



“Helping People Help Themselves”

news & events

Issue 2 April 2, 2008

Through this eNewsletter we will provide our LifeNets friends the latest news, information about our ongoing projects and programs, upcoming plans and other relevant information.

Sonali Fiske Distributes Eyeglasses in Sri Lanka

We thank Sonali Fiske, an avid LifeNets volunteer, for distributing 560 pair of eyeglasses in Sri Lanka in January. In 2005 she had supervised the construction of eight homes and set up a number of livelihood development projects while on the LifeNets Tsunami Reconstruction Project.

Eyeglass donations to LifeNets are always appreciated and go overseas to people who greatly appreciate them.

Report at <http://www.lifenets.org/Inmisc/sonali2007.htm>



Sonali Fiske with Sri Lankan Children

LifeNets Kenya Girls Scholarship Program for 2008 Back on Track

Our program for 2008 successfully began February 19 after several weeks of uncertainty. Nine sponsored girls are now attending secondary schools in various locations. Because of post-election crisis conditions, LifeNets' first group scholarship program was in doubt as tribal violence created dangerous conditions, which brought schools and businesses to a standstill. While started as political conflict, Kenyan news sources state that the underlying reason for the violence is the poverty that blights the majority of the population.

Most of the girls live in the Western Rift Valley region of Kenya. Several will be attending schools in Migori, a trading town in the southwest corner of Kenya near the Tanzania border to the south and Lake Victoria to the west. Traveling north from Migori are several other towns where girls will be attending schools including Kisii, Bomet, Molo and Siaya. This area is known for its agriculture including vast tea plantations.

This summer Rose McDowell and Judy Servidio plan to travel to Kenya to visit the girls and their families. The girls will be in school during this time providing the opportunity to visit the schools and assess the girls' progress and needs. More details and updates on our program can be found at www.lifenets.org/kenya.

Jennifer Myers to Teach “Business 101” in Malawi and Zambia in June

Last summer Jennifer Myers, Program Officer, Noble County Community Foundation in northern Indiana traveled to Malawi as a LifeNets volunteer to help with our Chizeni Clinic in Balaka. She was able to visit a number of our projects in the Blantyre area. She brought back suggestions on how to maximize our livelihood development projects by teaching some business and marketing skills. We felt it important to help people who have received LifeNets grants to learn basic skills to more successfully sell their products. Jennifer has developed a three-hour seminar called “Business 101.” The class will include the following key concepts:



- Four factors to consider when operating a business
- Organization and Anticipation
- Profit, Income and Capital
- Mentoring — so that knowledge will continue to be spread

Malawi Chiefs Say “Thank You”

About 220 blankets along with mosquito nets were provided for orphans in the Balaka, Malawi area. The LifeNets Orphan Care Centre has been operating since 2003 as part of the Chizeni Clinic. We were pleased to receive this letter of acknowledgment: (over)

"On behalf of all chiefs in Balaka Southeast I would like to thank you for the great work you are doing. We received many blankets and mosquito nets for the needy children (orphans). The children also receive nutritious food. We have noted that the incidence of malaria and pneumonia has been greatly reduced and the children look healthy. Please convey our thank to the women's organization [United Church of God Northwest Women] which organized the blankets and the lady who sponsored for the mosquito nets. May the Lord bless you."

Yours faithfully,
Vincent Blessings Chingwalu

Read more about our Orphan Care Centre at <http://www.lifenets.org/balakaorphans>

Rebecca's African Well and Special Birthday Party



When Rebecca McClure turned 14 she told her friends that instead of gifts at her birthday party, she requested that her friends consider making a donation to the LifeNets well project. Rebecca told her parents, "I'm very blessed to have everything I need. I don't want any gifts; instead I want to help build a well in Africa. I can't imagine having to walk miles every day to carry water home for drinking, cooking, and bathing!" A new well will change the lives of an entire community because it means they will have a supply of fresh water readily available, cutting down on waterborne illnesses, and making the lives of the women and children who fetch the water every day much easier. Rebecca was surprised and delighted to raise about \$1,000 toward the well project at the event on January 5th. This money will be used to drill a borehole in Malawi that will serve a community.

Wheelchair Update

We're tracking well towards our 2008 goal of matching 100 people with wheelchairs donated to LifeNets. We ended the first quarter of 2008 with 23 matches.

Notes like this make our efforts worthwhile:

From the Dialysis Clinic in Indianapolis:

We can't thank you enough for the wheelchair that was provided to William K. His quality of life will be improved greatly. I couldn't help but laugh in a recent conversation between Mr. K. and another individual at our facility. They were jokingly arguing and when threatened to be put out of the building he said "I will just wheel right back in!" I would say he's pretty happy. Thank you again for the wheelchair that was given. You are greatly appreciated.



Newest chair and walker donated to LifeNets in Aurora, Illinois.

Sarah G
Tamara M.

That's it for issue 2. Please sign others up for news and events at <http://lifenets.org/enews/form.htm>

-- LifeNets Staff

**"To pity distress is but human; to relieve it is Godlike."
—Horace Mann**

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