

THE MWEBAZA FOUNDATION, Inc.

December 2012

Issue: 4

The Produce of Partnerships

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors, so many exciting things are happening with the Mwebaza Foundation! The upcoming year looks to be the busiest ever with the construction of two schools planned in Uganda. We are excited to help the families and staff of St. Paul School in Nkokonjeru fulfill the dream of having a sturdy school building for their primary students - a school with adequate space, a roof, and concrete floors. And, we will be working with locals at Mwebaza School in Kyengera to build a middle school for the children who graduate from Mwebaza at age 10 and lack the funds to attend more expensive secondary schools in the area. The new middle school will be built in the nearby village of Nkungulutale, and will be able to serve children in that area who lack secondary school options.

The construction of these schools would not be possible if it were not for the amazing partnerships that have formed between the Mwebaza Foundation and other organizations. The Heaven's Hope Foundation of Boulder has been a major contributor to our efforts, providing us with a \$25,000 matching grant, and sharing valuable insights to the development process. The TankPro Corporation continues to assist with the planning and implementation of clean water technologies at the new school

Mwebaza School Headmistress, Namatovu Catherine, with dance partner, Sophia, at Niwot Elementary. Ms. Namatovu visited Mwebaza Foundation partner schools in December 2011.

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sites, including the donation of four of its [award-winning](#), innovative water sterilizing units for the new schools. We are planning on having practicum students from the University of Colorado Engineering in Developing Communities Program help us conduct research, oversight, and training related to the water, sanitation, and solar power systems planned for each school. And architect, [Amanda Woodward](#) and her husband, [John Tembrock](#), have generously donated their time and talents to design the buildings.

Of course, nothing we do would be possible without the participation of our U.S. and African partner schools. Our U.S. partner schools - Niwot Elementary, Coyote Ridge Elementary, and Eagle Crest Elementary - have held numerous fundraising events. The children at these schools have been enlightened through their correspondence with their African pen pals, and have been enriched and inspired by the cross-cultural educational efforts provided by the Mwebaza Foundation. One of the articles in this newsletter highlights some of the [amazing ways Colorado students have responded](#) to a "call of the heart" resulting from a Mwebaza Foundation presentation.

We must acknowledge the amazing contributions and efforts of our African partners. Without reliable, hard-working people on the ground in Africa, responding to the needs of their communities and implementing change, our work would be futile. The staff of Mwebaza, St. Paul, and Mapampi Schools are doing the hard work of improving the lives of their students. We are simply coming alongside them, building friendships, sharing our lives with each other, and working together to find sustainable and practical solutions to the myriad of problems they face. "Mwebaza" means "gratitude," and the Mwebaza Foundation has great "mwebaza" for Ms. Namatovu Catherine who is coordinating all of our programs in Uganda.

[Donate online](#)
today to the
Mwebaza
Foundation!

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think would be interested in our organization and its work in Colorado and Africa. There is a link to do so at the bottom of this newsletter. And if this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to join our mailing list, click on the button below.

About the Mwebaza Foundation

The *Mwebaza Foundation* was started by Colorado educators desiring to help their students develop an understanding of the

Last, but not least, we want to recognize you. Without the assistance of generous, compassionate people like you, nothing we do would be possible. As Margaret Mead so aptly put it, "Never doubt that a small, group of citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Please join our small, but growing "group of citizens" and help us change the world for the better!

With gratitude,
Dale Peterson, President

Students Initiate Efforts to Help Others

by Dale Peterson, President, Mwebaza Foundation

Kids can make a difference! That is a fundamental belief of the Mwebaza Foundation, and inspiring and empowering children to positively impact their world is one of the Foundation's primary missions. Over the last few years, representatives of the Mwebaza Foundation have conducted presentations at our Colorado partner schools, teaching children about their African partner schools, and urging them to join with us in improving lives. Many children have undertaken initiatives of their own to assist the Mwebaza Foundation, only a few of which are highlighted below:

Once again, Jade Martin, a former Coyote Ridge student, asked her friends attending her birthday party to bring money for Coyote Ridge's Ugandan partner school, St. Paul, instead of giving her gifts. With the money she has raised through her annual birthday party fundraisers, the Mwebaza Foundation has been able to purchase a replacement motorcycle, build latrines, and start a niggery program for

world outside their own, insulated communities, and to inspire them to make a positive global difference by collectively working to assist select African partner schools in meeting the needs of their underprivileged students. Education and service-based relationships have been established between three U.S. schools and three African schools.

