



# The Backwash



The Rotary Club of Edmonds

Saturday, November 03, 2007

**Editor:** Kirk Greiner  
If you have any comments or questions, email the editor.

**Nominations for District Governor**  
*by Kirk Greiner*

Elizabeth has distributed a letter from the Chair of the Nominating Committee for the District Governor 2010-2011. It is important that we all consider who the nominee should be for the upcoming term. If you did not receive the letter by email, or you have questions, I'm sure Elizabeth will be pleased to help you.

**Rabuor Village Project**  
*by Kirk Greiner*

Carol Kinney again appears as our principal author on a subject that should be close to our hearts. We Rotarians do a lot for disadvantaged people both at home and abroad. This project, which our Rotary Club supports, is, I feel, extremely important. In the United States, we have support systems for the disadvantaged. In Africa, foster care, scholarships, and even basic education are not available to most people; nor is clean water, something we take for granted in the United States. Read what a number of organizations are doing to help these impoverished people in an area where HIV has ravaged the population.

Part III will appear in the next issue.

**Rabuor Village Project-History & Status**  
*by Carol Kinney*

**Mission Statement:**  
**"TO EMPOWER THE PEOPLE OF  
RABUORVILLAGE TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME  
THE CHALLENGES OF POVERTY AND HIV/AIDS**

**Submitted by Carol Kinney, Chair Rabuor Village Project  
(RVP) 2007**

**Rabuor Village is a small rural village, with a population of about 3,500, situated north of Kisumu Kenya. The economy is subsistence farming and there is a strong emphasis on education. The Christian Church provides a community base for action.**

**Rabuor Village Project became 501 (c) (3) a non profit organization in 2004. It originally served only Rabuor village but has now expanded to serve 15 different villages for a total population of between 10,000 and 12,000 people. The vision of RVP is to use the philosophy of sustainability, local control and decision making to expand into many rural villages. The RVP**

| Future Speakers   |
|---|
| <b>Nov 6 2007</b><br>Carol Kinney<br>"Rabour Village, Kenya"  |
| <b>Nov 13 2007</b><br>Kathy Dahlstrom<br>"How the Rotary Foundation Works"                                    |
| <b>Nov 13 2007</b><br>Chair, election committee<br>"1st reading of the slate for the 2008-2009 club officers" |
| <b>Nov 20 2007</b><br>Special Guest Speaker<br>"Joint Meeting with Morning Club"                              |
| <b>Nov 20 2007</b><br>Chair, Election Committee<br>"2nd reading of the slate for 2008-2009 officers"          |
| <b>Nov 27 2007</b><br>Lamin Manneh<br>"Gambia Project"  |
| <b>Nov 27 2007</b><br>Chair, elections committee<br>"3rd reading of the slate of 2008-2009 club officers"     |
| <b>Dec 4 2007</b><br>Club Assembly<br>"Annual election of Club Officers"                                      |
| <b>Dec 4 2007</b><br>Annual meeting of the Foundation<br>"Report by the President"                            |
| <b>Dec 11 2007</b><br>Dave Bobanick<br>"Rotary First Harvest"   |
| <b>Dec 18 2007</b><br>Edmonds School District students<br>"Holiday Music"                                     |
| <b>Dec 25 2007</b><br>No meeting  |
| <b>Jan 1 2008</b><br>No meeting   |

| Upcoming Events      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Board Meeting</b> |

Nov 7 2007

**Breakfast and Shopping with Needy Children at Penn**

Dec 1 2007

**Board Meeting**

Dec 5 2007

**News**

[Edmonds Waterfront Festival](#)

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**model can be used for feeding and educating orphans, providing the community members with a model for providing health care and education and for micro enterprises so the communities can become self sustaining.**

Rosemell On'gudi is the mother of Loyce On'gudi, President and founder of Rabuor Village Project, a Seattle non profit corporation formed in 2004. Rosemell began feeding 11 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Rabuor Village Kenya out of her kitchen in 1998. In addition, with the support of her family, she gave the care givers of the orphans money for their school uniforms, writing books, pencils and pens, as well as money for food. Rosemell talked with her community, particularly the local church and leadership, and enlisted the help of the village women. Some of them agreed to provide basic education to help prepare the older children for primary school. Soon there were over 30 women who formed Rabuor Women's group with the goal of feeding and providing education for the AIDS orphans in the village. They got permission to build a school room in the church compound. In 2001 Rosemell came to Seattle and talked to her daughter Loyce, about what she was doing. With the support of friends of Loyce from her home church of University Congregational United Church of Christ, Rosemell received seed money that built the foundation of the Rabuor Nursery School.

Following Rosemell's visit to Seattle, a group of three professionals who were friends of Loyce, visited Rabuor village to help with a needs assessment. Sara Teitelman and Letitia Reason public health professionals and Amanda Koster a professional photographer brought back stories of both the strengths and challenges to the community resulting from the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The first classroom was completed in 2004 with donations from University Congregational Church in Seattle and the newly formed Rabuor Village Project. By this time the women were supplying food from their gardens to feed the orphans. This included maize, banana, mangos, cassava, papaya, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, onions, kale, sukuma wiki (collard greens) nuts avocado, pineapple and peanuts. By 2005 Slum Doctors Program under the leadership of its founder and director Tim Costello in Bellingham Washington, took over purchasing the food for the feeding program of the nursery school children. Currently Rabuor Village Project is feeding 163 children (about 70% are total orphans) 2 meals plus one snack per day. There are three classrooms.

