

Raising faith in

# The Backyard

with a passion for generous stewardship ■ August 2011

## **GATEWAY TO DREAMS**

The Kagera Scholarship Fund is a cornerstone on which many students in Kagera region depend to pursue their education. Hosanna has funded over 180 scholarships for orphans and those in dire financial need since the scholarship program began 5 years ago. After grade 6, educational expenses in Tanzania are self-funded by the individual. Our assistance has given academically eligible students the opportunity to continue with their studies and graduate from grade 10 (secondary school). Our assistance has also given them a sense of hope and a greater confidence in their own ability to fulfill their dreams by obtaining an education. We would like to share the story of two scholarship students.

### **Redina Eustace's story:**

Redina is an orphan whose parents died of a meningitis outbreak when she was an infant. She never met her parents and was raised by her uncle. After grade 6, she went to live with her sister and brother-in-law. Redina was a Kagera scholarship recipient beginning with grade 7 through grade 10 which she completed in 2009.

After graduating from grade 10, Redina's brother-in-law demanded that she become his second wife. When she refused, she was driven out of her sister's home. When Redina alerted Reverend Nkware, the African Initiative Coordinator, of her situation, he and his wife agreed to provide shelter for Redina at their home. Beginning with the 2010 school year, in light of Redina's situation, the scholarship committee decided it best to sponsor her at the National Vocational Training Center operated by the Roman Catholic Church. They felt that this direction of study was best suited to provide her with the tools she will need to achieve a better future for herself.

We are proud to report that Redina is now in her second and final year of her vocational training. She is taking a course in tailoring, and at present she is doing her practicals and is expected to complete her studies by October 2011.

### **Eliza Muyinga's story:**

Eliza was temporarily accepted as a weaver with WomenCraft's Juhudi Group. The group leaders alerted WomenCraft because they knew she was not old enough to be working but were sympathetic to her situation — she wanted to learn to weave so that she could earn money and afford school. Eliza had passed her National Exam to enter grade 7, but her father refused to pay her school fees because she is a girl. Making a life for yourself is difficult in Africa, but it is particularly so for young girls. The staff advised Eliza to report to school, and that they would pay for her uniform and fees from their own pockets.

Eliza qualified for Kagera Scholarship Fund and so, for the 2011 school year, Eliza is attending the Shunga Secondary School under a scholarship funded by the Kagera Scholarship Fund.

### **Former Kagera Scholarship Students.**

James Birusha is attending Tumaini University College in Mtwara, Anthony Mwinyl is attending Sokoine University College in Morogoro, and Deus Marianus is in his final term at the Teacher Training College in Mondule, Arusha.

While the government provides loans to these students to pursue their college education, it was through the Kagera Scholarship Fund that the seeds were planted that allowed these students to continue their education through secondary and high school.

All students funded by the Kagera Scholarship Fund are extremely disadvantaged. They are orphans or have parents who are unable to support them. They live in one of the poorest districts in one of the poorest countries in the world. However, they have academic promise and, through education, they can transform their future. It is the financial support of Hosanna members and others that provides the foundation for the Kagera Scholarship Fund. Knowing that we care for them, support them and believe in them, they gain confidence in themselves and their abilities. They are extremely grateful to Hosanna, not only but for the financial support, but also for in them having faith in them and their right to a brighter life.

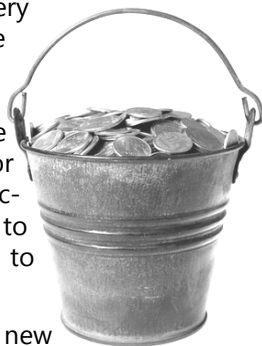
# Noisy Offering

## August 21

### NAM Back-to-School Drive

It's August, and you know what that means! It's time for back to school! The noisy offering for August is going to go towards NAM's back to school drive!

Many children and their families every year cannot afford to purchase school supplies for themselves, and NAM does the best that they can to ease that burden. All proceeds will be used to purchase school supplies for children so that they can have a successful school year without having to worry if they will have the supplies to complete their assignments.



As many of you know, one of the new initiatives of the Mission of the Month is to encourage outreach in ways beyond the noisy offering on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month. The other ways to be noisy this month include donating school supplies that can also be dropped off at NAM. Some of the most common items needed are:

- ◆ #2 Lead Pencils
- ◆ Black ink pens
- ◆ Red ink pens
- ◆ Notebook paper (Wide or College Rule)
- ◆ Spiral notebooks
- ◆ Colored Pencils
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ Glue sticks
- ◆ Pencil bags
- ◆ Back packs
- ◆ Dividers

These items can be dropped off in the Narthex near the NAM food cabinet!

Another opportunity to be noisy is to call your local high school, middle school or elementary school and ask about volunteer opportunities relating to back-to-school. Many times schools need volunteers to hand out schedules, assist teachers with back to school paper work and in general getting the schools prepared for the new school year. Also a more long term commitment, many elementary schools are interested in having people come in and read to their students.

