

President's Report for 2008 AGM, held June 2009

Afretech continues to meet its objectives in supporting education and addressing health issue for children in the developing world. Beginning in January 2008, we participated in the Third World Eye Care Society (TWECS) project in Machui, Zanzibar. Over 5000 people were examined, many being families with children; in addition, all students in the district schools were checked. In two weeks of clinics, over 4000 pairs of glasses were dispensed and medications for eye infections dispensed.

After the clinics, I went to Nanyuki, Kenya, (OI Pejeta Conservancy) to begin discussion on the AIDS Awareness program set to be funded by the Royal City Rotary but controlled through Afretech.

In July, Afretech sent a large number of books to Kenya as part of a Rotary shipment. This allowed us to reduce inventory to almost zero which was particularly fortuitous, as we had to shift facilities from Hellings to Brooke. Also at this time, Dr. Charles Quist-Adade (Ghana-Canada Assoc. of BC) began working with us to set out the parameters for an educational scholarship program for needy students in Ghana.

In September, I returned to Kenya for a series of meetings and visits including a Quaker school in Kibera, which has now received 30 boxes of resources from us. I also held further talks with Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK), as well as the Human Resources Community Director at OI Pejeta regarding the AIDS Awareness program, then in its first phase of implementation. Finally I revisited 13 of the 14 schools identified for the Afretech/Rotary project (curricular books, water, libraries, and computer labs) to further clarify and prioritize needs.

Most recently a group of 16 Afretech/Rotary volunteers spent two hard weeks at Cura, an impoverished community 45 minutes north of Nairobi. The local community had built a resource centre for the area, especially the orphanage, elementary school, and nursery school but had no idea how to set it up. By the time we had finished, Cura had a fully functioning facility of the highest standard.

Finally we continue to work with Rotary World Help Network and other NGO's such as CFSK and TWECS to really make a difference in people's lives. What we are doing really does impact others in a positive way. And none of this could happen without the support of the schools and school librarians who provide us with books every year and organizations such as Kwantlen and Douglas who so generously send us the technology. Thanks to all and especially to you, the wonderful volunteers.