

AFRETECH PROJECTS

Cura Project

Cura is an impoverished community about 45 minutes from Nairobi. The local population is about 25,000, most existing on \$30 per month or less. In January 2009, our volunteer group painted an entire resource facility, set up a library of 2500 fully catalogued books, equipped a computer lab, provided library and computer training, re-furnished the nursery school (flooring, paint, and decorations), made improvements to the orphanage, and installed a playground. This facility has transformed the community. Evelyn Mungai, our Cura liaison writes:

Words are not adequate to express our deep appreciation, gratitude, and happiness for your gift to the people of Cura. We **ARE** all deeply indebted to you and to your team! Cura is now a model village with a hope for the future. The Resource Center has been visited by the communities around, my fellow Rotarians and so many others. The children's playground is a pride of joy for the community too. What can we really say - on their behalf **THANK YOU** and may God bless the work of your hands.... to enable you continue serving and making a difference wherever you go.

The Board has finally recruited a computer teacher and she has started teaching the little ones as well as members of the Cura Community. I shall keep you posted of progress we make.

Sweetwaters

1. Lunch Program: Five hundred children attend this struggling primary school near Nanyuki. However, when the food runs out, many children stop coming as this is often their only meal of the day so the long trek to school becomes too arduous. An Afretech volunteer team visited the school and donated funds to purchase a ton of food – enough to carry the program until the harvest came in.
2. Resources Drive. The goal is to provide reading resources for this school to support basic literacy.

Thika Schools/ Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK) Shipment

We sent close to 300 computers to CFSK and about 400 hundred boxes of reading/library resources for school in Thika, a town out of Nairobi. Some local schools there, particularly those in the slum areas, literally do not have one book. We have changed that. Eleanor Harrison, who runs Action Children Kenya Direct, accepted the challenge to distribute all the books – a HUGE task. She emailed us the following update:

All the books have now been distributed (done in Jan) and I actually have thank you letters from several schools for you. as you are often here I hoped to give you them in person. They were extremely appreciative of the books and I have even seen them being used in 2 schools first hand! I ended up distributing them to several schools. These were:

Thika Primary School

St Patrick's Primary School

Garissa Road primary School, Kiandutu Slum

Kianjau Primary, Kiandutu Slum

Umoja Primary, Umoja Slum

Gikomoro Primary (rural)

Queen of Rosary Primary (rural)

YARD (Youth Action for Rural Development) - run community mobile libraries in rural areas

Kimuchu Primary (Kiganjo Slum)

+ Ol Doyo Sambuk (holding books until building work completed in July).

Donya Sabuk

Britannia High School Leo's Club is raising the funds to build and equip this school in one of the poorest areas of Kenya. The third phase is now underway with classrooms being built for Standard IV and V. The next task will be to fence the property and supply water, either by building a well or using roof harvesting.

OI Pejeta AIDS Awareness Project

Funded by the Royal City Rotary, Afretech oversaw this project which has now just been completed. We worked with the Human Resources co-coordinator at OI Pejeta Conservancy to ensure all goals were met for the Nanyuki community in a timely and appropriate manner.. Afretech received extensive quarterly reports from the OI Pejeta HR rep to ensure accountability.

Nanyuki Hospital Project

Burnaby Hospital staff raised funds to purchase Caesarean section kits. Then the supplier donated a third set so now the hospital has these much needed surgical instruments and lives will be saved.

Endana Project

A targeted fundraiser by Alpha Omicron Pi sorority allowed us to purchase all the curricular books needed for Forms I, II, and III at Endana High School as well as pay to construct storage cupboards. For the students this was an unheard of but welcome gift.

Chimpanze Project, Sweetwaters

Afretech has provided several computers to the chimpanzee facility at OI Pejeta Conservancy. The keepers will soon be able to complete a daily blog about the orphaned chimps and keep people around the world informed - education in action.

Nanyuki Community Schools Project

The goal is to bring library and computer resources to the children and citizens of Nanyuki town in Laikipia District, Kenya. The area has a large population (over 1 million) struggling to meet even the most basic needs, and schools have few educational materials. Now, we are planning a Resource Centre to first serve the schools, then the entire community. The goal is to set up a suitable facility in consultation with the local council. The library will hold a minimum of 5000 books (fiction and non-fiction including books by African authors) while the computer lab will have 20 to 30 computers. Students will receive training on days when their school is scheduled for the centre and be able to browse the library and borrow books. The library will offer suitable seating and tables so people can sit and read or work. The books and computers have been already been sent, and a volunteer team will spend part of January in Kenya completing the set up.

Zanzibar

1. Machui: In January 2008, 19 volunteers spent two weeks offering eye care clinics to the local community and all near-by schools. Afretech handled the logistics, working with the local Rotary on publicity, arranging transport of the team and supplies, and arranging accommodation etc.

2. Jambiani: We included 24 boxes of educational resources in the Kamloops firefighters' shipment which was distributed to local schools by them last year.

Continuing Projects

DormerKi Learning Centre

This centre, established in 2005, is located in Chevakali, Kenya, one of the poorest areas in one of the poorest provinces. By 2008 Afretech had provided a small library of books, many of which are loaned to local teachers on a term-by-term basis as most schools have no resources. It also has ten computers, which are available for a small fee; Form IV students also use the centre. They are required to take a computer course although their schools do not have computers and some do not even have electricity. DormerKi also has a small sewing room where street children are taught a trade. These students also sew school uniforms, which are sold at cost to poor

primary school children and eco-friendly sanitary pads which are sold to girls so they no longer have to miss class. Finally to make money, they sew cloth shopping bags and book bags. We are adding more computers this year.

Emmanuel Boyz Rescue Centre (EBRC)

EBRC provides a safe place for boys aged four to eighteen who have been living on the street – mainly in the Kibera slums. Many are victims of abuse, all are victims of poverty, and some have been orphaned, usually by AIDS. The centre has been deliberately located in Ngong, well away from the mean street. Here the boys receive an education and skills training. Afrotech is the Canadian sponsor. We have sent the resources allowing them to set up both a library and computer lab. Additionally we help provide the basics: food, shelter, and clothing.

Masindo Maliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST)

MMUST received another shipment with books, computers, and medical equipment including an ultrasound machine.. To date we have sent over 25,000 books to establish a true library. Most recently MMUST has begun offering courses and services in the health field, training that is desperately needed in this community of over one million. Afrotech has been instrumental in supporting the new nursing program and also in helping develop a new, permanent eye care facility.

Ghana Scholarship Program

Working with the Ghana –Canada Association we have provided educational resources to schools and hospitals in Ghana. Now, working with Kwantlen University, we are starting a scholarship program for students in Ghana to allow bright, needy student to attend high school. Very few families can afford schools fees; completing secondary school is only a dream for most. Most recently we have begun working on another shipment to this area.

Tujifunze School Project, Tanzania

Afrotech has supplied a complete computer lab and educational resources (texts and reading materials) to this remote school in the north of Tanzania. Also more than \$26,000 has been raised to build an Educational Centre in Mwanza. BCIT is designing the facility as part of a course it is offering. The challenge is to design a cost effective facility that considers the environment and meets the challenge of building in Africa.

St. Judes, Arusha

We provide scholarships to students so they may further their education.

Starehe School Shoe Project

Collingwood school students collected over 1000 pairs of shoes for Kenyan children then were let down by courier company that has agreed to transport them. We were able to add them to our shipment. We hear that thee children who received those shoes are thrilled.

Other

In the past year we have also contributed computers for hospitals, clinics, schools in the Congo, Liberia, and the Philippines as part of Rotary World Help Network container shipments.