Visit

www.mwebaza.org

At our website, www.mwebaza.org, you can learn about what is happening at our Colorado and African partner schools, view videos featuring our projects in Africa, and donate to help us continue our work, here in the U.S. and in Africa.

Pearl Izumi
Donates

...and start a piggy program for St. Paul School.

Rose Adler, Kailey Hanson, Eden Rutledge, and Riley and Gavin Crawford from Eagle Crest Elementary sold lemonade last summer, with the proceeds going to help build a teacher home for their sister school, Mapampi School, in Zambia.

Not only can birthday parties be structured as a way to raise support for those in need, but, as the Mwebaza Foundation discovered, bar mitzvahs can serve such a purpose as well. Even though Marcus Chaknova no longer attends a Mwebaza Foundation partner school, this former Niwot Elementary student was touched by the letters he had received from his Mwebaza pen pals over the years, and wanted to do something to continue to help Mwebaza students. Marcus was concerned that some Mwebaza students may be struggling in school, simply because they need eyeglasses and are unable to afford them. Thus, he chose to ask guests attending his bar mitzvah to either donate a pair of used eyeglasses, or money to be used for vision testing or the purchase of eyeglasses. Marcus collected over 100 pairs of glasses, and raised several thousand dollars. The Mwebaza Foundation is in the process of arranging vision testing of all Mwebaza students in the summer of 2013, with eyeglasses to be distributed to those that need them.

Even in poor weather, Anslee Dickerson from Coyote Ridge Elementary was determined to make a difference for kids in Africa. She organized a neighborhood "Run for Uganda" in her neighborhood. Way to go, Anslee!

Niwot Elementary students, Samantha Rich and Lily Mastrangelo, had a lemonade stand this summer to raise money for the construction of a middle school for Mwebaza

Hundreds of Jackets

When Lily Schilling's mother, Peggy, announced that the company she works for, Pearl Izumi, had some lightweight jackets to give away, Lily successfully lobbied that the jackets be used to clothe the pen pals of her former school, Niwot Elementary. The jackets will be distributed next summer.

Lucy Lemmon, a Coyote Ridge Elementary student sold hot chocolate at a soccer game and donated the proceeds to the Mwebaza Foundation.

Local Experts to Design New Schools

The Mwebaza Foundation is delighted that Niwot residents Amanda Woodward and John Tembrock have volunteered to offer

students. They also gathered toys and supplies for their Ugandan pen pals.

Animal lovers, Anna and Brooke Giles from Coyote Ridge Elementary, set up a pet sitting business in order to raise funds for their Ugandan pen pals at St. Paul School. When asked why they chose to raise funds for the

Anna and Brooke Giles

Mwebaza Foundation, Anna referred to a presentation at Coyote Ridge by Dale Peterson and Namatovu Catherine. "You showed us the pictures and all that, and that made us want to do it." The girls cared for 1 dog, 3 cats, and a fish, and watered plants as well. Brooke enjoyed caring for the dog, but acknowledged that "poop scooping was the hardest part." Anna and Brooke's mother, KayLyn, is very proud of her girls. "It was their idea completely to help the kids. I was excited about how excited they were about it. Their excitement didn't go away. They kept bringing it up."

The Mwebaza Foundation sincerely thanks these compassionate and motivated children and nameless others who are making a difference for schoolchildren in Africa!

Douillard Interns at Ugandan Partner Schools

By Ginger Douillard and Dale Peterson

Guilford College student, Devaki Douillard, was looking to do more more than simply fulfill her college internship requirement. Sure, she wanted adventure. But her goal was loftier than to simply have an "experience" in a foreign culture. She wanted to really impact lives.

And she did exactly that by working at Mwebaza and St. Paul Schools for 3 weeks.

volunteered to offer their knowledge and expertise to [design](#) a middle school for Mwebaza School students, and a primary school for St. Paul School students. Building will commence in the summer of 2013.

Amanda and John are excited to apply both their professional experience and personal passion to create a school design that will "give kids a great educational experience and be functional long term, with minimal effort and cost." The design duo will focus on sustainable design, considering what is right for the specific site, using local building materials, and low energy use systems.

