

# News Brief

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD,

Dear Friends,

This year we are happy to report that our pen pal program has continued its global expansion. Canada is the newest country to come on board, with schools in three provinces exchanging letters with partner schools in Kenya. In the USA, connections continue to flourish outside Kenya Connect's Maryland home base. Included are schools in Texas, New York, Massachusetts and Michigan, which are participating in this year's art exchange through Artlink and Creative Connections.

Our school sponsorship program has also taken some new turns. Since our inception, elementary and middle schools have been the primary sources of support. But this year we witnessed joint effort by the Student Government Associations of 28 Montgomery County, Maryland high schools, The National Honors Society, and a three middle schools, resulting in a donation of over \$8,500. These funds will be used to purchase construction materials for two water tanks, new fencing, school supplies, and sporting goods for two Kenyan schools enrolled in our project. We also received our first donation from the college level. Funds collected by the University of Maryland Advocates for Children will be used to connect a water tank to a water main, providing a constant supply of water for Nduluku Primary School.

In our fall newsletter we highlighted a \$17,000 matching grant through Rotary International to benefit Miondoni Primary School. This time around we are excited to announce the successful completion of the Miondoni PS project. Thanks to this grant, Miondoni has received a major face-lift, a water tank and running water, and provision of essential school supplies and equipment. In a word, all of Miondoni's basic needs have been fulfilled! Kudos to the Rotarians of Greater Severna Park, Maryland and of Nairobi Industrial Area, Kenya for having manifested the successful completion of this milestone project.

To all participating schools, Rotary Clubs and individuals we remain ever grateful for your invaluable involvement and contributions to our programs. Keep up the noble spirit.

James Musyoka, Field Director  
~Wamunyu, Kenya



The students of Miondoni PS now have access to safe running water thanks to Rotary International.

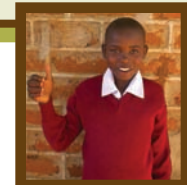
### ~◇ Annual Fundraiser ◇~ SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual Fall Fundraiser  
will be on  
Friday, October 9, 2009  
American Visionary Art Museum  
Baltimore, Maryland

### Top Five Donor Schools of 2008

St. John's PDS Ellicott City, MD	\$8,793
Fort Smallwood ES Pasadena, MD	\$3,091
Solley ES Glen Burnie, MD	\$2,780
McDonogh School Owings Mills, MD	\$2,440
Mt. View MS Marriottsville, MD	\$2,070

To see a list of all of our donors for 2008, check out our Annual Report now online:  
[www.kenyaconnect.org/annualreport](http://www.kenyaconnect.org/annualreport)



GOT FACEBOOK?  
~ CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE ~  
AND JOIN THE KENYA CONNECT FAMILY OF FRIENDS.

The students and staff of Maanzoni PS will literally have a new roof over their heads thanks to Solley ES in Glen Burnie, MD.



~◇ Termite Turmoil ◇~

Our Renovation Fund is still by far our greatest need for our schools. Besides deteriorating walls and cracked floors, many roofs need to be replaced due to termite infestation, which is rampant throughout the Kenya Connect project site.

Students from Union ES in Clinton, NC provided a Sporting Goods Package for Nunga PS which included Scrabble and other board games.



~◇ Mind Games ◇~

Sporting Equipment has been a popular item with students fundraising over the years. To date nearly \$10,000 has been raised for balls, nets and track and field equipment. However many of our schools over this past year made requests for games to exercise the brain, particularly on a rainy day.



~◇ Special Projects ◇~

We are increasingly getting requests from our enrolled schools for needs that fall outside of our standard sponsorship items. Carol Schwalm of Salisbury, MD saw this first hand on a trip to Wamunyu some years ago. Concerned over the many untreated wounds she saw amongst the children, Carol recently made a donation, which gifted a first aid kit to each of our 38 enrolled schools. In addition to basic first aid supplies, medications such as de-worming pills were also provided.

## KENYA CONNECT

### ~◇ CURRENT STATS ◇~

- ◇◇ PenPal Program ◇◇  
Over 43,040 Letters Exchanged
- ◇◇ Total Donations ◇◇  
\$200,752
- ◇◇ Current Needs ◇◇  
\$432,405

Current needs for our enrolled schools:

◇Water Development:	\$9,300
◇Renovation Fund:	\$236,600
◇Fencing Project:	\$19,200
◇School Supplies:	\$55,300
◇Sporting Good:	\$18,800
◇Uniforms:	\$20,540
◇Special Projects:	\$72,665

To learn more about us ~ or to get your school and community involved, please visit us online:

[www.kenyaconnect.org](http://www.kenyaconnect.org)