Rabuor Village Project currently has 25 people on their payroll. These include:

1. Program Director (responsible for overall financial, planning and reporting in the village)
2. Project Manager (oversees specific projects which include: health, education, sunflower oil production, hybrid goat production.)
3. Production Manager (oversees all construction projects and the brick works).
4. Assistant Project Manager (oversees youth group (ages 16-30) who are involved in HIV/AIDS Education and chicken farming as a micro enterprise.
5. Water Project contractor (oversees water projects, permits, land acquisition, engineering contract)
6. Three certified teachers,
7. Four cooks
8. Public health nurse, 2 pharmacy workers.
9. Five brick workers,

10. Goat man
11. Two security guards
12. One grounds maintenance man
13. One messenger

The total payroll is about \$1,700 per month. The villagers have the goal that eventually they will be able to take over the payment of these positions. In particular it is planned that the profit making enterprises such as sunflower oil, bricks, hybrid goat and chicken production will soon be self supporting.

I first met Loyce On'gudi at a Rotary club make up meeting in 2003 at Rotary Club of Seattle NE and heard her story of a family devastated by AIDS and a community struggling to support the orphans resulting from the ravages of this disease. When I was asked to join the International Service committee of The Rotary Club of Edmonds, I began to plan how our club could help the people of Rabuor help themselves. By this time Rabuor Village Project had been formed by Loyce working with Bob Howe, as a non profit 501 3 (c) and the mission statement had been established. The very first donation by the Rotary Club of Edmonds to Rabuor Village Project was in March 2004. At that time a donation of \$2,000 was made \$1,000 for feeding the orphans and \$1,000 for clean water.

The water in Rabuor village has historically been obtained by various means. In the rainy season, rain water gutters on the buildings deliver water to large cisterns. Villagers can rely on rainwater for about 5 months out of the year. However, the rainy season is unpredictable and changing over the past few years. Although they used to be able to rely on rain water for Feb-April and again for 6 weeks in Oct and November, this is no longer the case. There is a well in Rabuor, but it is reliable for only about 60 days in the year and that is usually during the rainy season when it is least needed. During the remaining 7 months, the women obtain water from spring whose water is not sufficient for the whole village. Which force some women to collect water from a filthy river that is used for watering cattle, and have to carry it for up to 3 miles to their homes. The water is not clean and many people simply let the water stand and the sediment settle, then pour off the water for use. The sources of water are often contaminated with disease bearing bacteria and other pollutants which lead to diarrhea and other diseases. .Since they had no clean water for many months of the year and many hours were spent in collecting and carrying water, it became clear by 2004 that clean water for RabuorVillage was the number one priority.

Bob Howe and Lee Jones of Rotary Club of Seattle Northeast began to the preliminary work for the water project. Plans for submitting a RI matching grant were started and Rotary Club of Edmonds has donated to date \$5,500 for the clean water project. (\$500 in 2004 and\$1,000 in 2005 and \$2,000 in 2006 and 2007) The water project has a long and complicated history and work is still progressing. Bob How visited the village in Jan 2005 and met with several water engineering companies to clarify what was needed and to obtain comparable bids from several companies. The Rotary Club of Kisumu in Kenya is the host club for this project which has a budget of about \$65,000. The final RI Matching grant was submitted in March 2007 (and due to lack of proper reporting by Rotary Club of Kisumu on previous grants the application was not granted and returned.) However as of Sept 2007, these reporting deficiencies were corrected and the grant has been resubmitted to RI. The current funding for the

water project is as follows:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Rotary Club of Kisumu                        | \$ 100   |
| Rotary Club of Edmonds<br>being held by RVP) | \$5,500 (these funds are<br>being held by RVP) |
| Rotary Club of SeattleNE                     | \$9,900  |
| Rotary Club of Seattle 4                     | \$5,000  |
| Rotary Club of Duvall                        | \$1,500  |
| District 5030                                | \$15,000                                       |
| Requested from the Rotary Foundation         | \$24,950                                       |
| Outside funding (Churches)                   | \$3,050  |
| Total project financing                      | \$65,000                                       |

We hope that work on the water project can be started in November 2007.

**Club News - Web Site Annex**

*by Kirk Greiner*

If you are interested in what your directors are doing, our finances, what the Foundation is doing or its finances, or more, go to the Club's web site, log on and you will find yourself in the Admin tab (the tabs are on the top bar). In the upper left of the screen is a yellow box. Click on "View Club Documents" at the bottom of the yellow frame. In the next screen, then click of "Click Here to View Documents." You are now in the Annex section which contains lots of Club and Foundation information - Board Minute, Treasurer's Reports, back issues of the Backwash, Club History and more.

Having trouble with the web site. Call Kirk - 425-640-3048.