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JUNE 2010

ISSUE 11



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**DONATE**

**A**

**COW!**

Ed is also looking to purchase some small cows as an investment to cover his flights to Kenya, the cost of his room in Athi River, his food and possibly some health insurance. If you would like to sponsor a cow, the cost is approximately \$150.00. After about 5 months grazing, the once-small-cows can be sold for more than double that initial amount. So your donation really increases after some months! If you would like to buy a cow for Ed, send your donations to:

**COWS - The Ed Colina Foundation**

**PO Box 199**

**Burlington, KY 41005**

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**We are currently**

## Back to the States

**Dear Ed,**

This is the last eNewsletter written from Kenya for a while and of course, I am feeling a mixture of emotions. I am very happy to be returning to the States to visit my mom, children and friends. But at the same time, I always feel a little uneasy and sad whenever I prepare to head home for a while. I leave behind some great friends doing some great things. My own work will shift from spending your generous donations, to raising more funds for future projects. That is a daunting task. But, like all the things we do here, we leave it in God's hands and trust that all that we need will come. It always has.

In this month's eNews we have several articles about the support we are getting from donors in the States and from the UK. This support comes in the form of individual donations, school fund-raising, church collections and visitors from the U.S. helping with our projects. The support also comes in the form of purchases of bead work which now extends from California to New Hampshire to England. Both the bead work orders and the Women's Goat Cooperative are steadily

growing. These two Income-Generating Activities are adding to our goal of sustainability and local management. Along similar sustainability lines, read on and see if you might want to donate a cow?

And also included in this newsletter is a look at the good and the bad results of the long rains. So read on and learn more about the life here in Kenya. Thank you so much for making our projects possible. Without you, none of this happens!

Sincerely,

ED



Students at St. Timothy Academy Welcome Visitors

## Visitors from Kentucky! Others to Come

St. Henry District High School sophomore, Mike Best, his mother and aunt arrived in Kenya on May 31st. Mike raised money back home to support projects in the North with the Samburu tribe as well as providing donations for our projects in Athi River. The three spent the day with us on June 1st, shopping for food for the children in two of our schools, Esarunoto and St Timothy Academy. They distributed food, drinks and treats to the children and teachers. They also brought some playground items and soccer jerseys!

Beginning in late June, Lloydie Zaiser, Director of [KEST](#), will bring travelers from the US to visit a number of programs in Kenya, namely [Nyumbani](#) Childrens Home, Lea Toto, and Nyumbani Village. But Lloydie will also stop at our projects in Athi River to spend some quality time with the students!

Karibu!

searching for grant opportunities to fund a new **Adult Literacy Resource Centre** we would like to build in Athi River, Kenya. If you know of any funding sources for literacy projects which also support the empowerment of women, please let us know. We are hoping to purchase land, construct our building and conduct annual programming for a price tag of under \$50,000 USD. What a deal!

### OTHER NEWS

This week we purchased an additional 35 school uniforms for Esarunoto Preschool students. They look very smart!

As we reported in the May eNewsletter, **Journey: The Ed Colina Foundation** received its 501c3 tax exempt status. We now have a new mailing address in the United States. To contact us, write:

**Journey: The Ed Colina Foundation**  
P.O Box 199  
Burlington, KY 41005  
USA

### Ed Heads Home

The countdown continues to Ed's flight back to The United States via London and New York City. He flies from Nairobi on June 23rd and arrives in Cincinnati on the 27th.

If you would like Ed to come and visit your school, drop us an email. Perhaps a visit can be scheduled when the new school year begins in August.

Welcome!



Board Member Chris Goddard receives check from St Henry elementary 8th graders.

## St. Henry Elementary School Supports Maasai

St. Henry Eighth Graders have been working all year to support the Maasai Women and children in Athi River. In the winter, Ed visited a number of local schools. At St Henry's, he found that the students had already raised money from various sales and fundraisers. Pictured above is ECF Board Member Chris Goddard, accepting donations of close to \$3,000 from the eighth grade classes. Thanks go out especially to 8th Grade teacher Rose Hartman, Principal Phil Gessner and Service Learning Coordinator for Children's Inc., Mary Kay Connolly.

In addition to the check from St. Henry, we recently received donations from Holy Family Catholic School, Notre Dame Academy, St. Xavier High School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Burlington and Our Lady of Visitation Parish in Cincinnati. Other schools joining in to support Ed's mission are St Joseph School, Cold Springs, St Cecilia School in Independence KY, St Thomas School, Ft. Thomas and many others. Thanks to the schools and organizations that so generously support our work!

