

WATER IS LIFE KENYA



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR *Celebration*

We're not much for bad news here at WILK. You may be getting enough of that elsewhere. In this newsletter, good news is overflowing. There was the Olepolos borehole opening ceremony and the blessing of clean, plentiful water at Enkong'u Narok.

Now, through training in our livestock as a business program, folks are implementing what they have learned and keep their livestock in a smarter, more profitable way. We are feeding into the smart cycle of clean water supporting healthy people and livestock, leading to more income and sustainable water supply.

I see so much potential in our new livestock keepers groups! There's an all ladies group led by an inspiring chairlady, called Somoine, who convinces everybody that ladies can DO something. There's a first for WILK: a youth group of warriors led by their newly inaugurated Chief Sontika Melok. Smart, livestock-loving young men see instantly the value of strategies to mitigate drought. Surely these are the future leaders of Kajiado, Kenya, and we have the chance of training them to be trailblazers of smart livestock keeping!

Success doesn't come easy. It takes time, work, money. We need your ongoing support. What we're doing is complex. Can you imagine we are still only 3 paid staff? Thank God for our volunteers! So ...please continue... or increase... your generous gifts to WILK. We need them and we use them WELL!

Water
is Life
Kenya



Thanks, Joyce

WILK News:

Enkong'u Narok Borehole Drilling

- **New website:** Check out our new website at the same address: www.waterislifekenya.com. Our new look better communicates our work, and allows you to easily make donations and buy our jewelry online.



• For a 3rd year, our **Livestock as a Business** program has yielded enormous returns. The groups bought a total of 66 cows with the loans and 28 more with their own money. Each group paid back their loan in full and made 42% more than they were loaned in profit after only 6 months! Five highly motivated groups have joined the program this fall, including a group of women and a group of young warriors.

- **In Hockessin, DE** we've partnered with "The Well" to sell our unique paper beads and the jewelry has been going fast. The proceeds from our bead sales not only support the families of 25 beaders, but contributed over \$20,000 toward water projects last year,

- **United Way Funding:** You can now support WILK through the United Way of Delaware. Write in Water is Life Kenya, number **12902**, and many employers will match your contribution.



Community members, students and teachers from Enkong'u Narok primary all came to see the drilling of the new borehole on May 28. They didn't have to wait long for water. To our amazement, the smell and then the sight of first water came after digging only 5 meters. We reached 50 meters and stopped. The driller told us, "We are having a hard time drilling further due to the water pressure".

With the community poised to grow substantially in the next few years, this abundant water provided by WILK has come at the perfect time. The school desperately needs the water for its growing student

population and hopes to build boys and girls dormitories very soon. Children will no longer be drinking the dirty swamp water, and the local clinic will have fresh water for their work.

Huge and heartfelt thanks go to the Laster Family and the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation for their support of Enkong'u Narok borehole. Now we need a final \$35,000 to complete the pump house, pump, generator, tanks.



Contribute today to finish this good work. In particular, WILK is asking our friends consider setting up a monthly gift to help stabilize the giving cycle (lots in the winter, nothing in the summer). Go to our website today to initiate a monthly gift.

DONATE NOW: WATER IS LIFE KENYA

314 E Main St,
Kelway Plaza, Suite 2
Newark, DE 19711



Want to help WILK get a leg up? Give online at:

www.waterislifekenya.com/donate
Make a recurring gift of \$20 or \$40/
month.

A Celebration at the Well



The tree led us to the spot to be surveyed for the well. You'll get water here, the experts said, and we did! We drilled there in September, 2012, reaching abundant, clean water. Since then, life has changed drastically for the people of Olepolos. The water from their borehole has transformed their lives from lives of struggle and constant worry about water into lives of normal, daily pursuits for farmers. July 31st was the day to celebrate, to call everyone to officially open Olepolos Community Borehole. And what a celebration it was!

The ceremony started with eating roasted meat, opening prayers to bless the day and then a welcome from the hosts. People were joyful, delighted to welcome all visitors to their transformed home. Local choirs sang and danced to entertain us. As the speeches were to begin, the cars carrying our partners, the Rotary Club of Muthaiga, arrived and we all rushed to welcome them. Choirs repeated their songs to welcome them before the speeches began.



The highlight of the celebration was the song/ skit performed by the Catholic Church of St. Cecilia. The women showed the way they used to walk 30 km roundtrip to find water, even while pregnant. Then they showed all the blessings they have now with the new borehole: they can wash clothes whenever they want, welcome a visitor to bathe and drink sweet water, drink whenever thirsty, plant trees, keep their homes and bodies clean. After each blessing, they raised their cups and shouted "Cheers!"

I was expected to give a speech

but instead, I shocked everybody and sang "How Great Thou Art" in Swahili. I thought a little surprise would wake people up a bit since my list of people to thank was long, starting with Mike Shearon and the Colonial Rotary Club in Dover: the tireless champions for the Olepolos Community Borehole Project. It was a long and challenging journey, with so many heroes along the way. These struggles only make the water that much sweeter today.



The children of Olepolos may never know that there was once a water problem in Olepolos! You, our donors and supporters, can feel proud to be part of such a wonderful success!



THANK YOU!



THIRSTY FOR MORE?



•Join **WILK @ Iron Hill Brewery in Newark, all day Nov 19th.** 20% of your bill (with enclosed Give 20 coupon) will go to WILK with opportunities to meet Joyce, win great prizes, and more. Support Water is Life Kenya by enjoying a great night together with us. **Reservations are highly recommended!**

•**Come on Safari with WILK**-we still have a few open spots for our 10-day safari (Feb 12-22) led by Joyce. Contact matt.kistler@waterislifekenya.com for more information about this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

•Check out our **beautiful jewelry** on our new online store. WILK jewelry makes a great gift!



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www.waterislifekenya.com

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