



*"Every child
should have a
school,
especially if he
doesn't have
a mommy and
daddy to teach
him to love,"*

— Billy, 6, a Western New York kindergarten student who decorated coffee cans as drop boxes for donations to Crossroads Springs.

- Consider a Mother's or Father's Day gift to Crossroads Springs. One hundred percent of your tax deductible gift is transferred directly to the Crossroads Springs account in Kenya (97 percent if by credit card online)

- The Friends Meeting has established a TDAMERITRADE account to receive gifts of stock. For more information, contact Alison and Arthur Hyde at ahyde37492@aol.com, and please put Crossroads Springs in the subject line.

We hear the sounds of trowels slapping mortar between bricks and African drums beating rhythms for children's dancing feet. Listen as we bring you the latest news from Crossroads Springs Institute, Kenya, for children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

Slapping Trowels: Progress on the New Classroom Building

Thanks to fall and winter fundraising in the USA, construction has continued even in crisis times. The walls and ceiling of the ground floor are almost finished in the new building. Please see the attached flyer about why this new building is urgently needed.

African Drumming

The annual Green Tie (St. Patrick's Day) Dinner at the Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, NY, this year benefited Crossroads Springs. The Daughters of Creative Sound inspired the diners with African drumming and a traditional story; volunteers sold African jewelry and crafts, with the proceeds going to Crossroads Springs and craft makers in five African countries. Crafts and jewelry were also fundraisers at Federal Way (WA) Public Academy and in Belmont, MA.



Assistant Head Teacher Ellius Chemai hands out new, locally made school uniforms.

Counting Coins, Children to Children

Hearing that middle school children in Western New York (Starpoint School) and Federal Way, WA (Sacajawea School) were holding coin drives for Crossroads Springs, the children and teachers at Crossroads Springs gave up their food on Good Friday and Easter Monday. The money that would have been spent will be given to benefit Kenyan children displaced by the recent post-election violence. It is sobering to realize that there are children worse off than the orphans of Crossroads Springs, and it's wonderful that "our" children in USA and Kenya open their hearts to others. In the U.S., Billy, 6, decorated coffee cans as donation boxes, and Leah, a middle school student who raises chickens, donated money she raised selling eggs.



Post-election Crisis in Kenya

After spending several weeks in Western New York this past winter, Crossroads Springs founder Meshack Isiaho and wife Helen returned to their home in Kenya, optimistic about their country's upcoming presidential election. Alas, the contested election brought a violent aftermath of demonstrations, burning and suffering. It was many days before we heard by email that Crossroads Springs staff and students, and community members were "relatively safe up to now." Still,



the crisis had an impact. The opening of school was postponed until mid-January in hopes that calm would return. More students than ever showed up looking for a safe place in school. And everyday activities required much more thought and planning. Meshack and Helen postponed a trip to the bank in Kisumu for staff salaries when youth were blockading the road and demanding money. The prices of many things -- including textbooks and building supplies -- "skyrocketed," but Meshack hopes things will return to normal now that major agreements have been reached.

Thanks and Best Wishes!

We thank you for your interest and gifts to make sure these children are educated to be independent and contributing citizens. Every dollar counts, as you can see from this report. Please share or pass along this newsletter and flyer to others who might be interested.

Tax deductible contributions may be made online or to:
Crossroads Springs, Orchard Park Quaker Meeting
c/o Clerk, Orchard Park Quaker Meeting
6924 East Quaker Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email and save postage, contact the Hydes. Look for a special summer edition of the newsletter kicking off the Building Fund Campaign.