

Rift Valley Program

Kenya



Providing the rural poor the opportunity and hope to work their way to success

Alleviating poverty for the rural poor of Africa is the primary goal of the Rift Valley program. The rural poor, primarily women and children, are often forgotten with minimal, if any, services provided by local or state governments. By helping solve one of their primary concerns – water – we provide the opportunity and hope to work their way out of poverty. The time and effort devoted to obtaining adequate water from

polluted streams and ponds is a major burden for rural women - significantly reducing the time and energy available for child rearing, education, farming etc. A direct result of the availability of relatively clean water is a reduction of waterborne diseases and improved Hygiene. A durable 10 cubic meter concrete tank which is constructed by the women and which stores roof runoff from each family home is the key element in achieving this goal.

The Water Tank project developed by Rotary Nakuru was designed to help solve this problem. A durable ten cubic meter concrete tank, constructed by the women, stores two to three months supply of domestic water harvested from the roof of the family dwelling. Over the last 5 years it has evolved into an exceptionally effective program to reduce rural poverty. Using a well structured and managed system of Rotary Community Corps (RCC) the Nakuru Rotary Club manages a process by using what is essentially a middle management team to implement their program. This team uses the incentive of receiving a permanent concrete water tank to initiate tree planting, improved toilet facilities, water harvesting strategies and micro-financing. As a result over 2,000 tanks have been constructed, 200,000 trees have been planted and numerous small enterprises have been started. Most importantly, it provides the opportunity and hope for the rural poor to improve the quality of their life.

The Rift Valley program is part of a long term strategy to assist the rural poor to work themselves out of poverty. The program builds on the concept of supplying permanent water tanks to rural communities and families in a very systematic way to ensure ownership and commitment by the recipients. Using the tank as their incentive we can incorporate additional projects such as reforestation, improved sanitation, micro-financing etc. to help improve their lives. The results will be to finish our goal of almost 3,800 tanks in the Nakuru region while maintaining a team of managers who will service these communities with additional programs. Ultimately we will have created a basis for the rural poor of the Nakuru region to begin building a better and more sustainable life. By focusing on rural communities we can hopefully help reverse the trend of families being disrupted by men moving to urban centers for work and all the unfortunate consequences this implies.





Share this information with Clubs in Your District

If a club in your district is interested in participating in this program through either financial contributions or implementing a program related project, please contact John Boot at travelingboot@hotmail.com

Budget

| | CRCID | Rotary | Total |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Budget for tanks to be built between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2012: | \$279,000 | \$337,500 | \$616,500 |
| Hygiene & Sanitation Training | \$7,500 | \$7,500 | \$15,000 |
| Reforestation (planting of indigenous trees) | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 |
| Micro-Credit | \$0 | \$30,000 | \$30,000 |
| Program Management | \$55,000 | \$40,000 | \$95,000 |
| Total Program Cost: | \$346,500 | \$433,125 | \$779,625 |

Program Contributions:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Rotary in Canada | \$433,125 |
| CRCID | \$346,677 |
| Total 3-Year Financing: | \$779,802 |



Canadian Partners

- Rotary Club of Summerland
- Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development CRCID (Donor)
- Canadian International Development Agency CIDA (Donor)

Kenya Partners

- Rotary Club of Nakuru, Kenya