



Perspectives & Progress

Summer 2014

KHCI Kenyan Healthcare Initiatives

The people of Ntalabany walk six hours to see a nurse. Soon, their walk will be much shorter.



Villagers of Ntalabany marking the site of the future clinic. Even the smallest of children placed rocks.

Who We Are

Kenyan Healthcare Initiatives was established in 2008 in response to the presence of broad areas of abject poverty, inadequate healthcare accessibility, lack of available clean water, and high neonatal and maternal mortality. Working directly with Maasai community members, our projects are community driven. All needs assessments, planning, and prioritization of projects are done through the Il Ngwesi Group Ranch, a government certified area in Lakipia County, Kenya. The group ranch is the governing body for about 7000 Maasai pastoralists and has been cited by the United Nations Equator Initiative as one of the most effective grass roots organizations in Africa. In addition to KHCI's ongoing initiatives, it has formed a relationship with Days for Girls, International to improve female health.

A New Clinic Site for Ntalabany

We are one-third of the way in donations to build Ntalabany Clinic from the ground up. To complete this three room, cinder block structure we need to raise an additional \$25,000. The nearest clinic is about a six hour walk and there is limited transportation. Gladys Kipsang, R.N. tells us that due to the remoteness of this area, it is very difficult to provide healthcare support. The Group Ranch, the District Medical Health Officer, Christine Lekurtut, M.D. and village senior elders all agree this is a much needed clinic for this area which will serve several thousand people. KHCI is actively working with the Meru, Kenya Rotary Club and local CT Rotary Clubs to obtain a grant for capital equipment, a greenhouse and potable water for this site. Construction will take three months with some help from the villagers once all funds are available. Our goal is to begin construction early 2015.

To find out more, or to support our efforts, please visit: www.khci.org

II' Ngwesi Strategic Planning

In April, KHCI was part of the second five-year Strategic Planning meeting of the II' Ngwesi Group Ranch. Representatives from all of the neighborhoods (villages) in the ranch, members of various Group Ranch Boards, facilitators, partners and government officials met to build a five-year strategic plan based on input from the seven neighborhoods in the group Ranch. Among the seven strategies developed during the meeting, KHCI was intimately involved in “Improving Access to Water, Health, Sanitation and Food Security, and Increasing the Capacity and Participation of Woman across all levels”. KHCI is committed to implementing health



Pricilla Piroris, neighborhood Facilitator and Lucas Punyua,, Manager – II Ngwesi Lodge presenting at the Strategic Planning meeting.

programs, providing equipment and supplies for which there are currently limited government funds available, educational grants for health care

instruction and assisting in bringing water to the neighborhoods. Woman’s health initiatives and empowerment are a top priority for KHCI.

Days For Girls and More

KHCI is proud to introduce the Days for Girls Program (DFG) within our Group Ranch. DFG is an international organization, committed to distributing reusable, sustainable menstrual kits to developing countries and in the US, and providing a comprehensive health education program. DFG has received international recognition and was featured in the January 2014 issue of *O Magazine*. KHCI distributed seventy-five menstrual kits made and donated by many Connecticut volunteers. We are in the process of starting a sustainable microbusiness within the group ranch, and we are developing an initial distribution route from the two clinics to local schools to develop a closer and earlier connection between the students and the clinic nurses. Problems with menstrual hygiene are a major cause of chronic school absences within the Group



Introducing the Days For Girl Program at the Chumvi Clinic with Teacher George, KHCI board member Mary Ann Stroup, Nurse Martha Malison and other members of the community.

Ranch. Together we can solve this problem and keep these girls in school. Find out more at Daysforgirls.org.

On this trip, KHCI, in collaboration with DFG and American Friends of Kenya, presented the “Healthy Kids Become Healthy Adults” health education program,

which includes the Days for Girls curriculum, to clinic nurses, teacher representatives and the County Medical Director. KHCI also initiated the distribution of reading glasses, eye test charts, woman’s health charts and otoscopes for the primary hospital and clinics of the Group Ranch.