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WAGC is a 501 (c)(3)
tax-exempt foundation.
All donations are tax
deductible.

*"We ourselves feel
that what we are
doing is just a
drop in the ocean.
But the ocean
would be less
because of that
missing drop."*

- Mother Teresa

From the President

Dear Friends,

As I write this the air is frosty, temperatures are in the low 30's and high winds are blowing. But out front my flowers are already sending up their tender green shoots. While winter is not my favorite season it does make me appreciate springtime so much more! Soon there will be the evidence of new life all around us. Spring also is a reminder of the new life Jesus offers each one of us if we but open our hearts to Him. Our worry is replaced with trust, our sadness is replaced with joy and our doubt is replaced with faith. And with that faith comes the desire to serve our Lord and share His message of love.

This newsletter offers several ways you can answer that gentle tug on your heart to serve. Whether it be here in the United States or overseas in Africa we welcome you to join us. For those of you who cannot travel we welcome your prayers for our safety and for the people we serve. Volunteers are always needed and we have a few open seats on the Board of Directors. Is it time for you to give back for all of the blessings you have received?

In His peace,



Carol Fanelli

AN ART AUCTION WITH A DIAMOND TWIST!

We at We're All God's Children (WAGC) are excited to be hosting our First Annual Fundraising Art Auction on Friday, March 20th. The live auction hosted by A.J. Ross Auctions will feature oils, watercolors, lithographs, sports, music and entertainment memorabilia, and sculpture. Everyone in the organization is looking forward to this grand night!

Since our inception in 2004, WAGC has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people not only here in the United States but in Africa as well. This work includes free medical, dental and vision care as well as donations of basic household items such as furniture and appliances to some of the most impoverished people in our country and abroad.

(Continued on Page 2)

ONLY THE BEGINNING

Our Native American team visited Pine Ridge Reservation in June 2008 and held a week long free vision screening and eyeglass distribution clinic. With eyeglasses and equipment provided by the Manheim Township Sunrise Lions Club we were able to screen 471 residents and provided 315 free pairs of eyeglasses! And just as important we opened the door to a relationship with these people based on mutual trust and respect.

We have been asked to return in September and will hold mobile clinics in several elementary schools as well as the clinic we originally visited. Inadequate transportation is a huge problem on the reservation. Since the students are bused to the schools this will help ensure many more children are offered this vital service.

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HAVE TRUCK WILL TRAVEL

On November 1, 2008 the Appalachia Team made another fruitful visit to Knott County, Kentucky. Thirty-eight families, one church and the Leslie, Knott, Letcher, Perry Community Action Council, Inc. (LKLP), our contact organization, were the grateful recipients of the contents of a 48 foot tractor trailer loaded with donations from all over Lancaster County and beyond. Contributions included everything from refrigerators, washers and dryers to living room, dining room and bedroom furniture. The LKLP received boxes and boxes of toiletries, accessories, toys, and school supplies donated by Rite Aid Corporation. The children of the Blue Mountain Elementary East School in Orwigsburg donated 128 care packs of new school supplies to be distributed to impoverished school children.

As usual, the providence of our loving Father was made known in a need fulfilled. The Omaha Bible Church in Hindman, KY had plans to open a children's Sunday School program but had no funds to purchase items for the children such as small chairs and tables. Meanwhile here in Lancaster, the Hempfield United Methodist Church (HUMC) upgraded their children's area and offered the old children's furniture to WAGC for use in Appalachia. Donations were also made by The New School in Lancaster suitable for children's use. Just like that prayers were answered.

None of this would have been possible without the numerous volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make it happen. First were the men who volunteered to pick up donations of furniture and appliances and bring them to our warehouse. Then there were the youth, many of them from HUMC's SHOUT group, who cleaned and tagged all of the items and prepared them for loading. Next we had the men and women who laboriously and lovingly loaded the tractor trailer.



Even though it was packed full from top to bottom, nothing arrived broken or damaged!

And of course, we could not have done it without the team who traveled to Hindman to transport the items and unload the truck. Once again, our volunteer truck driver was Jim Meck of Meck Family Transport. Jim donated the use of his cab and along with his son, Samuel, made the ten-hour drive each way to KY and back. Thanks also go to Ben Cope of Cope's Salt for the use of his tractor trailer. We are also grateful to those who donated financially to cover the cost of the fuel.

If you are interested in making a tax deductible donation for our next trip please visit our website at www.wereallgodchildren.org for a list of acceptable items. Financial donations are always needed for fuel. Volunteers with pick up trucks or those wishing to help prepare for or join us on our next mission trip can call 717-278-0979 for more information.

