

Grants Update

NorCal Grants Program Proposals
Due July 31, 2009

Once again this year, we are requesting your help in identifying worthy projects for NorCal Grants funding. In over 28 years, NorCal has maintained a long-standing commitment to provide financial support for community development programs. Last year, 2008, NorCal Grants helped projects in Belize, Colombia, Kenya, Namibia, and Eauripik Atoll, Micronesia.

We are especially interested in projects submitted by Northern California Peace Corps Association members and current Peace Corps Volunteers from Northern California.

The NorCal funding criteria include (as many as possible of the following):

- Be technically and economically feasible
- Improve the general welfare of the community
- Ensure that all those actively involved in the project will benefit from the results
- Address community need
- Facilitate the transfer of technology, skills and knowledge to others
- Foster self-sufficiency

The application deadline is **July 31, 2009**. Specific information about the application, process, and past awardees can be found on the NorCal Website at www.norcalpca.org. For more information contact Marilyn Hyde, Grants Committee Chair, at 831.724.1918 or marhyde@cruzio.com

Results of 2008 Grants Funding

1. NorCal Grants received the 2008 Annual Report of the **Habele Outer Island Education Fund**. The Habele Program is dedicated to educational projects in the Outer Islands of Micronesia. Their 2008 accomplishments included mailing over two dozen boxes of books and school supplies to seven islands and atolls. In 2008, the NorCal Grants donation of \$500 was used for lighting at the Euripik Atoll Public Library. For more details see the website at www.habele.org

2. A thank you letter from the **Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren** project:

Thanks for the money wired which will go to Goats Project. So far 58 goats plus food was delivered to G r G. The additional money will enable us to have 2 more goats for a bout 6 members who have large number of the Orphans to take care of.

It was a good initiative and I hope when you come for a visit we hope to go round to confirm whatever we have done. September is just around the corner. Lona Nyaywera (79yrs) actually was in our original list, those whom we interviewed first, She was reluctant then later feel the need of becoming a serious member. I remember during your last visit we never visited her at home but later approached me. As per now she has 2 grandchildren aged 7 yrs and 11yrs.

Mary Atieno Ouko(62yrs) has 3 grandchildren ages 7yrs,10yrs and14yrs is also one of the members who makes baskets.

I would like to request you to send a full list of G r G members so that we see how to handle cases of those who are not part of the project. Some have genuine cases and I hope we will consider them later.

Since the project started, I have a big challenge. Quite a number of Grandmothers who are also taking care of the Orphans always approached me in order to include them on the project. I have nothing to say but to encourage them to be in touch. My suggestion when you come next time, we can do another interview. In an African society when someone is left out on something she or He is qualified to they become discouraged.

It is my prayer the project will expand when the necessary will be there to accommodate another 30 members who are actually in need.

With the balls the orphans too will be in a position to form a strong team so that they have time to meet every weekends.

Finally, I hope to let you know the last purchases soon, maybe after next Tuesday. Oriti wanenore kendo ! Moses Warah

3. **Tukwafeni Garden Project** to be officially opened, paving the way for employment of local gardeners, increased food security, and a training centre for school learners and workshop participants.

Olupito-Okalongo, Namibia, 22 April 2009 – On Thursday, 30 April 2009 at 10:00 in Olupito-Okalongo, government and community leaders, and community members will join The Tukwafeni Garden Project to officially open the garden. Thanks to generous funding from The Church Alliance for Orphans (CAFO), The Omusati Regional Council, and The Northern California Peace Corps Association, this Project has become a reality.



Using a neighbouring family garden, in existence since 1968, as an example and source of pride and motivation, project members have been working to start a community project which would generate income, increase food security, and also serve as a training centre for school learners and workshop participants. This large garden (150 square metres) is an impressive sight, and members have been working hard. From the construction of a quality fence, to land preparation, to planting, it is clear the group is motivated and their intentions are pure. They are using the land they know so well, with the experience of the neighbouring family garden, to make home-grown food security a reality. Income will be generated through produce sales, as well as nominal fees for use as a training centre.

Finally, this project serves as an example to others in their community and beyond, about what more can be done with the fertile land we are lucky to have here, and about how to maximize water conservation. "Gardens are such a good opportunity, especially here in the North, where we have fertile soil, but when we finish cultivating muhangu, we don't continue working in the fields," said Meme Petrine Shiimi, director of Oonte OVC organization in Ondangwa, who visited the family garden and Tukwafeni Project last year. As a training centre, the Project will inspire, encourage, and guide visitors to make/improve their own gardens, ensuring a healthy and nutritional diet for generations to come.