

Together we are changing lives... one girl at a time.

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

During September, 2003, I visited Kenya in the company of Antonette Boody and Veronica Tella, who are girls' sponsors. I am always overwhelmed to witness a sponsor meeting her sponsored girl for the first time, and this was no exception. This unique opportunity is available for all sponsors who would like to visit with the girls, their families and the Dupoto Women's Group.

We divided our travels between the Isinya Sponsorship Region and the remote and beautiful Amboseli Wildlife Sponsorship Region, where we visited all the sponsored girls and most of the schools. We were entertained many times with "welcome songs" and invited into many homes where we were honored with 'nyama choma' (roast goat) and many cups of tea.

During our stay at the Amboseli Sponsorship Region (started in January 2003), we attended a meeting with 14 elders of the area. The elders, the leaders of the community, praised the sponsorship program for their daughters. Their only concern is that we work hard and fast to find sponsors for other girls.



Patrick Papatiti leading the elders meeting. Debby Rooney and Van Houten, seated.

## SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsorships continue to increase and we have **91** in hand with additional prospects. Each girl is guaranteed the opportunity to continue her education as far as she is capable; two of the Nabulu Girls Group began college in September 2003. I was fortunate to be in Isinya the day that Ann Maina left for Teacher Training College and Lorna Sironka enrolled for a degree in Pharmacy. These girls are the future of the BEADS programs, not only as role models, but as future sponsors themselves.

**PROGRAM ASSISTANTS** – Rukia Kadidi and Patrick Papatiti continue to further their education and increase their responsibilities.

**Rukia Kadidi, Program Assistant/Isinya Region:** Rukia has entered her second year at Tangaza College in Social Ministries. In addition to supervising the Dupoto Women's Group handicraft business and managing the Isinya sponsorship region, she is also training the Amboseli Wildlife Sponsorship Region program assistant, Patrick Papatiti.

**Patrick Papatiti, Program Assistant/Amboseli:** Papatiti was selected due to his commitment to women's issues, girls education AND his highly influential position as leader of the Maasai warriors (Moran). This honor was bestowed upon him by the community elders. Papatiti will lead 8,000 warriors from this region for life. Tradition calls for Papatiti to shave his warrior hair at a ceremony (Eunoto), which marks the end of

warrior-hood and the beginning of the next phase of life as a junior elder. Although Papatiti's Eunoto will not take place for a few years, he will ceremonially shave his hair in January as he returns to finish high school. (Warrior dress is not allowed in high school!) BEADS secured a sponsorship for Patrick, feeling that his education will be critical to his ability to lead the sponsorship program and influence the entire community.



Amboseli warriors - Patrick Papatiti, far left.

## AMBOSELI WILDLIFE SPONSORSHIP REGION

I visited all the sponsored girls—17 at Rombo Girls Primary School in Loitokitok and 5 at Kimana Secondary School. I was VERY pleased with the quality of the education the girls are receiving at these schools. It was a stark comparison with the ill-equipped, understaffed and poorly trained teachers of the local public schools in the region. Our determination to link sponsors for this region is a major priority. Our goal of a highly educated core of Maasai women to lead this region can only be realized by providing sponsorships and a quality education. The lack of communication facilities and the rural, spread-out nature of the Amboseli Region continues to impede the organization in this Region. I thank all the Amboseli sponsors for their understanding and patience.

### GRANTS and DONATIONS

**Friends of Kenya**, an organization of returned Peace Corp Volunteers from Kenya, awarded BEADS a \$1000 grant for improvement of school facilities and to expand the workshop program for the sponsored girls. As all the elementary-level girls in Isinya attend Top Ride

School, Headmaster Peter Waweru is organizing the grant distribution. AIDS/HIV

training workshops in conjunction with the Peace Corp have resulted in 4 Nabulu Group girls and 3 Dupoto Women fully trained as AIDS/HIV trainers. The workshops will continue until every sponsored girl has received AIDS training, and all girls in high school are certified AIDS/HIV trainers.

