

CHILDREN OF HOPE AND FAITH



NEW LOOK, SAME MISSION: EDUCATION FOR ORPHANS. HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

We are most appreciative of your continued support as we serve our brothers and sisters in need in Tanzania, Africa! In this issue we will highlight a fundamental, basic need for all people—clean water. People in many parts of the world do not have access to a clean, sanitary water supply.

We are blessed to be able to fund two water projects to benefit high school students. It is hard to imagine teenagers and their teachers not having the basic requirements of water for drinking and good hygiene. With your assistance, we have given young people hope for a reliable and secure source of clean water.

Youth in the U.S. helping youth in Tanzania are also highlighted in this newsletter. It is especially important for our young people to become aware of the needs of others in poorer regions of the world. We are grateful for their contributions and also thank the adults who work with them.

Finally, COHF has a new logo and our new website has been launched! We are grateful to Melissa Edwards for her hard work redesigning our logo and updating the website. Please visit www.childrenofhopeandfaith.org to see our new site. And please keep COHF in your prayers! St. Josephine Bakhita, pray for us! ■

Sincerely in Christ,
Jane Walsh

SAVE THE DATES

10th Annual COHF Garage Sale

The High School of St. Thomas More, Champaign, IL
Friday, July 18th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
(Early Bird Sale, \$2 admission)
Saturday, July 19th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
(closed at noon; reopen at 1:00 for Bag Sale)

Items for sale will be collected July 15th through July 18th at rear entrance of the school. We need volunteers both prior to and during the sale, and we also need cookie/brownie bakers!

Run/Walk for Justice 5K

Sponsored by Service & Justice Outreach
Saturday, October 4, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Meadowbrook Park, Urbana, IL 61801

Arts & Crafts Bazaar 2014

Holy Cross Parish Center, Champaign, IL
Saturday, October 25th, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 26th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more information about any of these events, or to volunteer, please contact Tracy Duchinsky at (217) 721-2524 or tded@sbcglobal.net ■

LIFE-GIVING WATER IN TANZANIA

In the United States, we start the day by turning on a faucet in our home to obtain water for drinking, cooking, a shower, to clean and many other uses. We never have to wonder if clean, running water will be available to us.

In Tanzania and many other countries throughout the world, there is nothing simple about access to water. One third of Tanzania is arid to semi-arid and it is very difficult for people to find clean, sanitary water. Almost half of the people in Tanzania do not have access to safe water. Water-borne illnesses including malaria and cholera account for over half of the diseases affecting the population. Over 10,000 children die every year from diarrhea due to unsafe water. Most homes don't have their own water supply. Typically, women and children spend 2 to 7 hours a day collecting water. They walk long distances, which is not only very time consuming but also can be dangerous.

COHF has been asked to fund water projects involving water-harvesting tanks, which can be above or below ground. By God's Providence through the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to help with building and repairing water cisterns to store rainwater and thereby provide more reliable access to clean water.



St. Joseph Vocational High School Water Project

St. Joseph Vocational High School is a new initiative in the Rulenge-Ngara Diocese. It was formerly a Vocational Training Center, which began in 1975. The Diocese now operates a high school that provides an excellent academic curriculum while also offering the students vocational training skills on a part-time basis. St. Joseph's also seeks to narrow the gap between boys and girls admission into Secondary education. A quality education will enable girls to participate effectively in all areas of decision-making.

Unfortunately, the school has faced a severe shortage of water! They depend on rainwater stored in underground tanks. Most of the tanks were installed in 1975 and are now nearly 40 years old with serious problems of leaking!! The lack of water posed a serious health risk including the threat of diseases. The principal, Fr. Jeremiah Kiiza, requested the help of COHF to renovate two tanks. The generosity of our contributors, particularly St. Matthew Church Stewardship, provided the funding of \$4,700 to renovate two large water tanks. There is now more water available for drinking, good hygiene and cleaning. Above all, it has restored hope to the students, teachers and staff at St. Joseph's High School.



