

Kicking AIDS Out! The Newsletter



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Dear Supporters

Welcome!

The 'Kicking AIDS Out' of Kibera program is in the middle of a very exciting time, and I'm glad you are here to be a part of it. Our 20 peer educators continue to get out into Kibera every weekend to discuss sexual health and HIV with some of the most at risk populations, and we are looking to finish the year with trainings, scholarships and an increasingly effective program. We now have available to us 8 more scholarships and in the 2008 school year will be sending a total of 13 peer

educators to school, we have a budget for an important training coming up later in August, have a Canadian intern working in Nairobi for the next 6 months, and are currently searching for funding to support a Kenyan program assistant in the 2008 year. All of this has been made possible by support from the incredible staff at Carolina for Kibera in Kenya, in the US, and by you, for which we cannot thank you enough.

Enjoy reading about our adventures as we enter this exciting time!

From

Ross (Alex) Davidson
Former Youth Development
Officer
Carolina for Kibera



Fundraising events raise the roof.

On April 28th The Medical Students and Alumni Centre in Vancouver B.C. was transformed into an evening of fun and music. The theme- Hot coffee and cool jazz as a way to unwind after the stressful pace of day-to-day life and at the same time learn about an interesting project. People grooved to the exciting sounds of Joel Watson on the guitar, and the Kwantlen Jazz ensemble as the evening went on, and a slideshow was an important part of the evening's event. The

uniqueness of the night's story was told in the myriad of hardworking students who made the event possible through time, efforts, and talent, allowing the low cost of the event to be shouldered by the organizers.

As a result all \$6,330 raised during the course of the evening was sent to the Carolina for Kibera Administration, and will be wired to Kenya once a final budget is approved for the remainder of the year.

Also, on July 19th, a we attended a party at Vibes nightclub organized by SFU Kinesiology student Mohamed Bardi. The club filled up to the sound of DJ tre funk spinning tunes all night, and over the course of the evening, a further \$400 was raised to further our cause. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, and see below for what is happening right now!

The Details!- What is really happening?



Kicking AIDS Out leaders at an afternoon practice at Kibera Primary School, August 2007.

August Training Planned

The birth of our annual comprehensive training was in early April 2006 when a group of our leaders got together, and decided that before May began, a focused training should be given to make sure every one's skills were appropriate. So, in late April, and into May 2006, with the help of Commonwealth Games Canada, and the support of Carolina for Kibera, the entire 20-person team of Kicking AIDS Out peer educators traveled away from the slum to refresh, and build upon their knowledge of HIV, and about other issues that relate to youth. Last year's training ran for 5 days at the YMCA in Naivasha- a rural lakeside village 2 hours away from the capital Nairobi and included a number of team building

activities, as well as workshop style presentations given by Abdul, Martha Hall (an exceptional teaching professional from Toronto Canada who was working with our project at the time), and myself- Alex-Ross. The isolated environment and peace relative to the relentless pace of Nairobi and Kibera added an essential part of the equation for the week- clarity of mind. People talked about things not explored by our project before, including the issue of rape in Kibera, and ideas began to flow about how these new issues could be addressed through sport, and thoughtful discussion. The week ended with a soccer match and KAO games with a group of local fishermen, and was well received, despite the age gap between some of our peer educators and the

audience, and the sensitive nature of the discussion.

This year, a similar phenomenon is occurring. 20 peer educators from our program, including a few new additions to our peer educator team have traveled to Naivasha and are using the reprieve from slum life to design new games, and develop a plan for the upcoming months of activity leading up to Carolina for Kibera's soccer league finals in November. Facilitated again by Cantar, senior members of the KAO team, and our new intern- Rehana Tejpar, the training will provide a rare and unique opportunity to strengthen our team, and add clarity to our program amidst the speed of everyday life in Kibera.

New Scholarships Allow 6 more spots at school.



After school, at Undugu Secondary, Sept 2005

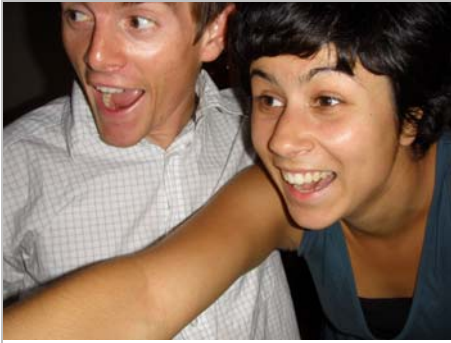
'I have already started my course on May and it's going to run for 3 years. I got the scholarship which you sent for us, thank you' Steve Juma, peer educator via-email, August 2007

An essential element of the Kicking AIDS Out project is the Rose Scholarship Fund, established in 2006, the fund provides school fees in the amount of 10,000 Kenyan shillings (approx \$140US) to leaders that have shown outstanding skill and dedication to the project. In its first year, the fund supported Beatrice Akinyi to complete her standard 8 (grade 8 equivalent) 3 students to attend high school, and 4 students to attend post-secondary or vocational training. This included Ruth Akinyi who completed a course at tailoring school, Eric Omalla who

completed his first year accounting exams and Steve Juma who has just began his first year towards becoming a lab technician. In its second year, the fund was offered to a total of 9 students, increasing the number of boys and girls in high school including Suleiman Abubakar, Josephine Adhiambo, Kepha Okoyo, and assisted Beatrice Akinyi in starting her first year in high school.

