to a group of friends, family and co-workers. Call Sabine at (250) 598-0708 for details.

A Letter from Kibera

In a recent letter to Peggy, Jeff Juma, the Principal at Soweto Junior School, writes:

"The school and the kids are all doing fine and they send their love and greetings to you and your team. It has really been so dry here and the prices of food and other basic needs have just skyrocketed and people have been dying of hunger but I have had food at the school and we are now running out of supply and I wanted to ask if we could send you some jewelry so that we can get some money to buy food and meet our other operating costs.

We love you so much and thank God for you and your family, for your continued prayers and support to us.

God bless you, mom."



Osopet

Osopet is a community group of families living with HIV in a 50 km radius around Narok. They have just purchased a water truck, which can deliver clean water to more villages and a broader area.

Osopet is the community that looks after the 28 HIV+ children that several donors supported over the years.

Thanks also to donors for supporting health care for the entire community of families living with HIV and other initiatives, such as the water truck.



Nissi

Johnson, the director of Nissi, has let us know their farming and chicken projects have been successful enough that they have been able to secure rented accommodation for all the children in a building close to their present location.

Rather than dirt floors the building has concrete flooring and all the children can be together in one solid building rather than three crumbling ones.

This is great news for two main reasons. Firstly, it is great to know that their farming has been so successful; many thanks to the support of our donors! Secondly, moving the children from dusty floored sleeping areas will improve their health immensely, especially those children affected by HIV who are already fraught with respiratory problems.

Does positively AFRICA still need volunteers?

Volunteers are one of our greatest assets!

Sabine Laubental, our volunteer coordinator, continues to need volunteers to help with events, fundraising and the newsletter.

We are currently looking for three volunteers:

- To manage annual fundraising
- To create and manage an online auction
- To help get our Kibera jewellery online.



Call Sabine at (250) 598-0708 or email sabine_1@shaw.ca



Amalgamation of positively AFRICA and VIDEA

We want to welcome positively AFRICA supporters to the positively AFRICA project at VIDEA!

What is the relationship between positively AFRICA and VIDEA?

positively AFRICA Board members are a committee at VIDEA doing essentially the same things as they did before. VIDEA handles administration of funds, banking and assisting with administration of the projects from the North America side. pA volunteers continue to connect and work with our projects in Africa.

At the moment continued financial support is needed for Nissi and Osopet.

Is this like the amalgamation we hear about among bigger NGOs?

Absolutely! When the need for direct aid is greatest and resources limited, we don't want to duplicate efforts. pA and VIDEA have strengthened an already existing alliance intentionally, instead of pA moving toward independence.

What if I'm a donor?

If you are a donor - thank you! Please continue to support positively AFRICA projects at VIDEA. It will make our combined efforts much easier.

Cheques written to VIDEA for positively AFRICA projects can continue to be sent to 2092 Byron Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1L9.

VIDEA also accepts online donations, which can be directed to pA projects. Please call us if this is your desire. Monthly donations have always gone through VIDEA, will continue to do so, and are directed to pA projects, when this request is clearly made.

Please call Lynn Thornton if you have questions. 250-385-2333.

Do the projects need more funds?

Continued funding is absolutely necessary, however this is not a plea for funds - just an explanation about positively AFRICA and VIDEA's relationship.

Lynn Thornton, Executive Director at VIDEA is continuing to work harder than ever to keep the 10% administration costs at that remarkably low level.

Are positively AFRICA followers still appreciated?

You bet!



Thank you for the reliable support that you have provided over the years. While change is not always easy, it often leads to great things. For example, a regular supply of food staples is a welcome change at Nissi.

The team positively AFRICA says:

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN!

How is Peggy?

Peg is taking a year's sabbatical after 5 years of intensive work with pA along with some personal challenges.

While her interest in pA is still passionate, she needs some down time and looks forward to social interactions with her pA friends.

She would love to hear from you socially. Her number is 250-519-0040.

