

**The Kimer-Kamba Vocational School
Matangini, Mtito Andei, Kenya**

Global Roots began our humanitarian efforts in Kenya back in 2008 when Patrick Firouzian, Global Roots project manager and board member, was introduced to the communities surrounding Mtito Andei. It soon became apparent just how much help the area needed.

Unfortunately Ideally Located

Situated halfway between Mombasa and Nairobi, Mtito Andei is the main stopping point for truck drivers and other travelers moving between the international port and capital city. In a barren area lacking in water and other vital resources, the abundance of passers-through has created wide spread prostitution as women are left with few, if not no, alternatives for income. A direct side effect of the prostitution is that venereal diseases, most notably HIV/AIDS, spread through the community, killing parents, creating orphans, and infecting the unborn.

**Dependent Upon and at Conflict with
Nature**

There are other serious problems facing this community as well. Mtito Andei is flanked to the east, south, and west by the Tsavo East and West National Parks so there is also continual human-wildlife conflict and overexploitation of natural resources. Elephants and lions often intrude into the surrounding farmlands destroying crops and killing livestock. Local farmers retaliate by hunting and killing these animals. The game meat trade is also prevalent and a profitable but illegal way for local men to provide for their families. Trees are over logged for cooking fuel, and to make charcoal and crafts to sell. The heavy deforestation only worsens the already stifling droughts. The net result is that the once abundant wildlife and majestic natural beauty is waning and an already struggling people have less and less to provide for themselves with.

Children from the Matangini area



Chairman Leva; local leader, humanitarian, and Global Roots partner



Matangini men working on the community water project



The first step of the Kimer vocational school; The Matangini Water Kiosk



Global Roots
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Despite all of This, There is Hope.

Within the communities that surround Mtito Andei, there are community leaders and humanitarians dedicated to creating a brighter future for the area's children. Global Roots has already given vital assistance for Rosina's amazing efforts to provide loving and enriched care to those children already orphaned by assisting with the construction of a library/children's shelter, among other projects. It is now time to join Chairman Leva's quest to provide the area's people with the means and education necessary to break the current cycle of destruction.

Breaking the Cycle

The key is to provide sustainable and healthy alternative sources of income. Global Roots began this process in July of 2010 with our efforts to introduce the knowledge and skills needed to use and manufacture simple solar ovens into the community. This was just a small first step in the right direction. For true change to be accomplished, wide spread and ongoing education is needed. Chairman Leva knows this and has offered a primly located portion of his families' land as the site for a vocational school.