## Weather, rains, illnesses

The rains have definitely made a difference both here in Athi River and in the town of our newest preschool - Bisil. The grass is so high and green! No longer do the Maasai herdsman have to go away from home for months at a time, but can take the cattle, sheep and goats out for the day and return at sundown. The cattle are getting bigger by the day and if the rains were to stop today, the cattle could still graze here for many months. With the rains come the problems of mosquitoes, and contaminated water from run off containing animal and human waste. We continue to look for inexpensive sources of mosquito nets and prescription drug sources. The government has shut down the flow of medicines to the small clinics in our area and

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Below are websites of some of those who support our work.

[ECFoundation Blog](#)

[ECFoundation on Facebook](#)

[Florence Rotary](#)

[Grace Church](#)

[Hopecraft](#)

[Kenya Connect](#)

[IHM Church](#)

[KEST](#)

[Nyumbani](#)

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[BEADWORK](#)

[DANCING](#)

[ST. TIMOTHY](#)

[ADULT EDUCATION](#)

[MAASAI PICS](#)

[ST. TIMOTHY 2](#)

others. Often, by the time the Maasai get to a hospital, it is too late. Take for example Julius' new baby, born 13 days ago. The child was taken to a nearby clinic in Athi River. The clinic was unable to help the child who was then driven to Machakos, over an hour away. The parents waited there, with hundreds of other mothers and children, for one doctor. Once they got to see the doctor, the child was then sent to Nairobi's Kenyatta hospital where the child died this morning of "intestinal problems".



Church Roof

## New Church - New Roof

Ed made a deal with the pastor of a local Maasai church that if the congregation came up with the money for the walls for a new church, he and the Foundation would put on the roof. That was in 2008. The church raised enough money to cover the walls, doors, etc. and the Foundation sponsored the iron-sheet roof. **What was the price of the new roof? 66,000 Kenya Shillings or about \$840. Thank you for your generous support. A little goes such a long way in Kenya!**

The opening of the new church was on May 31st, following two nights of purification prayers before entering. The church and its services are Christian, with a strong foundation in Scripture. The Maasai sing and dance (vertical jumping) through most of the three or four-hour-long services. The people are very spiritual relying closely on God to provide needed water, proliferation of the herds and the health of their families. Prior to the completion of the new church, the Maasai gathered each Sunday in one of our little preschool classrooms.

## Goats & Bead Work Pay for School Fees

We continue to try make our education programs sustainable in the future so that continued outside funding will someday be unnecessary. We create income-generating activities to accompany or "pay for" the projects we initiate. To that end, the Foundation recently made a purchase of seventeen additional goats for the Maasai Women's Goat Cooperative. With the new "kids" that were recently born, we now have a total of 74 goats - and counting. Because of the increase in the size of the goats, the number of goats in the co-op, and the goats' ability to give milk for sale, the thirty-six women involved in the cooperative are able to pay school fees and

provide better for their children. The women have also returned some of the Foundation's initial investment from the sale of the milk. 21,000 shillings was returned to the project and will be reinvested in yet another income-generating activity. The women plan to lease a piece of land (1.5 acres) near the river, where they intend to plant maize (corn) for sale in Athi River town and which will also ground into maize flour to feed their families. This is a new endeavor by the Maasai who are not known for farming but for herding. Stay tuned!

The other income-generating activity, that continues to do well, is the Maasai bead work. As Ed prepares to return to the US, a final order of bracelets, key chains, etc is being completed for him to bring home. The women are paid immediately upon completion of their items at a table outside the school. At another nearby table, a school representative accepts the payment of school fees, thus teaching the women some easy budgeting lessons and reminding them that the reason that the bead work program was developed was to help them pay for their children's education.

## New Bisil Preschool

With your generous financial support, we began our first Child Development Center / Preschool about a year and a half ago in Athi River. We named the school "Esarunoto" or Refuge and it continues to flourish with over ninety students. These are ninety students who otherwise would not be attending school, since they are too young to cross the busy Mombasa Road.

The Foundation's second preschool in Bisil has been in operation for about four weeks now. Fifty-plus students, who have never before been to school, make the long walk to our two classrooms daily. They are fed an enriched porridge mixture and are taught by two trained Maasai ECDE teachers. As we have done in our other projects, we insist that the community not only support the school financially, paying one teacher, providing water, firewood etc, but also oversee the school's operation by way of an Education Committee. This group will continue to be trained in accounting for school fees, working with school issues, etc. until the time when they can take over the operation themselves.

Just as we have done with the Goat Cooperative and Beadwork in Athi River, our next step at Bisil is to find an income-generating activity that will help financially support the school. We are considering chickens!

Journey: The Ed Colina Foundation  
[WWW.EDCOLINAFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.EDCOLINAFOUNDATION.ORG)

Donations may be sent to:  
**Journey: The Ed Colina Foundation**  
**P.O.Box 199**  
**Burlington, KY 41005**

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