



Above are a few photos; they hardly do justice to the artistry & skills exhibited by these hard-working women. Help them support their families. Each purchase comes with a flier describing our work--a very meaningful gift for someone here.

And we're now featuring a wide selection of soapstone carvings from western Kenya. There's a great story to them. Pull up a chair....

Three days before we left for our service mission in Africa, a church member named Doug looked for support in facing the ordeal of his 5-month-old grandson undergoing surgery for a rare congenital heart condition: Tetralogy of Fallot. Without the surgery, Baby Nico would have a very limited life due to his heart's poor functioning.

A week later in Kenya we were in touch with a friend whose family makes soapstone carvings. We purchased a few & he kept urging us to buy more. I finally asked him why he was pressuring us, & he said "My nephew Brighton needs heart surgery. He's 4 years old & was born with a serious heart defect. He can't stand or walk more than a few minutes. The parents have been working for 4 years & saved \$1,500 so far. The surgery is \$3,500. I'm doing this for him."

We bought more soapstone carvings.

I enlisted the help of our new Grow A Doc M.D., Dr. Calvince Owiti, asking him to look at the Brighton's medical records. Calvince called me. "He has a rare condition that should have been repaired soon after birth. He needs surgery soon. The defect is called Tetralogy of Fallot."

I nearly fell over. I emailed Doug: "This can't be an accident. Please help me raise funds so that Brighton can have the same surgery that saved your grandson." Doug made a generous donation & began a fundraiser. Now, for Brighton, our 350 lb. soapstone collection (yes, we managed to get it all back home--thank you John & Kay!) is being offered.



We have many nativity sets & holiday items

Images are not to scale

It was only by accident that Doug's grandson Nico was born in the U.S. with immediate



state-of-the-art medical care, while Brighton, with the same needs, was born to impoverished parents in a developing country.

Every penny of your purchase price will help get Brighton the lifesaving surgery he needs & deserves. It's only fair. Thank you.

No trip is complete without distributing lots of brown dolls. Many of you remember the Kenya story of trying to find a doll for sale with brown skin. Every doll in Nairobi stores had blonde hair & blue eyes--infuriating for many reasons. Through the generosity of African-American sorority Delta Sigma Theta, we've brought several hundred dolls to African children: *dolls that look just like them*. This time we brought a suitcase full, along with other toys, to a school so poor that I saw one girl with a uniform that had a patch sewn on top of a patch. Yet they are determined, they manage, & these affirming dolls will lend them encouragement. And, as everywhere else, Kay brought a box of other toys & much-needed school supplies. Angels of Hope is the school, a community-based organization (CBO) providing food, education, & healthcare to vulnerable children.



"She looks like you."



They know they have friends in the U.S. who care about them.

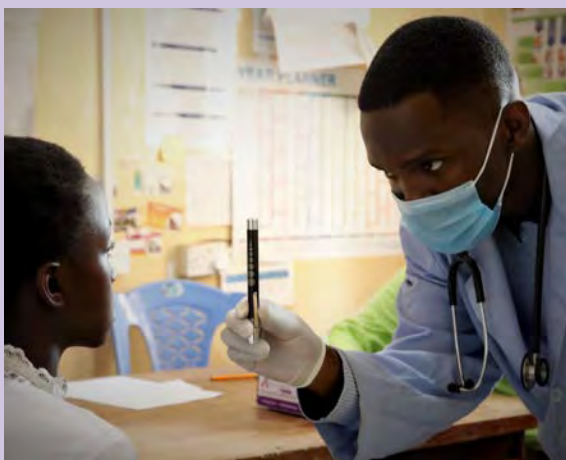
The *piece de resistance* of every trip is the 2-day free pop-up clinic we sponsor, planned by our Grow A Doc/Nurse graduates & students. Assisted by Mirror of Hope organization & Ushirike Hospital/Clinic in Kibera, we served more than 300 residents with screenings, diagnosis, treatment, pharmaceuticals, & referrals—especially valuable in this difficult economic time. Kay entertained with an *ad hoc* day care center. We were assisted by volunteers from St. Aloysius secondary school, students interested in medicine who experienced "hands on" exposure to different medical fields.



Clinic registration, adeptly managed by a St. Al's student.



Future Grow A Doc candidates





Lots of service



Lots of learning



Perhaps the best testimony about the medical clinic was written by Thomas Nyawir, Project Harambee Board member & founder of Mirror of Hope:

"When we talk about social impact, this is exactly what we mean. These are young women and men who grew up not so long ago in a place where access to a medical facility has always been close to impossible. To be able to come back and offer free check ups, testing, counseling, consultation, diagnosis and treatment to members of their communities was an incredibly uplifting experience that melted our hearts, fulfilled the students' own longtime desires to be the change they wanted to see, and without a doubt, made and would continue to make their sponsors super proud!"

