

# NorCal Awards Six Projects—\$6265.00!!!

This summer, NorCal's Grants Program received 16 requests for funding from community projects, the most in recent history. Four proposals alone were from Namibia Peace Corps Volunteers who had heard about our Grants Program from Board Member Andrew Bradley.

After meetings and e-mails, the Grants Committee recommended that six projects be awarded funds. The NorCal Board approved our recommendation at the September Board Meeting. These projects are regionally diverse and they are located in communities where NorCal funds can make a difference.

1. \$2000 for the Choco' Colombia Micro Finance Project of the Foundation for the Well Being and Development of Choco'. NorCal funds will be administered by a village women's bank as microloans to about 60 women. The proposal was submitted by Diane Gubatayao, NorCal member, on behalf of a support group in Davis, CA.
2. \$1070 to create the Community Gardens Project in Punta Gorda Town of the Toledo District in Belize. NorCal funds will be used for tools and seeds. Mike McGuire, current Peace Corps Volunteer in the town, is assigned to work with Plenty Belize.
3. \$1300 for the Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren Project in Ahero, Nyanza Region, Kenya, proposed by RPCV and NorCal Member Bie Bostrom, Walnut Creek, CA. The NorCal grant will be used to buy school uniforms and textbooks for 26 children.
4. \$1000 to the Tukwafeni Garden Project in Olupito in the Omusati Region of Namibia. A community garden there currently provides for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. NorCal funds will be used for garden materials and seeds. The project was proposed by Peace Corps Volunteer, Amber Lung.
5. \$500 for the Library Lighting Project in the Outer Islands of Micronesia. NorCal's funds will be used for solar-powered LED lighting appropriate for use in the community library at Equripik Atoll Public School.
6. \$395 to the Kayengona Combined School Mural Project in the Kavongo Region of Namibia. Kayengona Combined School is a Junior Secondary School with 450 students and 20 teachers. NorCal funds will buy 44 liters of paint for painting a series of inspirational murals to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, disease prevention and lifelong education, with school staff and students creating the designs. The project was proposed by Peace Corps Volunteer Cedar Spring Wolf.

## We Receive Thanks:

No sooner had our recipients been notified than the thanks started coming. Here is some of what we received:

From Manuela Cuesta Palma in Colombia: "Reciban un saludo muy especial de parte de los miembros 'FUNBICHOCO'. Aprovechamos para darles las gracias."

From Neil Mellen, DiFMctor, at Habel Outer Island Education Fund (Micronesia): "This is wonderful news. We are very excited to move forward with this project."

From Lisa Wartinger, Plenty International: "Thank you for NorCal PCA's support of our Home Gardens program in southern Belize! We appreciate it very much."

From Amber Lung, PCV, Namibia: "Thank you!! This is fantastic news!"

From Cedar Wolf, PCV, Namibia: "Thank you and the Northern California Peace Corps Association so much for approving the Kayengona Beautification Project. This project will be tremendous fun for the kids as well as a long lasting testament to their fight against AIDS and their struggle for quality education."

From Bie Bostrom, Founder, Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren (Ahero, Kenya): "Thank you so much for accepting my proposal. The news could not have come at a better time. I was able to buy supplies during my visit. Here are a few pictures of some of the grateful grandmothers. Soon I will send you a full report with pictures."

*NorCal Grants extends a special "thank you" to the friends and family of Tom Thiebault who contributed over \$2,000 to our Grants Program this year.*

## We Give Thanks!

Muchas Gracias to the 2008 NorCal Grants Committee Members. This work is very important for NorCal and our Grants Program:

*Dick Morton, San Francisco  
Theresa Cameranesi, San Francisco  
Alan and Darleen Beals, North Bay  
Lenore Waters, East Bay  
Phil Liston, East Bay  
Susan Neyer, East Bay  
Val Bredemeier, South Bay  
Marilyn Hyde, Santa Cruz/Monterey  
Amanda Carles, NorCal Board Liaison*



NorCal Grants Committee



Grandmothers in Ahero, Kenya signing a thank you letter to NorCal for our \$1300 grant.