



Building Hope Update ~ December 2014

In 2010, the students of Red Deer Lake School posed the question, “Wouldn’t it be great if we could build a school in Africa?” Little did we realize that this would be the start of an incredible partnership and journey. Since that time the following has been accomplished, either directly through the fundraising of The Building Hope Society or through its inspiration:

2010

- A 2 classroom addition to the Enkare Ngiro School in Ewaso Ngiro, Kenya was built for the grade 7 and 8 students
- RDL Building Hope Society was formed and became a Canadian registered charity.
- RDL Building Hope Society partnered with The Nairoshi Foundation in Kenya, a charitable foundation that is operated by our now friends, Merry Purcell-Nkuito and David Ole(Kamishina) Nkuito. David is a Maasai Elder. He is married to Merry, his Australian born wife. Together they share our dream to bring a good education to the children of their community. Merry and David serve as our eyes on the ground in Kenya; they oversee all projects (including sponsorship) and inform us of the needs.

2011

- A water well was connected to bring fresh water to David’s community.
- A group from RDL travelled to Kenya to see the project, to meet Merry and David and to discuss future involvement
- Merry and David came to Canada, along with their son Murani, to meet and thank the students of RDL School. While here they were inspired by the high level of education.

2012

- The first two students were sponsored to attend a ‘sleep away’ (boarding) high school. In Ewaso Ngiro it is very rare for children to continue with their education beyond grade 8. Girls in particular run a great risk of being sold at this age to bring in a dowry to help with their family’s poverty. One girl and one boy (Naomi and Daniel) were chosen based on the results of their National Exam results. They were the top boy and girl.
- School supplies were provided for the children at Ewaso Ngiro School
- Building Hope Academy was imagined. This would be a school for the youngest students (4-7) who were currently not attending school due to the long and dangerous walk (up to 8km through elephant territory). 95 students were identified in this category
- 15 acres of land was donated by David’s family, land was cleared by the widows who are helped by the Nairoshi Foundation, a fence was erected and construction of two classrooms began

2013

- Two more students were sponsored for High School through the sale of lollipops (Jazzelyn and Samuel)
- The Building Hope Academy opened with 51 students housed in the first two classrooms. For the first time in the community’s history, the parents of the young children began to take an active role in their children’s education. Parents accompany their children to and from school, attend meetings and celebrations.

- Children receive two meals each day at the school – often this is the only food they receive
- A teacher’s quarters (three rooms) was built
- Two “eco” student washrooms were installed
- A playground was installed

2014

- Two more students were sponsored for High School (Everlynn and Rubben)
- A new class of 27 students (bringing student enrollment to 78) was added
- Two additional classrooms were constructed at the Building Hope Academy to bring the total to 4.
- Money was provided for supplies for Enkare Ngiro School.

Much of the above has been accomplished by the Red Deer Lake School community. Others have heard about the successful project or have seen the project while visiting Kenya and they too have been inspired to help. Currently there are many people globally who have contributed to bringing quality educational opportunities to the Kenyan Maasai community of Ewaso Ngiro. The bricks and mortar is only one part of this project. The other piece is the relationships that have been formed and the powerful learning that the students of RDL School have received as they have witnessed firsthand that they truly have the power to do anything they set their minds to.

The fundraising focus for the 2015 year is as follows:

The Sponsorship Program

It costs money for each child in The Building Hope Academy to attend school. In addition, it also costs money for each student who is sent to high school. If you feel that you can sponsor one of these children, please see the accompanying sponsorship information.

Purchase a Mini Van to use as a ‘school bus’

The cost for this will be somewhere between \$25 000 and \$30 000. This will be used to transport the young children who should be attending school but for whom the walk is too far. More information will become available regarding this effort in the 2015. However if you wish to donate toward this program in 2014 so that you can take advantage of the 2014 tax receipt you will receive, please feel welcome to do so.

A Children’s Book

This year, an Alumni Group has been formed by students who have graduated from RDL but who want to continue to be involved with the project. Currently they are in the process of writing a children’s book that features both English words and Maa vocabulary. Maa is the language of the Maasai people . It is hoped that the book will be published and ready for sale in the spring. This book will be used in RDL classrooms, in The Building Hope Academy classrooms and in Enkare Ngiro classrooms.

Please note that all donations, regardless of size are gratefully accepted. In addition, every penny donated goes directly to this project. There is no administration cost.