Can it get any better than this?



Great follow-up from a prior clinic: Our "angel with brown skin," Nancy, reappeared (on the

right). In our 2019 clinic she brought several young boys for evaluation because she thought they weren't being properly cared for. One child in particular clearly needed help, Kevin. He was not well & we found his mother was alcoholic & didn't care for him at all. After seeing to health care needs we (thanks to YOU, dear friends!) were able to place him in a good boarding school. He has a promising & healthy future. *We can't save the world, but you saved the world of this young boy.*



Better news: Nancy told us she didn't give up on Kevin's mother, continuing to visit her & finally persuading her to join AA. Rosemary is now ready to be a good parent & Nancy sent me this photo. I stand back in awe & gratitude for these small miracles.



After the clinic we all gathered at Mirror of Hope for a "homecoming" meeting, shared meal, & celebration of our several new graduates. Our first m.d.'s were feted, & next visit we'll have several more. 28 graduates so far & 22 in training in all areas of medicine: nursing, clinical officer, pharmacy, public health, pharmacy, & now m.d.'s



Above is Calvin Owiiti in 2013, a hapless boy in western Kenya, smart, motivated, and desperately poor. Somehow he found his way to Project Harambee's PLANT A SEED, GROW A DOC program.



Calvin Owiiti, M.D., 2021

Right: a sample of our alternative gift cards supporting this capacity-growing program in 3 African countries. Only God knows the number of people's lives to be touched by these dedicated young people who only needed "a hand UP."



Maurine Keera, our first woman m.d.

*"You wanna change the world?
There's nuthin' to it!"
Willy Wonka*

The very best in Holiday giving...



*PLANT A SEED in Kenya
... And GROW A NURSE*



Still with me? A word about northern Ethiopia, where we aren't yet able to travel due to lingering effects of war. No one who has witnessed the realities of dislocation, hunger, violence, the arbitrary cruelties of war, could ever bear to watch another Hollywood "shoot-em-up" guts & glory production. For a year we've been sending cash just to buy food and keep children alive & in school, a kind of relief we don't usually

provide.

This note came from our helper in Lalibela, Desiye Melku:

"Harambee has saved numerous numbers of students from illiteracy and resumed vast numbers of souls from death due to starving. All the peoples who are getting your remarkable support conveyed their deepest gratitude and prayers! I am hopeful as you realize my fear concerning the unexpected financial crisis which occurred in recent time here."

And a week ago I received a frantic note via WhatsApp from the wife of a waiter I met at my hotel in Lalibela in 2019. Her young child was very ill & they had no money. I sent her some cash to help. She responded: *"My baby was very sick but he is better now. He get treatment from hospital. They give oxygen for breathing and medicine. Thank you very much. Word is inadequate to say Thank you for your kindness. you saved my baby from death."*

This is not stage drama, it's the reality of life for too many in the world, especially tragic when seeing excess & waste in our country. Surely there's enough of everything in the world for all. It just needs to be distributed more equitably. Poverty isn't the world's biggest problem--greed is.

We get many requests like this, and I hesitate to send money because helping individuals is not what we are commissioned to do & I'm never 100% sure that the request is legitimate. This sounds callous, but I need to be responsible with donors' money and the trust placed in me.

Now I am getting well known for breaking the rules. How could I possibly refuse this woman's request?!

Somehow donations keep coming in, and they are saving lives. Really, no kidding. I'll keep doing what we are doing as long as there are these emergency requests and as long as we have some kind of bank balance.

I can never adequately thank you. Neither can she.



Distributing flour at Sheket School



Emeye at the hospital with her baby

So much more to tell, but this must get out tonight. We do indeed have honey from Africa, from our new project further north. How we got it is another long tale that must wait. And I haven't mentioned safari, nor the encounter with flying termites. Nor a dozen other anecdotes that I'm sure to remember just after this goes out. I'll try to get our website updated. I didn't put a "donate" button in this report because I'm not good at outright asking for things. Our address is below, along with our website, & we

have Zelle & Venmo & PayPal accounts.

I just can't express how rewarding this work is. I don't see it as a sacrifice; I see it as moving to make the world a little bit more fair, and it's something I must do & will do as long as I can. Not everyone is interested in Africa, but there's something to be done by everyone, and this one just grabbed me. (I sure didn't go looking for it--I never wanted to go to Africa.)

I've experienced life at the edge and for me it's become the center. Thank you for joining me there.

To be continued....

Gratefully yours,
Keen

Project Harambee, NFP | #3122 , 929 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60640
www.projectharambee.org

[Unsubscribe harambee.work@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harambee.work@sbcglobal.net)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by harambee.work@sbcglobal.net in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!