



EMERGING HUMANITY

NEWSLETTER

Progress at Lifunga High School

In February of 2008, Dan Gluck and Deborah Zysman contacted Emerging Humanity after they read an article about us in a Hawaii-based newspaper. Dan and Deb wanted to know if we were interested in building a girl's high school in a rural area called Lifunga, located two hours outside of Kisumu, Kenya.

In June, we conducted several site visits to the Lifunga in order to determine if the right circumstances were available for us to take on this project. Once there, we discovered that the target community had a vacant, pre-existing structure located on the property of a local primary school. The building needed heavy renovation, but it seemed possible to convert it into 2 large classrooms plus two offices for the staff.

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Recent updates

In early 2009, Emerge completed construction of these two classrooms and the administrative block which will be the future location of Lifunga Girls' Elite Secondary School. All that remains to be done is paint the walls, deliver the desks, buy the books and recruit the students.



Hired locals to assist with project

We want to give a shout out and special thanks to the six young mothers who helped us in transporting water from the reservoir in Lifunga town to the project site. The concrete foundation and

walls would not have cured properly without access to water both during and after the completion of the classrooms.

Every morning, these ladies carried water on their heads and delivered it to the local youth whom we employed to lay the concrete foundation and smooth plastering of the classroom walls.

In exchange, all the workers involved were able to receive an entire month of full-time employment and wages, which is a rarity in the slow-paced and under-developed area of Lifunga, located near the Ugandan border.



Four of the six women hired to help construct new classrooms at Migosi Primary School.

The future of Lifunga women

In Lifunga district, there are approximately 12 primary schools. The closest high school is many miles away and young women who grow up in rural poverty cannot afford to attend it. As a result, most young women in the Lifunga area do not continue with their education. They get married, and they have children shortly after graduating from 9th grade.

Our primary goal is to build a high school, which will provide education to these at-risk young women. Dan and Deborah have been amazing in their efforts to turn this dream into a reality. To date, they have raised \$10,000 towards the project.



If you are interested in donating to this, and our other Emerging Humanity projects, please contact Bart Abbott at globalfuture@gmail.com.



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A 'thank you' from St. Mark's

When I started my Job as the Head teacher of St. Mark's Nyabera Primary School the school was on the verge of total collapse. In 2007, the school enrolment had dropped to 732 children, and the average performance of our students during national exams was 242.63. Then, in 2008, we began a partnership with Emerging Humanity through the auspices of Mr. Bart Abbott and Mr. James Oindo. Since that time our school has increased enrollment by more than 200 pupils. Also, the average test scores for standard eight students on national exams made a positive leap of 12.61 points, and we now experience an 80% attendance rate during parent meetings.

We attribute these improvements to our partnership with Emerging Humanity. For example St. Mark's Primary had not been painted since its inception in 1985. The classrooms were very dark, and they did not empower the children. Last year, Emerging Humanity painted the entire school, providing the paint for the administration block and all 18 classrooms. This project enabled both the teachers and pupils to embrace positivity and hope. Emerging Humanity also built 70 desks and 40 chairs for the upper primary classes, and simultaneously our school raised funds to repair the tables and chairs for the students in lower primary. The staffroom has also been refitted with 20 new chairs. Teachers have therefore attacked their work with vigour and enthusiasm. Given the slum background the school is now moving from a disorderly community to a respectful, disciplined and orderly environment. These collaborative efforts have restored the children's self-esteem and self-worth.

It has been awesome working with the entire Emerging Humanity team. Their sensitivity, insight and depth of knowledge about our needs has kept us in the spirit of moving forward. We cannot thank the donors of Emerging Humanity enough - a big thanks to you, once more. Your support has really been there for us with a true sense of Humanity.

Mr. Dominic O Wachio

Head Teacher, St Mark Nyabera Primary School

Motto: "Education is Light"

Vision: "Education for all to change the slum community"

New boys latrines at Migosi Primary School

In January of 2009, Emerging Humanity finished constructing four boys toilets to improve the sanitation situation for over 1,000 male students at Migosi Primary School. The completion of these toilets marks a major improvement in the learning environment since we first began our partnership with the school administration.

In 2007, Migosi Primary possessed only eight girls toilets and four boys toilets for over 2,200 students. To make matters worse, the school had no access to safe water either. Today, Migosi has twice as many toilets and 30,000 litres of safe water storage facilities. This partnership with Migosi primary has shown us the dramatic improvements which can occur when school staff, local community members, and international partners work together to improve the lives of children.



Migosi Primary students stand beside the newly built toilets.

SHARE OUR DREAM OF HELPING 20,000 CHILDREN IN KENYA.
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