



Good Hope Update November, 2011

Hello dear friends of Good Hope

I recently returned from a wonderful visit and want to let everyone know how well everything is going up the mountain in Onana village. It was a lively week as a great group of students and teachers from Riverside International School in Prague were visiting too. They spent time learning about development issues in this poor rural area, organizing wonderful learning activities with the kids and painting the soon-to-be completed Medical centre. What an amazing school field trip!



The Good Hope kindergarten is flourishing. Mwalimu Rogati continues to provide a great start to education -there are 37 kids this year, about half of whom will go on to Standard 1 in January. Then a new group will join us. There is a sliding fee scale to accommodate for the very poorest while ensuring that those who can afford a little contribute: the standard annual 'school fee' is 10,000/= (approx \$6) and 10 kg of ground maize over the course of a school year. Of course most cannot bring that much but those who can do - and everyone brings their stick of fire wood for the fire to cook the porridge so even the little ones learn that there is value to what they are doing at KG. A visit to nearby Onana village primary school was a reminder of the difference this early intervention makes. The children with raised hands are GH KG 'grads', many of whom probably would not have gone to school at all.



Now, according the Head

Teacher, they outshine their peers. And as we see the very first KG kids finishing primary and looking ahead to secondary I think we can safely say that we are making a real difference in the lives of many!





A highlight of my visit was a chance to spend time with Norwegian long-time GH supporters, Turid and Inge Hofstad. They and their group of GH supporters continue to be very important GH contributors. You may remember the story of Jackline, the little girl who lost her legs in a tragic accident and through Turid was treated by Norwegian specialists. There is no stopping her now, as prostheses and new glasses have opened the world to her. Have a look at their website, www.rondane-kilimanjaro.org.

Another Norwegian fairy godmother, Ellen Graff Jenssen, is making a future possible for the twins, Dotto and Kulwa. While they have made great progress in the years since they arrived at GH, completely unable to communicate, they are of an age where they really need more specialized care and educational opportunities but cannot be served by the local school. Ellen has made arrangements for them to attend Gabriella Center, a nearby residential specialized school where they will be able to stay until they are able to live independently. This is truly an answer to many prayers.



Another group of friends, *Artists for World Peace*, is also making an important difference. Since their visit last year they have had several fundraising activities to enable them to sponsor children and activities and are currently planning another trip next summer. One of their activities involved expanding the GH piggery, an important GH income generation project. The pigs are doing very well and there are now a couple of generations happily cohabiting and sales are good. (Check their website, www.artistsforworldpeace.org).

The older kids are responsible for feeding the pigs and contributing to their care. Looking after the chickens and general clean up are also daily chores shared by all. Even 18-month-old Upendo is learning to help out!



I especially want to recognize the many, many Canadian Friends of Good Hope (with a few Americans too) who are scattered across the nation, from Victoria and Seattle in the far west to the Maritimes in the east. You include students, work groups, book clubs, breakfast clubs, family groups, friends and friends of friends. You are all wonderful and have been the backbone of the whole program ever since we began in 2003. Visitors are always welcome. Bruce, Karen and Courtney from Kesho Trust came by in the spring and were pleased to see the progress on the medical centre. (www.thekeshotruster.org). Kesho has been a good friend for some time now so it is always good to see them in person! If you know anyone who is planning a trip to Northern Tanzania, be sure to let them know that they would be welcome to see what life in a Tanzanian village is all about. Drop us a line and we can set that up.

The GH resident kids are growing up happy and healthy. Musa, one of the original GH kids, has finished Standard 7 and has just written the entrance exam for Mlama Secondary, an excellent boarding school nearby. We have done the math and concluded that it doesn't cost that much more to invest in this quality educational experience than to support our kids at 'home' and pay fees at the local government day school, where there are about 500 kids and 5 teachers. Since Mlama is a co-ed facility serving a wide range of students from across Tanzania it provides a much more normal environment and because of its excellent academic record opens many



more doors for kids who need all the breaks they can get. The principal, Mr. Labre, has been very supportive and for that we are very grateful. Raymond, who has come to GH recently with his single mum who is now heading up the care staff, also wrote the Mlama entrance. I think they will both do well. Robert has just completed his first year and it is our hope that as the other girls and boys finish primary they too will be able to go to Mlama. Jack-lina, Whitty, and Bahati are going into their final year of primary - all are doing well. Riziky and Neema are not far behind, and Dorcas and Delphina are finally officially in KG although they have been visiting for a couple of years!



And Upendo, who continues to steal everyone's heart, tries valiantly to keep up and is a budding musician and football star! I spent a delightful evening with the kids as they helped each other with homework, with Musa and Raymond acting as resident mentors. They are both taking extra tutoring to improve their English as they wait for the new term to begin in January. Musa has progressed so well that he was actually able to translate a bit for me!

Some of you have been sponsoring secondary school students and that is really paying off. Here Mesia is showing off the Form 4 awards she won as a result of her excellent performance. Without help she would never have made it to secondary, never mind have hopes of eventually going to university!



Three of the sponsored students, Scholastica, Mesia and Steven, have just finished 'O' levels and are hoping to continue on to 'A' levels, which will mean going to new schools. Results of the Form 4 exams won't be out until February and the new term starts in March, but they are all hoping for the best. I'll keep their sponsors informed. In the meantime Mesia and Scholastica are also taking extra English classes which will be a big help as most of their 'A' level material and instruction will be in English. There are also a few HIV-affected village kids who we have been helping through primary who need support to get to secondary so if you know anyone who would like to sponsor one of them please let me know.



The medical center has been an on-going project for some time now, but there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel. What remains is interior painting, tiling the floors and power connection. The tiles are a very expensive proposition so it will take a while to raise money to get that done. While I was there we were able to get a quote for solar power as an alternative to the expensive and unpredictable regular electricity supply. To my great surprise it will be much less expensive than I expected so this is the way we will go.

Mr. Sambuzi, the Moshi Rural District Commissioner visited as the Riverside kids were finishing up painting. He had visited during my last trip, a year ago, and was delighted with the progress. He re-affirmed the district's commitment to equip and staff the center, which will bring much needed services to people high up the mountain. He also hinted at the need for accommodations for medical staff!



Finally, a proper Good Hope website is in the works. The plans are to provide updates more frequently, identify the many people like you who have in one way or another helped out over the years, provide links to supporting groups, and make financial statements available. If you have any suggestions please let me know. I'll keep you posted.

Thanks to all of you Good Hope is making an enormous difference in the lives of many people. The kids, their care givers and their community are of course the prime beneficiaries, but I think we all are richer thanks to our Good Hope ties, whatever they may be. On behalf of Josephine and all the Good Hope kids past and present please accept profound thanks.

We wish you all very best holiday greetings, Christmas blessings and a happy, healthy 2011.

Take care and God bless,

Rosemary