Amanda worked as an engineer earlier in her career and has a Ph.D in Design and Planning with a focus on sustainable design. She has designed various buildings and worked with undergraduates on Design Build projects. John has an electrical engineering degree

Devaki assisted the students in completing their pen pal letters, and helped them with their sustainable school lunch program including preparing and serving eggs, caring for the chickens at the school, and working with the students and Miss Namatovu in the keyhole gardens.

Devaki also conducted lessons on hygiene and nutrition, and implemented a story time that all of the children loved! We take books and story time for granted here in our schools and homes. Mwebaza School, on the other hand, didn't have any picture books for student use until generous Niwot families purchased them for the school through the Scholastic Book Fair "One for Books" program. The teachers at Mwebaza have appreciated the books, but needed guidance with what do with them. Devaki modeled "read alouds" for the teachers to emulate. Story time at Mwebaza has been a huge hit.

Students at St. Paul School kneel in the dirt to write... and consequently, get jigger infections.

Devaki also helped remove jiggers (burrowing fleas) from the children's extremities at St. Paul Infant Primary School. St. Paul students frequently get jiggers in their feet because they still hold class on the ground in the dirt. Devaki taught them to wash every day with soap, and to extract the jiggers early, before they take deep root. She taught them why it is important not to use the same needle to extract jiggers from different students without sterilizing it between uses. She also showed them how to cover the open wounds with antibiotic ointment, and asked the students to examine each other at the beginning of each day for jigger infections. At Devaki's urging, the Mwebaza Foundation recently sent boxes of antibiotic ointment, hand aids, and sterilizing wipes to St

engineering degree and has worked domestically as well as on projects in several developing countries. Currently he works for a company in Boulder that designs and builds utility scale solar systems. Additionally, they have designed and built their own straw bale home that is both solar powered and solar heated.

Used Children's Books Needed

Each year for the past few years, two Mwebaza Foundation partner schools, Niwot Elementary and Eagle Crest Elementary, have worked together to host a used children's book sale.

The schools collect donations of "gently-used" children's books, and resell them at their sale.

Most books are priced at a dollar or less! The annual book sale has provided students in the community with a source of diverse and inexpensive reading

ointment, band-aids, and sterilizing wipes to St. Paul School. The Foundation also sent plastic tarps that the children now sit on during class rather than sitting on the jigger-infested dirt. St. Paul staff report that the rate of jigger infestation has been reduced dramatically because of the interventions. The Mwebaza Foundation, along with all of St. Paul's students, is eager for the new primary school to be constructed where classes can be conducted up off the ground and under shelter from the elements.

Devaki removes jiggers from the foot of a St. Paul student.

Devaki also taught very effective lessons on bully prevention. She shared a cute story of how teachers noticed the children hugging each other on the playground. Devaki had taught them that fighting over something is wasting time and energy and that the truth of their relationship is that they really love each other. So she taught them to hug each other instead of fight. The day after one of her lessons she noticed two boys not getting along on the playground and approached them, asking if they hadn't been listening while she was teaching. She told them right then to stop the fighting and hug each other. They didn't want to at first, but she just waited with raised eyebrows. They relented, giving each other a hug and began laughing so hard that they completely forgot what they were angry about and ran off playing, hugging, and laughing together!

Ms. Namatovu sees the value in having the teachers and students there learn from someone from a more developed country. They were interested in hearing about our hygiene methods, our knowledge of nutrition, the way we view mutual respect within the family structure, and of the balance of power between

inexpensive reading material while raising funds for each school's African partner school.

We are in need of good-quality, used children's books for this sale. If you live in the Boulder-Longmont, Colorado area, and have books to donate, please drop them off at Niwot Elementary, 8778 Morton Road in Niwot.

And if you would like to get some great children's books at amazing prices, come to the book sale at Niwot Elementary on February 27 from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.!

Meet Our New Board Member and Officers!

*Devaki Douillard,
Board Member*

Devaki Douillard will graduate from Guilford College in the spring of 2013, with a double major in International Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies and a minor in

parents. In fact, the community was so eager to learn of our practices in these areas that Ms. Namatovu would like to have more Guilford students fulfill their internship requirements there. Devaki is currently working with Guilford College's internship co-ordinator to organize a permanent program for college students to volunteer at Mwebaza School.