Water is always a concern and a portion of the grant has been used to purchase a water holding tank in order to conserve water during the dry season.



Top Ride girls display their AIDS training certificates. L to R: Catherine Nchumuya, Betty Tonkei, Queen Kisoso and Florence Nasai.



## TOP RIDE LIBRARY

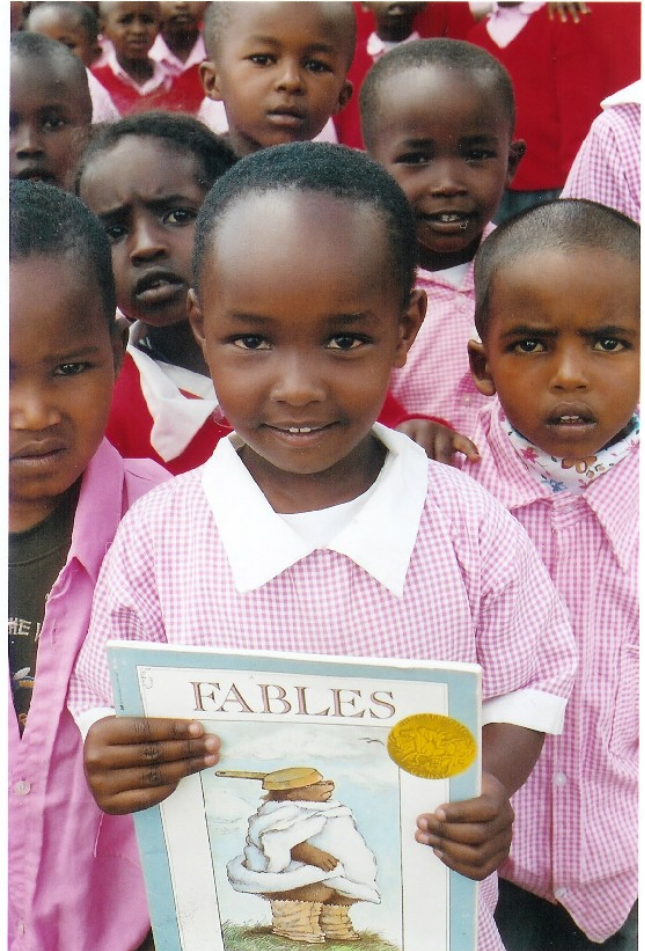
Books make the students very happy – just look at Maisa's smile in the attached photo. A generous donation of \$1000 began the start up phase of the Top Ride Library. The book and periodical selection will be coordinated by Headmaster Waweru and BEADS board member Erkia Martin and will be designed for the entire community. The library will also provide volunteer opportunities for the sponsored girls.

## LOCAL KENYAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions from the local community for the Nabulu Girls last town clean-up in August, 2003, consisted of 5 rakes, 5 hoes, 5 shovels, trash bags, gloves and SODAS for all 150 participants. Sodas are a treat most students only get 3 times a year at the town clean-up. The Dupoto Women's Group also made a contribution of beading supplies for the Nabulu girls to make their own products. This program not only maintains traditional beading skills but also helps to teach the girls basic business procedures. Junior Achievement Kenya will provide training for the girls.

The effectiveness of our programs can be measured by the local community's commitment. I consider this a milestone for the BEADS programs.

**Kenya Wildlife Services** began environmental education programs with a tree-planting project. Their education program and donations of seedlings have enabled Top Ride to plant 120 trees. Each student cares for one or two trees they call their own! The program goals are to beautify the school, stem desertification and provide a resource for environmental education highlighting alternative sources of fuel.



Top Ride students love the books donated by Doug Walker and many other donors.

## PRODUCTS

The Dupoto Women's Group is at full production making keychains. The BREAK the CHAINS Campaign has provided full employment and a steady income for DWG.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the sponsorship program, the women's products and your efforts to promote the BREAK the CHAINS of Illiteracy campaign. It is only through your contributions and efforts that we can continue to succeed—changing one life at a time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah K. Rooney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'R'.

Debby Rooney

BEADS Co-Founder