A Hero

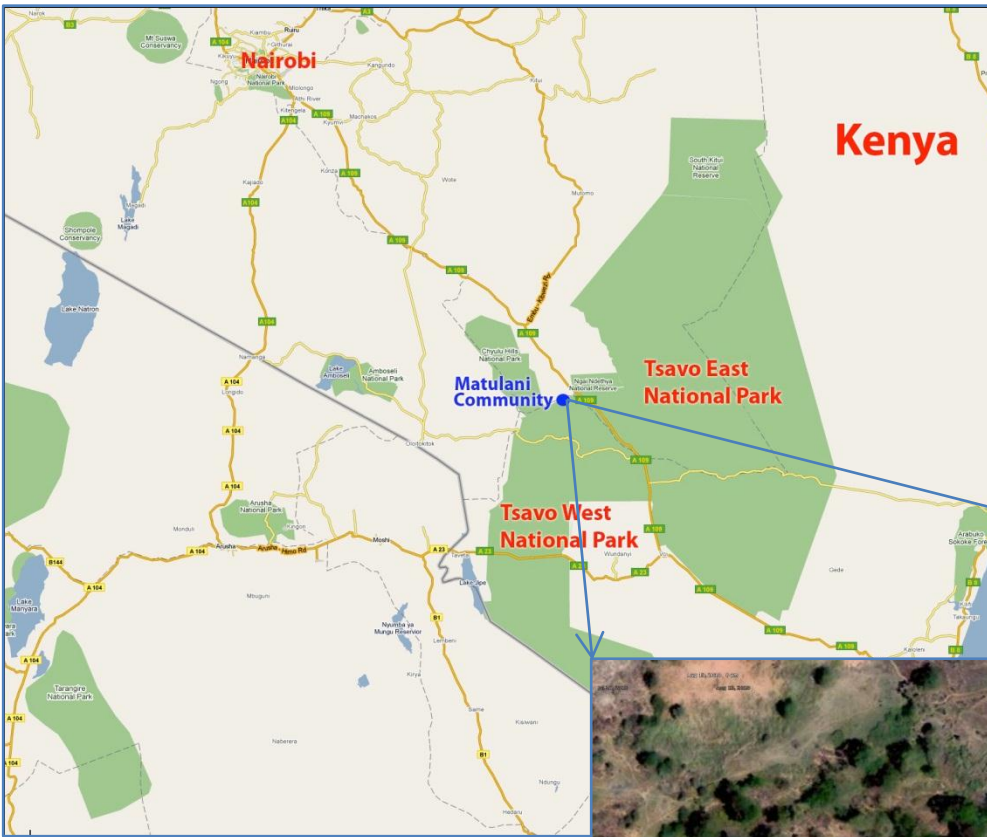
This vocational school was little more than an idea until Stan Kimer visited Mtito Andei with a group of Global Roots Volunteer in July of 2010. Stan was touched by how resilient and joyous the local children remained despite the blight they faced every day. He saw the value that a vocational school would serve to the community and immediately made a generous donation that turned the idea into the reality that will become the Kimer-Kamba Vocational School.

Ground was broken soon thereafter on the Matangini water project, the first step towards the construction of the school itself. The Matangini community came together and dug nearly two kilometers of ditch through hard, packed ground so that the community and future school will have readily accessible water.

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A Place to Put on the Map

Mtito Andei is located approximately 240 km southeast of Nairobi and 260 km northwest of Mombasa. The main tribe in the area is the Kamba. The Matulani and Matangini Kamba communities are located about five km northwest of Mtito Andei. The vocational school is to be constructed on the southern edge of the Matangini community, bordering Tsavo West National Park. A large-scale electrified fence is currently under construction to prevent intrusion by wild animals, creating a peaceful, safe, and well-located learning environment.



Moving Forward

With the most basic need, water, taken care of we can now begin to look to the next steps of the vocational school. Currently, Global Roots and its architecture and development advisors, Ben Woods and Dwight Law, are in the middle of planning, designing, and laying out the future vocational school. To facilitate this process, we are planning to send a mission back to Mtito Andei in December of 2010 to begin the construction of the guard station, reception area, and clearing of the land for future construction. This will lay the groundwork for when Ben Woods and Dwight Law visit in January, 2011 to draft blueprints and a layout for the entire vocational school, ensuring that once completed, the facility is well organized.

Eventually, the Kimer-Kamba Vocation School will include multiple classrooms, a kitchen, a dining hall, a daycare, dormitories, library, teachers' office, vegetable and chicken farms, bathrooms, and showers. A variety of teachers will be instructing curriculum varying from vehicle repair to sewing and improved agriculture. We understand this is a long term project and plan to implement it step by step, beginning with the elements that will benefit the Matangini community the most now.



Stan Kimer (left) being recognized for his generous contributions by the Kenya Wildlife Service

Join Our Partnership for Change!

Stan has set an amazing example and turned an idea into an opportunity. An opportunity the partnership between Global Roots and the Matangini community are working hard to realize. It is not something we can do on our own. In order to break the cycle of prostitution, HIV/AIDs orphans, and ecological overexploitation, it will take other caring individuals like you to follow Stan Kimer's example, step forward, commit your assistance, and become part of our partnership for change.

Thank you and peace be with you!

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