To see a 30-second video of Devaki dancing with students at Mwebaza School, click the link below:

[Dancing Devaki](#)

In October, Devaki shared her experiences in Uganda with the children of Mwebaza and St. Paul's sisters schools, Niwot and Coyote Ridge Elementaries, respectively.

The Board of the Mwebaza Foundation recently elected Devaki Douillard as its [newest Board member](#), citing her dedication to improving the lives of others, the close relationship she has developed between herself and the students and staffs of the Ugandan partner schools, and her training and skills in international relations and conflict resolution.

Eagle Crest - Mapampi Update

By Amy Dumler, Board
Member, Mwebaza
Foundation

In my role as a Mwebaza Foundation board member, I'm often amazed at the accomplishments achieved as it comes time to reflect upon the past year. It is apparent that our community is committed to making a

and a minor in
Interpersonal
Communication.
Devaki was first
introduced to the
Mwebaza Foundation
through her two
younger siblings who
both participated in
the Niwot Elementary
pen pal program. In
the summer of 2012,
Devaki completed an
internship at Mwebaza
School and St. Paul
School in Uganda.
Devaki is the newest
member of the Board
and is excited to
further the mission of
the Mwebaza
Foundation.

*Jon and Jennifer
Novick, Co-Treasurers*

Jennifer Novick is the Kinder Enrichment Director with Niwot Community Schools in Niwot, CO, and Jon Novick is an environmental scientist with the City and County of Denver's Department of Environmental Health. Mrs. Novick has a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. Prior to joining the Niwot Community Schools, she worked for Head Start in both Boulder, Colorado and

committed to making a difference internationally as well as locally. Over the past 12 months, the Eagle Crest/Mapampi sister school project has had some success in reaching our goal of raising money to build a teacher house at Mapampi School. The impending teacher house is essential in order to attract and retain a qualified teacher, which will ultimately benefit the students of Mapampi School. The goal is to raise \$10,000, and we are only \$3200 away!

Over the past year, several key events (and people) facilitated the fundraising. Eagle Crest and Niwot Elementary Schools held their annual book sale, with donated books from the combined communities. Thanks to many wonderful volunteers, and donations from Bead for Life, and Conscious Coffee, the book sale was once again a huge success. Furthermore, some 5th grade Girl Scout students from Eagle Crest didn't want to stop at that! After the book sale, they took their own time to move all unsold books to a local school in need, and presented them to those students. I'd like to recognize Lily McCumber, Lucy Scott, and Anna Adler for their compassionate efforts!

Furthermore, additional Eagle Crest students took it upon themselves to organize a [lemonade stand](#) over the summer, and donate their profits to the Mapampi teacher

Boulder, Colorado and Santa Fe, New Mexico. Mr. Novick has a bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in geology from the University of Tennessee. Their daughter Mia, who was in Mr. Peterson's first grade class, has a pen pal at the Mwebaza School in Kyengera, Uganda. The Novicks became involved with the Mwebaza Foundation because they believe that children everywhere deserve a chance at a better life.

A Mwebaza School student works in a greenhouse built with funds provided by the Heaven's Hope Foundation of Boulder. The produce from the greenhouse is fed to the children at the school. The greenhouse also provides shade for young fruit trees that will eventually serve as an additional food source for the school.

prize to the Mapampi teacher house project! Kailey Hansen, Rose Adler, Gavin and Riley Crawford, and Eden Rutledge spent a hot summer afternoon working the lemonade stand. These young students took the opportunity to make a difference in the world.

Eagle Crest is committed to finishing the Mapampi teacher house, and will continue to maintain contact with students there, and raise the funds needed to begin the building. I've been looking at establishing additional connections with schools in Africa, as added sister-school options may allow for further relationships to build. Students and teachers at Eagle Crest are looking forward to another fruitful year!

This motorcycle was purchased for St. Paul School with funds raised by former Coyote Ridge Elementary student, Jade Martin.

"Mwebaza Day"

As part of its annual "Mwebaza Day" festivities, Niwot Elementary students wave to their pen pals in Uganda via Skype. Each school performed songs for the other and exchanged greetings.

How You Can Help the Mwebaza Foundation

The Mwebaza Foundation is administered by a volunteer Board of Directors and run with the generous help of dozens of adult and student volunteers. If you would like to join in the work of the Mwebaza Foundation by making a donation or volunteering, please visit our website, www.mwebaza.org. Thank you for your support!

