

Together we are changing lives... one girl at a time.

Dear Sponsors and Friends,

In the Amboseli Heartlands and the Kajiado District of Kenya, BEADS and AWF are making great strides to improve the plight of the people through girls' education, career counseling, community service projects, women's business development, HIV/AIDS, human rights, and famine relief programs.

**Second Annual 100 Mile WALKATAHON
January 2007
Isinya to Amboseli National Park, KENYA**

The 100-MILE WALKTHON has two major goals:

- To raise awareness and sponsorships for girls' education in Kenya, the USA and around the world.
- To raise money, which supports BEADS for Education, funds equipment and the critical programs, which link girls with sponsors and improves the quality of their education.

BEADS presently sponsors more than 250 girls in Kenya, who are guaranteed school fees until their education is completed—including 7 girls in college. Most of these girls would have dropped out of school as young as 8-10 years old and might have married as young as 13 years old. Although Kenyan public schools became free and compulsory through 8th grade in 2003, BEADS-sponsored girls attend private boarding schools. These private schools are not luxurious but provide the best education available with a goal of acceptance at the best high schools and colleges.

A vital aspect of the BEADS programs is that each sponsored girl is committed to her local community through volunteerism. High school graduates are certified as a HIV/AIDS trainers and elementary school teachers. After completing one year of service teaching at the public schools, each girl is qualified to enroll in college through the BEADS sponsorship program. Since 2004, BEADS teaching interns have been the sole teachers for classes 1-3 at Enkong Narok School in Amboseli National Park. In 2007, ten interns will join this program. We also boast 7 girls who have completed the internship year and are enrolled in college.

Sponsorships fees are \$360 per year of which **100%** is applied to the girl's school tuition and workshop program. Each sponsor is matched with one girl and receives regular school reports, letters and pictures. All additional funding for BEADS is raised through donors and the Walkathon.

In 2006, there were 51 walkers

Five Americans and one Dutch walker joined BEADS-sponsored girls who just graduated from 8th grade and high school, the college students, warriors, community leaders, fathers and mothers. With each step we raised awareness for girls' education and built friendships that will endure a lifetime. It seemed that every day we had to learn a new name as each American walker received a Maasai name. Alice became "Happiness", Joyce – "Blessing", Wendy – "Caring", Donne – "From heaven", Ann – "Luck", and my name – "Mother of many girls". It is an experience impossible to explain and is best summarized by the walker's quotes:

Florence Nasoore, College Student at the University of Nairobi:

"People interacted, black and white, young and old, married and unmarried, parents and children and became one thing both in work and play."

Emily Seki, Top Ride Academy, Isinya, Kenya, 8th grade: "This is something I will tell my grandchildren."

Gladys Kiranka, St Anns Academy, Isinya, Kenya, 8th grade: "I learned about Amboseli National Park in my geography books and now, after I walked 100 miles, I have seen it. It is beautiful, and I was amazed to see my first elephant and lion."

Patrick Papatiti, Walk Captain and Leader of 8,000 Maasai warriors: "I was impressed with the warriors and government officials, who were all men, coming together for the reason of supporting girls' education."

Alice Eberhard, American Sponsor and BEADS volunteer:

"I think of my new friends every day and can't wait till I can return on the next Walkathon. If I were to win the lottery, I would give it all to BEADS. BEADS is a program truly making a difference in this world."



Maasai warriors proudly support girls' education and the Walkathon.

WALKATHON 2006 raised more than \$36,000
WALKATHON 2007 GOAL - \$100,000.

Sincerely,

Deborah K Rooney

Debby Rooney

BEADS Co-Founder