The near future of the scholarship fund is bright with 6 more available scholarships planned in 2008. This brings our total number of scholarships to

13, and increases the funding amount from 10,000KSH (\$144US) to 15,000 (\$217US) per student, allowing students who are not able to supplement school fees with their own families fees to attend school as well. More work is yet to be done, as a number of hard-working and worthy leaders are still not able to attend school, and we are continuing to appeal to donors regarding our long term strategy with our program.



Intern profile

Rehana Tejpar

'We have got a new friend and we hope that we will work together in the next coming months. She is friendly and she wants to know more about KAO'- Eric Omalla, peer educator

I got the opportunity this summer to meet, and interact with Rehana Tejpar an intern with the Canadian organization 'Schools Without Borders'. As a part of her internship, Rehana will be working with the Kicking AIDS Out program developing Kenyan leaders, running ongoing training, and hopefully building in an assistant position to run the KAO program by the time that she is ready to leave. Here is a little bit about Rehana.

Where are you from?

- I'm from Toronto, Canada

How long will you be spending in Kibera?

- I will be spending 7 months in Kibera

When did you get involved in international development?

-In the beginning of my studies in political science at university about 4 years ago, I became interested in issues of international justice, human rights and international development. Realizing the immense disparities of wealth, power and rights in the world, made it impossible for me to turn a blind eye and pretend that I could live the comfortable life I was born into without working at making a positive change and giving something back in some way.

How did you learn about this internship with SWB? What made you apply for it?

I have worked with children and youth my whole life, teaching dance, languages and as a camp counsellor, and most recently I have been pursuing arts based approaches to education such as through theatre. Back in April, with graduation around the corner, I began researching for organisations working with youth through the arts and I found Schools Without Borders. I very much liked their philosophy of youth empowerment and their focus on peer education and participatory development through alternative means such as hip hop, graffiti, video, dance and theatre. I knew I had to become involved. It had always been my plan to do an internship in community development abroad after graduation and when I learned that SWB had an internship program through CIDA, the match seemed to fit perfectly. I applied and was thrilled to

be offered the position at CFK in Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya.

What are some of your hopes for your time in Kibera?

- In many ways this is an incredible learning experience for me and I hope to learn about the issues facing the communities living in this urban slum and where I, as an individual see myself able to make a genuine contribution. I hope to learn from the amazing team here at CFK more tools for working with issues of gender, gender and HIV/AIDS, life skills and reproductive health as well as learning from the drama group, more ways of using theatre for outreach, public awareness, dialogue creation and community building and hopefully sharing some of my knowledge with them.

What are some of your initial impressions of Kibera?

In the short time that I've spent here, mostly in Soweto, I've noticed that people are extremely friendly here, especially the children who will flock up to you in an instant yelling "how are you? how are you?." The area is incredibly populated, with only narrow roadways between the rows of houses and shops. Great music is playing everywhere. People are working hard. There is an obvious issue of waste and pollution which - mountains of plastic bags and trash frame the roadside, in which you'll often see kids playing. CFK is a small, tight knit community organization, built on healthy inter personal relationships and a great deal of individual responsibility for one's own projects. Great team ethic, and large importance placed on the relationship with the community.

Good Luck Rehana, and we look forward to hearing from you as your experience in Kibera progresses. For more information about schools without borders, please visit their website at www.schoolswithoutborders.com.



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Leader profile- Steven Juma

My names are STEVEN JUMA OKELLO. I'm second born in a family of eight members, five brothers and three sisters. I am 23 years old I finished my high school in the year 2004 raised in Kibera slum- the largest slum in East Africa. I joined Carolina for Kibera as a volunteer under Sports program.

In the year 2005, the introduction of another awareness program was introduced known as Kicking Aids out which was started by intern from Canada known as Alex Ross and Sports program officer Abdul Hussein "Cantar" after their trip from Namibia.

Different members were recruited and I was among them to join the KAO training and till now I am a die hard member because KAO is my life.

I really achieved a lot from the program such as; being a peer educator, gain more knowledge about HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, basic computer knowledge and to live a healthy life. My parents moved to upcountry and I now remain with my older brother, I had a difficulty on how I can join college due to lack of

assistance in terms of paying college costs, after dedicating my self at KAO programs I was short listed among the members who qualified for Alex Ross scholarship.

I was so thankful for the offer which I have a face to smile, I forward my prospectus on the course I want to learn and I was facilitated the dues, by know I am the proudest member who really appreciated for the fund which in future will make fulfill my dream. Currently I am in College of, Kenya College of medicine and related studies a diploma course in laboratory technology.

I can request friends and well-wishers to support and assist young leaders in terms funds to make their dreams comes true and assist their community in terms of wise knowledge. For those who assist in terms of scholarship program to be sincere with you your donation makes a big impact to the life of youth in the largest sum in East Africa Kibera. The hands which gives are the hands which are blessed. Thanks a lot and God bless.