

President's Report 2011

Afretech's year began with a great volunteer project to the Laikipia District in central Kenya to set up the new Nanyuki District Library, install a library and computer lab at Sweetwaters Secondary, and set up a library for Irura Primary. The District Library has been heavily used since it opened, serving 400 people each weekday and up to 800 Saturday and Sunday. Local school children stream in after school to read and work on schoolwork; the whole town appears to have embraced this resource. The school libraries our team installed have also had a huge impact in their respective areas. Sweetwaters Secondary has a fulltime librarian and offers computer courses to the community on weekends. The library at Irura is also well used, student reading levels have improved, and again, the entire community acknowledges the value of these books. Other schools are now actively requesting libraries.

One of the team members, Diane Payne, is an ultrasound technician, and she joined the team to provide instruction on the three ultrasound machines we sent to the Maternity Department at Nanyuki District Hospital. She was able to give the staff insight as to what the machines could do, and on the first day she was able to confirm a diagnosis, which led to saving a life.

Afretech sent another container to Kenya through CFSK in April. The shipment included computers, books and special items for Nanyuki District Hospital (beds, etc.), Lily Pond (art books), and library resources for Matanya School, as well as St. Pat's Ikonyero and Anne's Musoli, in Western province, etc. Afretech was also successful in obtaining an RR Smith grant to put in water roof harvesting system at Matanya. In addition we ordered more medical equipment through Zeiss and Gill and Dr. Martin Krestow transported it to Nanyuki District Hospital in March,

In 2011 the Rotary Afretech project was completed. Thirteen schools received tables, chairs, and shelving for their libraries and these items were immediately put to good use. Having functional furniture for the libraries has had a positive impact on the facilities.

In July we contributed 11 pallets of books for a Lesotho shipment through Rotary World Help Network. (RWHN); then in August we contributed computer labs (20 systems per) to shipments to the Philippines and then to South Africa, again in conjunction with RWHN.

Afretech continues to work with Dr, Quite-Adade in supporting education in Ghana by providing scholarships, educational resources, and now solar power for schools.

Finally a container was shipped to Tanzania in May as part of the Tunjifunze project. RWHN contributed two truckloads of additional humanitarian items including many resources initially collected by Afretech. In August a volunteer team built the first phase – pre-primary and primary classrooms – and these have now come under the auspices of the Montessori School in Mwanza. The school is currently in the process of being legally registered in Tanzania. The local community is most anxious to have the school registered giving local children their first opportunity to attend school close to home.

In conclusion, 2011 has been a busy and productive year. What we have done has changed lives – always for the better. Thank-you for your dedication, your compassion, and most of all, for your hard work. I am amazed and humbled.