



SasaHarambee.org



Carol Carper
Sasa Harambee Co-Founder

TEENS, SPRINGS, AND SIGOMERE THINGS

It's been a while since you heard from me. So little time and so much to do. I almost don't know where to start. So maybe we can talk about the old and then some new.

The Farm Program: It is thriving and we are selling, selling, selling! Buyers have found us and all too often we have to tell them we are out of hay. As soon as a farmer harvests and takes bales to the store, they are sold. This in turn has encouraged existing producers to increase their plots and there are many new farmers in our program.

Our goal this season is to reach 70 acres under cultivation for commercial farming and 90% of our farmers are producing top quality hay bales, full of nutrients. Our success has brought a year of struggles though, as demand has exceeded supply. Sasa Harambee has purchased a 1/4 acre plot and leased two 1-acre parcels. In another month, they will all be planted and growing hay. Producing our own hay is another step toward nonprofit self-sufficiency. We project these plots will help meet the need for more hay. ***This is only possible thanks to your generous gifts.*** Truly, hope is blossoming here as lives improve and change.

Another hurdle has been the transportation of bales we've sold. It seems like every vehicle available, like the motorcycle in the photo, is used to load and carry bales somewhere! A year after our request, USAID gave us a three-wheeled vehicle called a TOFDA and SOAP was able to meet the required cost share, a third of its cost. ***We could not have done this without your donations! Thank you, team USA!***



Teens: *The School Health Clubs are flourishing beyond what we imagined as we sought to address teen pregnancy.* The clubs we started are well led by youthful volunteers from a community based organization, the Ugunja Development Initiative (UDI). Their passion for working with teens and vision are strong. As we enter the 7th month of a supporting Rotary International Grant, 927 youths are participating in the Health Clubs. Their parents are also attending adult discussions at schools in a sister program. As a result, we see how behaviors and beliefs are changing. Old taboos are being addressed and by working together, solutions are emerging where there were none before. Having the two programs collaborate is significantly improving communication between parents and teens around important youth issues. Most importantly, Sigomere teens are making informed decisions for themselves. The Health Club Champions and their members are leaders in their schools.



To continue our project to help local girls, the Rotary International Grant provided small capital grants for schools to work on their latrines to make them friendlier for menstruating girls. Parents, teachers, and students agreed on how to spend the money and applied to UDI for funding, too. With the grants, stalled latrine projects were finished, new stall doors and hand-washing stations were installed, and rainwater containers were acquired to store and provide water to clean the latrines. Students are so appreciative of these improvements, as you can imagine.

You have donated money for sanitary napkins for Sigomere girls in the past. ***Now, we need your support to create a long term solution.*** Let me explain: if a girl starts a kitchen garden to grow black-eyed peas, it will yield a crop worth \$2.60 USD every 3 weeks. A package of sanitary napkins costs \$4.35 USD. Gardens can start to help fund feminine pads as we teach self-reliance, a win-win. The County is also encouraging Sasa Harambee and UDI to expand the program to an additional 76 schools. We are searching for new funding to make this a reality, so every young woman can fund her menstrual pads. ***Can I count on you to continue this project for Sigomere girls ?***

Spring Time: Lack of clean water continues to be a hardship for many Sigomere families. In 2015, Sasa Harambee finished protecting 13 springs and 11 of them still flow clear and are in good condition. This January, through the efforts of our co-founder George Oyeho, we received a new Rotary Grant to protect 29 more springs. Work on seven of them has been completed as I write. Local workers (called fundis) have an amazing ability to design springs according to Kenyan topography as you see here. After this phase, donations from wonderful donors like you and Rotary clubs will have put in 50 spring protections in all. They will provide clean water for approximately 15,000 people. With your help, we can continue to protect more springs and eliminate water-borne diseases. ***Will you help us make it happen?***



Home Sweet Home: And finally a personal note: you may have been following the building of a home for me on Facebook. After selling my house in Conifer, I realized I could stop renting and build a home here with the proceeds. I decided to establish a compound with my host's and caretaker's families.

We started this project by putting down a borehole and 395 feet down, it is producing 3,700 gallons/hour. This water is enough for six families and for irrigating 1/8 acre of traditional vegetables to sell for the children's school fees. We are also sharing water with the surrounding community. Notably, very little machinery has been used in construction of these homes and our 40-foot well tower. It has been amazing to watch the skills of local builders and I am happy to report that the proceeds from the house in Conifer fully funded the homes and water supply. I feel blessed that we are near completion and will have a new place for friends to gather and share. And I will write more often. Promise.

Thanks to our American nonprofit volunteers, 100% of your gifts go directly to our work on the front lines. Every day, your help makes so much possible for Sasa Harambee and the families we serve in rural Kenya. ***Your donation makes a huge impact in lifting these communities to a better future. Can we count on you this Spring? I hope so!***
With much gratitude,

Carol



Yes, Carol Enclosed is my gift to Sasa Harambee's teens, springs, farming programs, and greatest need in Kenya.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Please make your check payable to Sasa Harambee and mail to: **Sasa Harambee, 225 Union Blvd., Suite #150, Lakewood, CO 80228** or donate at www.SasaHarambee.org

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