(Art Auction Continued)

Even though we are an all volunteer organization, as we have grown, so have our expenses. The money raised from this event will enable us to continue providing assistance to those in dire need.

Attendance is vital to our success. Please consider supporting WAGC by joining us on March 20th at the Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired located at 244 N. Queen Street in downtown Lancaster. The preview begins at 7pm with the auction following at 8pm. Hors d'oeuvres and coffee and desserts will be offered. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and include the opportunity to win one of several fabulous door prizes.

To make the evening even more exciting, with the help of Vincent and Co. Jewelers, we are holding a grand Diamond Dig. Ticket holders will be able to dig into a bowl containing 49 ½ carat cubic zirconiums and one \$2500 ½ carat authentic diamond. Only 50 tickets will be sold at a cost of \$30 per ticket. Someone will go home with the actual diamond while everyone else who participates will get to keep their cubic zirconium. You can't lose! These tickets are limited so get yours early.

If you cannot attend but would still like to support us financially, you can offer your well wishes in our ad book containing all of the items to be auctioned. Donations as small as \$10 will be acknowledged in the book. Thank you for your generosity. Please keep us in your prayers!



JOURNEY TO ZAMBIA

Primarily, the focus of our past work in Africa has been in Kenya, specifically Eldoret. As we have reported before there has been a lot of political unrest and much bloodshed in this area in the past year. About a year ago, the Africa committee was introduced to Tanya Zimmerman who works with her husband in Zambia. WAGC kept in contact with her over the past year and we have since decided to plan a trip to Zambia in June 2010.

Tanya and her husband are the founders of a non-profit group called Grassroots Heroes. They work in an area about 4 miles west of Lusaka, Zambia. There are about 1,000 extremely poor people living in a small village called Grippis Farm. Grassroots Heroes has developed “cooperatives” within the farm as a form of income for the villagers. The organization also provides each child two meals a day.

Grassroots Heroes has a variety of projects underway which encourage the villagers to become self-sufficient. There is a crocheting group that makes purses from strips of plastic grocery bags to be sold in the USA. Several women also work together in a bread baking cooperative, selling their baked goods to the surrounding communities and providing food for the school children. Other groups are being taught sewing and attending Maid School.

In June 2008, a fresh water well was dug on the farm because water that was collected from shallow hand-dug wells often was contaminated by ground water and human waste. We discovered that the only health clinic is about 5 miles away from the farm and walking is the only form of transportation to and from the clinic.

There is an extremely high rate of illiteracy and a significant number of people who are AIDS orphans and widows.

There is a school located on the farm which was started by a local Pastor and his wife. At first the children were taught outside under a tree drawing in the dirt and now there is a mud brick school that has been built to help educate the youth, from pre-school to fourth grade. One of the goals of Grassroots Heroes is to support the local heroes who are carrying out the mission of the school with little to no pay – sacrificing so much to educate and nurture their children.

Another goal is to make the people of Grippis Farm as self-sufficient as possible. Their latest project consists of starting a poultry business. They would like to build a chicken house furnished with about 2,000 chickens and all the equipment necessary to run the facility. Income from the chicken business will be used to support the school – pay teacher’s salaries, buy text books, school supplies and desks for the children. It would also serve as an excellent way to train the local

men in poultry farming.

WAGC is planning to travel to the Grippis Farm in June of 2010. We anticipate holding an eye clinic and medical camp in this area and look forward to the possibility of building a small health clinic right on the farm. Grassroots Heroes is exploring the possibility that local charity groups will donate all the necessary medical supplies and even fund a medical staff person to stay at the clinic to assist the villagers.

WAGC is currently looking for people who might be interested in joining the mission team and will provide all of the necessary training for the eye clinic. Please contact the foundation if you are interested and/or would like more information. Watch our newsletters for updated information and upcoming fundraising activities.



(Only the Beginning Continued)

In order to accomplish our goal of reaching as many residents as possible we need to form two teams of volunteers. All participants are trained so the only requirements are a servant’s heart and willing hands. We currently have a need for four or five more team members but due to travel arrangements need to fill these slots as soon as possible. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested please consider contacting the foundation for more information.

This free gift of clear vision gives children so much more than the ability to see better. It offers them the opportunity to read books, see the blackboard and most importantly learn. Educating the children is the only way to break the cycle of poverty, despair and hopelessness. Won’t you join us in making the future brighter for the children of Pine Ridge?





118 Parklawn Ct.
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"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"

Our Mission

To provide needed medical care, educate people in usable life skills and transfer unused resources to areas of essential need both in and out of the United States.

Special Thanks To:

*Manheim Twp. Sunrise Lions Club • Mary Ann Kraus • Stella Reichley • Alcoa Inc. - AMP
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