

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

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

Our sponsorship program continues to expand and we now have more than 200 sponsored girls. Seven girls have completed high school and are presently interning for one year for BEADS while they await college admittance. The interns have been trained as elementary school teachers and Trainers of Aids Trainers. They are presently posted in Amboseli National Park and Top Ride School in Isinya, where they work in the schools and with the local community. As the cost for interning and college is greater than the individual sponsor's fee of \$360 per year, each high school graduate has been given multiple sponsors to cover these increased costs.

This year has been extraordinary for the development of the extended programs, which reach out to the girls and their entire community in Kenya.

In January 2005, Wendy Ellsworth, internationally acclaimed bead artist, presented several beading workshops to the Dupoto Women's Group and the interns. Additionally, she trained two *new* beading women's groups in the Amboseli and Samburu regions. This year's fall home shows will be highlighted with **beautiful new products** that Wendy helped design. Many sponsors hosted BEADS parties last fall and I look forward to a flurry of shows again this fall.

The home shows are a great way for sponsors to meet each other and to support the women's groups and all our critical programs. YOUR help with home parties funds many of the BEADS programs.



Wendy Ellsworth with her sponsored girls and teaching new beading techniques to the Dupoto Womens's group and their daughters.

100 MILE WALKATHON

Isinya to Amboseli, Kenya

January 2006

Our growing success brings BEADS to our first major fundraising activity. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to cover staff development in the USA and Kenya and to begin funding an endowment to secure our long-term commitment to the girls and their communities.

In January 2006, warriors, teachers, fathers, mothers, sponsors and their girls will **WALK 100 miles** from Isinya to Amboseli National Park.

HIV/AIDS TRAINING and TESTING

BEADS has trained over 30 people as Trainers of AIDS Trainers, who in turn have taught hundreds of people. When we began training in 2003, many of the participants reported they believed HIV/AIDS was witchcraft or "other" diseases. In January 2005, four of those same warriors took an HIV/AIDS test revealing their acceptance of the disease. Thankfully, their HIV/AIDS tests were all negative.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS TRAINING

Circumcision is a right of passage for all pubescent Maasai boys and girls. BEADS funding provided awareness training for community leaders including several midwives/circumcisors - *with an almost unbelievable result!*

Mama Esther is one of these midwives and mother to our sponsored girl, Esther. Esther is in 7th grade and ready for her coming of age ceremony this August. When I met with Mama Esther two weeks ago, she asked if her sponsor would be pleased if she **did not** have the ritual for Esther and the other girls. She said, "I want to honor our sponsors since they are so important for our daughters' futures."

In August 2005, Esther's sponsor will host the first coming of age ceremony **without circumcision** in the Amboseli region. With the help of our sponsors and friends, our goal is to host many non-circumcision ceremonies.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND TEACHER TRAINING

Many sponsors and donors have contributed books and teaching supplies to open the Top Ride Academy and Enkong Narok School libraries. Several weeks of BEADS-sponsored workshops this year focused on library skills, reading programs and interactive teacher-training techniques. Our Maasai interns have painstakingly

translated many beginning reader books into Kimaasai (by hand), so their students can learn to read in their native language. These are the **first** books translated into Kimaasai and our first graders are thrilled. We are sure this continued effort will make a huge change for all the students learning to read.

SPONSORS TRIPS

Many sponsors have visited their girls, the schools and families. Sponsors are always encouraged to visit independently whenever they can, but BEADS is pleased to offer several upcoming group trips.

BEADS WALKATHON

Sponsors are invited to walk the whole walk or just a portion. After several days of walking, I am sure some sponsors will retreat to the lovely lodges of Amboseli National Park where they will enjoy the beautiful views of Mt Kilimanjaro and the extraordinary elephants, lions and masses of birds.

DEEPER AFRICA TOUR

I will accompany this luxury safari with Deeper Africa to Isinya and Amboseli National Park. Limited to 14 participants, this safari will focus on visiting your sponsored girls, schools and the traditional Maasai culture in Amboseli National Park – in ultimate luxury.

BEADING SAFARI

Led by Wendy Ellsworth and Fun Safaris, participants will visit the beading women's groups in Amboseli National Park, Samburu Game Reserve and the Dupoto Women in Isinya, Kenya. This will be a wonderful time to meet and share your life with the traditional Kenyan women. You will come home with many new friends on the other side of the globe. The safari will also highlight the beautiful game in all the visited parks.

Thank you again for all your support.
We are changing girls' lives – one girl at a time.

Sincerely,



Debby Rooney

BEADS Co-Founder