

THE GLOBAL INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP

Indianapolis, Indiana & Chulaimbo, Kenya

Committed to meeting the needs of vulnerable children in western Kenya



Spring 2009

www.globalinterfaithpartnership.com

Indiana Partnering Congregations

Congregation Beth El Zedeck

Faith Missionary

North United Methodist

St. Joan of Arc Catholic

St. Luke's United Methodist

St. Monica Catholic

St. Paul's Episcopal

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic

Second Presbyterian

Tabernacle Presbyterian

Ministering in partnership with over 25 congregations in the Chulaimbo region of western Kenya from diverse traditions, including:

African Inland Church

African Israel Ninevah

Anglican Church of Kenya

Church of Christ

Coptic Orthodox

Legio Maria

Pentecostal Assembly of God

Roman Catholic

Seventh Day Adventist

Voice of Salvation

25 new students selected as Umoja Scholars

When the academic year began in January, 25 new Umoja Scholars began their secondary school education. Selected by the Umoja Project Education Committee to receive tuition support because of their family circumstances and their academic promise, these 25 young people will meet regularly in a peer support group.

All 25 of these students are being supported through funds raised by Indianapolis area youth through the 2008 Kenya Carnival benefit. The Umoja Project now supports a total of 74 secondary school students, up from 42 in 2008.



Peer Group Facilitator Leonard Otieno (front left) and Education Committee Chair Rev. Tom Sidede (front right) gather with Umoja's 25 new Form I students.



Umoja Scholar head of class

Stephen is a Form II student (high school sophomore) supported by the Umoja Project. Stephen has lived with his grandmother in the Chulaimbo area since the death of both parents. He is an exceptional student who earned top scores on the secondary school entrance exam. However, in spite of Steven's determination to raise the money for his tuition by digging weeds for local farmers, he was unable to make enough money to pay for his schooling. Desperate to stay in school, Steven chose to repeat Class 8, which is free, rather than drop out of school.

With the assistance of the Umoja Project, Stephen has completed his first year of high school, placing first in his class! What a pleasure it is to know that Stephen finally is pursuing his dream of completing high school. We are eager to see where his path leads.

Kenya Carnival 2009

Saturday, September 5 - 2:00-6:00pm

**Second Presbyterian Church
7700 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana**

A community event sponsored by youth from Indianapolis area congregations and schools working together to benefit the Umoja Project's education program. FUN FOR ALL AGES!

www.kenyacarnival.com

School lunch program key to student success

Program expanding to 15 primary schools

Children, teachers and guardians alike are thankful for the Umoja Project's daily lunch program. The children, of course, are happy to receive the regular hot meal of maize, beans and vegetables. Teachers and guardians, who identified hunger as the primary reason for poor school attendance and academic performance, are pleased that the children are coming to school much more regularly and doing better in their classes.

The program has had other benefits as well. School and community relations are improving as teachers and guardians work together to cover some of the costs and implement the program. Teachers from the participating schools, who meet together regularly with Umoja Project staff, are finding it helpful to talk with one another about other issues affecting the vulnerable children in their classrooms. The children have benefited from the social support of eating with other children and getting to know their teachers better.

Through the generous support of the Indianapolis Interfaith Hunger Initiative (IHI), the Umoja Project has been able to expand the program from the original 10 primary schools piloted in 2008. By early summer, the program will be operating in 15 schools, serving over 2500 children each school day.



Students at Kuoyo Primary School are served lunch

Interfaith trip planned for January 2010

The Global Interfaith Partnership is planning its first interfaith trip to Chulaimbo. The trip will be modeled after "pilgrimages of pain and hope" held in other parts of Africa. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to hear people's stories, build relationships with our congregational partners in the Chulaimbo region, and celebrate the places where hope is emerging.

There will be an interest meeting on **Wednesday, May 13, 6:00pm, in the Club Room at North UMC**. The meeting will be an opportunity to meet the trip coordinator, Alice Brown, and to learn more specifics about how the plans are taking shape.

Tentative Dates: January 7 - 23, 2010

Group Size: 10-12 adults

Cost: Estimate \$3000 - \$3500, depending upon airfare and exchange rate.

Itinerary: In addition to several days in the Umoja Project's service area, the trip will include time in Eldoret learning about the IU-Kenya Partnership's AMPATH program as well as some of the other projects with Indianapolis connections. There will be some time for seeing some of Kenya's beautiful wildlife as well!

For more information, contact Alice Brown (acwwb@sbcglobal.net).

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