

President's Report 2007

Afrotech has had a busy year with major shipments going to Ghana, western Kenya, central Kenya (OI Pejeta), and Computers for Schools Kenya. All four involved significant educational resources including books, and computers, and, additionally, medical equipment to supply local clinics and hospitals. (N.B. with Rotary World Help Network). Furthermore, other shipments sent to Philippines and Uganda through RWHN received Afrotech resources. As well, we provided a number of scholarships to students, and emergency funding to help young people and their families in the Kenyan Post Election Relief effort. We continue to support the Emanuel Boyz Rescue Centre for street boys by funding primary needs and school fees. I visited the centre in July, met with those in charge, and can report that the centre is functioning well. Rotarians from Squamish continue to visit on a regular basis and keep a close check on the financial records. One of our volunteers, Julia Smith, is there at the moment.

Loise High School for Girls near Nanyuki, Kenya, (students are gifted girls who would not be in school at all as most are AIDS orphans) received a targeted donation from one of our donors: the \$10,000 is being used to set up a science lab and library. This school has already received books and six computers from Afrotech. I visited the school in July; all items are there. Endana school received \$4000 from Afrotech to support curricular program (\$2500 from one donor and \$1500 from a fund raiser); funding was spent to purchase texts and provide secure storage, resources the school desperately needs. OI Pejeta Conservancy oversaw the project and has already sent a full accounting along with the receipts. Lynda Turner visited in April and reports that all items again are accounted for. Cura AIDS Orphanage on the outskirts of Nairobi now has its library in place with over three thousand books it received from Afrotech along with some funding to build the necessary shelving.

In January, 2008, Afrotech, in conjunction with the Third World Eye Care Society (TWECS), was scheduled to conduct clinics in Kakamega and Kisumu, Kenya; however, the political situation forced a change of venue to Zanzibar. Over the two weeks of the clinic between 4 and 5 thousand people received treatment, and/or prescription glasses. Currently, Afrotech is assisting a group in Kamloops with a shipment of educational materials and medical equipment to that same area.

Locally Jim Miller arranged for me to make a presentation to the West Vancouver school librarian's association, resulting in strong, on-going support from their members. Finally I have been in contact with all Delta high school librarians. So this has been a productive, satisfying year. We continue to receive resources from organizations and schools and work with RWHN to successfully address humanitarian needs at the most basic level. Finally, in recognition of our work, the Ghana-Canada Association honoured Afrotech at this gala in March of this year – an award all our volunteers share in.