Rwambaizi Sacred Heart Girls' Hostel Water Project

Rwambaizi Sacred Heart Parish operates a Girls' Hostel to provide safe housing for students who attend Rwambaizi High School. Fr. Ben Rwegoshora, who is Pastor of Sacred Heart Church and the Secretary of Education for the Kayanga Diocese, requested funding for a water tank to store rainwater and help alleviate the acute shortage of water. Due to the generosity of our donors, particularly St. Matthew Church Stewardship, we were able to provide \$7,500 for funding of the water project. Fr. Ben sends his sincere thanks for our efforts:

"On behalf of the Rwambaizi Secondary school Girls who reside at our Parish Hostel and on behalf of their Parents, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for your big support towards the construction of a huge 100,000 Litres Water reservoir at our Hostel. Your support will surely save our schoolgirls from walking very long and risky distances to fetch water for drinking as well as washing and cleaning. May the Almighty God reward you together with all the COHF members and donors for your generosity and concern towards our female kids. Please extend our gratitude to them all." ■



STUDENT SUPPORT!



L-R Back row: Sophie, Maggie; Front row: Kaelyn, Camryn & Abbie

Girls Share Friendship Bracelets

Girls in the United States have a lot of fun making Rainbow Loom bracelets for themselves and to give to their friends. Some girls at St. Matthew School who knew Fr. Johndamaseni Zilimu, co-founder of COHF, thought about making friendship bracelets to share with girls in Tanzania. St. Matthew School sponsors Erick who is from Angel Home Orphanage. The girls said it made them happy to make different types of bracelets and share them with the girls at St. Peter Claver School. All 175 bracelets are beautiful!

The girls will be making jewelry to sell at the Arts & Crafts Bazaar in October. Kaelyn also promised prayers for COHF. Thank you very much, girls! ■



Youth Helping Youth

F.A.S.T. was Fabulous! The Festival of Arts, Service and Talent (F.A.S.T.) was held again this year at St. Matthew School in Champaign, IL during Lent. Students in 5th – 8th grade performed skits and songs with the theme of Trust in God. The skits included David and Goliath, a mother with financial concerns, parents with an extremely sick child, and the martyrdom of Fr. Miguel Pro. It was an inspiring performance! The students also worked on different types of artwork, which was available for sale. Proceeds from F.A.S.T. will fund the Pre-school/Kindergarten program at Angel Home Orphanage. It is important to prepare the children for sponsorship at Catholic grade schools that are boarding schools and teach in English. We want to thank in particular Sr. Mary George and Mr. Bill Geerdes for all their talent and hard work with helping the students with F.A.S.T.! ■



Aly, Wesley and Matt making Candy Cane Reindeer to raise tuition for Pendo

Sponsored Child of High School Students Now In High School

Students at The High School of St. Thomas More have been sponsoring Pendo Blasio since she started first grade. Pendo means love in Swahili and she is an orphan. The students began with Pennies for Pendo and have provided her tuition ever since. Pendo graduated from St. Peter Claver School and is a Freshman at Karagwe Secondary School. Many thanks to the students who have provided support for Pendo! ■



University Students helping College Student in Tanzania

Many thanks to the students at the University of Illinois through Service & Justice Outreach (SJO) at St. John Catholic Newman Center for sponsoring a student through COHF! The students have provided tuition for Avelina throughout her high school years. This year they awarded a grant for Avelina to continue her education at Nyamahanga Teachers' College! It is inspiring that university students are helping another student across the globe to realize their dream of becoming a teacher! Students raise money through their annual Run 4 Justice and other events, they operate a food pantry for students on campus and have helped with cleanup from the aftermath of an area tornado. ■

CAKES HELP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Many thanks to Holy Cross Church for providing dessert at the Lenten Fish Fries to benefit COHF! Proceeds from the sale of cake are definitely like the Loaves and Fishes and has helped us provide tuition assistance for children waiting for a sponsor! We appreciate the faithful volunteers who have been baking and serving cakes for COHF for the past ten years! ■

NEWSLETTER

Please let us know if you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. E-mail COHF at childrenofhopeandfaith@gmail.com ■

SPONSORSHIP OF SEMINARIANS

Some of our students are able to continue their education after high school. There are currently three seminarians sponsored through COHF. Two of our seminarians were sponsored throughout their high school years at St. Alfred High School in the Rulenge-Ngara Diocese. Our first sponsored seminarian, Arsenius, is now in his 6th year at Segerea Senior Seminary in Dar-es-Salaam. Sponsorship of a seminarian is only \$400/yr. This is a huge help to a young man who wants to become a priest and does not have any means of financial support. ■