If you have any questions regarding this month's noisy offering or ways of being noisy in your faith this month, please feel free to contact me:

Abby Roszak  
832-457-8710  
Abbybrown2011@yahoo.com  
As always,

**Have a blessed and noisy month!**

## Glimpses of Grace 2011

### Year-to-Date Gifts

**Through June 30, 2011:**

<b>World Hunger</b>	<b>\$697.00</b>
<b>African Initiative:</b>	
<b>WomenCraft</b>	<b>\$17,700.00</b>
<b>Kagera Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>\$375.00</b>
<b>Buffalo Wings Fundraiser</b>	<b>\$1,155.90</b>
<b>Benevolence</b>	<b>\$114,252.94</b>
<b>Helping Hands</b>	<b>\$1,210.00</b>
<b>Mulkey Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>\$454.00</b>
<b>Habitat for Humanity</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
<b>Garage Sale</b>	<b>\$3,326.20</b>
<b>Northwest Assistance Ministries</b>	<b>\$290.00</b>
<b>Rachel's Day</b>	<b>\$268.00</b>
<b>Hunger Rumbings</b>	<b>\$1,106.00</b>
<b>Mulkey Fundraiser</b>	<b>\$5,917.00</b>
<b>Disaster Relief</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

### Mission of the Month Gifts:

<b>January</b> — WomenCraft	\$755.57
<b>February</b> — The Life Center	\$729.00
<b>March</b> — Lutherhill Ministries	\$701.80
<b>April</b> — Habitat for Humanity	\$758.50
<b>May</b> — Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$595.52
<b>June</b> — NAM SOS Food Drive	\$668.76
<b>July</b> — Care Net Pregnancy Center	\$551.00

### Helping Hands:

**January:** Two families received money for assistance; Four individuals received items from the food pantry.

**February:** Four individuals received food, one received rent assistance.

**March:** Four individuals received food.

**April:** Five families received food.

**May:** Four families received assistance.

**June:** Five families received food; two received gift cards.

**July:** Six families received food.

**Helping Hands Fund Balance:** **\$1,847.57**

# More Thank Yous...

*In case you don't feel like you're making a difference in people's lives, read the client comments here!*



**NORTHWEST  
ASSISTANCE  
MINISTRIES**  
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Thank you for your gift of \$668.76 to Northwest Assistance Ministries (NAM) for the Food Pantry. Last year, we were able to help over 190,000 people, thanks to the support of friends like you! We could not carry out our mission of meeting basic human needs through Neighbors helping Neighbors without community support.

Your gift makes a difference in the lives of families in our area. NAM's comprehensive array of social services helps people get back on the road to self-sufficiency. Our programs include short-term financial assistance, a food pantry, Meals on Wheels, the Fifty Plus Senior Center, a Children's Clinic, Family Violence Center, Shelter and Energy Assistance, the Interfaith Hospitality Network for homeless families, and the Rotary Learning Center for adult education and job development. NAM also has three resale shops that offer clothing and household furnishings at no cost to our clients, and at bargain prices to the community at large.

Every day, NAM changes lives for the better. Don't take our word for it...hear it directly from our clients.

*"Now that I have stepped out of the storm, I have received so many blessings. Now, I have a life worth living!"*

*"To women who feel like there is nowhere to go, go to NAM. They will help you and make you feel better about yourself. It will take time, but things will get better. Don't give up."*

*"You are my angels. For so long, I felt like I was nothing, nobody. Now, I feel like I am somebody."*

Thank you for caring enough to make a difference. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you would ever like to see NAM's work first hand, please contact our VP of Fund Development, Maria Magee, to schedule a personal tour. She may be reached at 281-885-4605 or at [mmagee@namonline.org](mailto:mmagee@namonline.org). She can also answer any questions you may have about volunteering or making a bequest to NAM.

We are truly grateful for your generosity!

Sincerely,

  
Carole Little  
President & CEO

*Thank you  
so much!*



Dear Hosanna Lutheran Church,

Thank you for responding to our challenge to support Houston Lutheran Campus Ministry. Your gift of \$595 will be used by Houston Lutheran Campus Ministry to support, welcome, and encourage new and returning students as they engage life's questions, God's call in their lives, and the faith of Christ.

Granted, I have been enjoying a slightly more flexible schedule during these summer months, yet I've also been busy imagining with peer ministers the new ways God is calling us to be present at Rice University, the University of Houston, and the Texas Medical Center. And now the school year is knocking on the door. We're very excited for the new ways God is calling us to deepen our presence on the campuses we serve. This year we'll be sewing baby blankets in our office at UH; these blankets will be given to a free clinic in Juarez, Mexico. We'll also be continuing our work going to congregations to proclaim release to the captive by raising awareness about human trafficking. Perhaps we'll be able to come to Hosanna. Through it all, our students will be learning what it means to lead both on campus and in the congregation. It's going to be an amazing year - one which you can say you had a part in making possible.

We who are gathered and called through this campus ministry are continually amazed at how God continues to show up, feed us, and send us out to be the Body of Christ for students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for being our partner in this exciting work.

Grace and Peace to you,



Pr. Brad Fuerst  
Campus Pastor  
Houston Lutheran Campus Ministry

NOTE: Houston Lutheran Campus Ministry, a subsidiary of Christ the King Lutheran Church, is a 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Please call Pr. Brad Fuerst at 713-516-8373 with any questions.

*Email received November 28, 2010*

Good morning Dale:

I am an elder at the Williamsburg Community Chapel, and have developed a strong interest in using digital resources for Christian education. This fall, I put together a class on the Apostle Paul, and came across your incredible Journeys of St. Paul (on the Hosanna website). Your material is extremely well-researched and presented ... The visual depth that you have applied to Paul's ministry adds to the validity of his message - with life-changing potential for those who care to review the material ... I just want to thank you for the great work you have done and return some encouragement.

Thanks so much for your work - it is amazing.

God bless.  
John Paine

# Through the Back Gate



*"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." —Song of Songs 2:12*



*"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."  
—Matthew 6:28-29*



*"A white rose [shows] that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels." —Martin Luther, describing the meaning of the parts of the so-called Luther Seal.*



*"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."  
—Isaiah 40:8*