

March 25, 2007

Dear Friends,

This is my third report on the progress of the girls' school in Naivasha, Kenya. I am very excited and pleased to tell you that the school opened February 5, 2007. Each of you who is receiving this letter has contributed to this project and should feel as happy as I do to be part of it. This is truly a project of many hands. More than 300 people have seen the need for this school and opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to support it.

The initial building (right), holds three classrooms, one of which is a temporary dorm. It is one part of what will ultimately be a quadrangle of classrooms, labs, offices and teacher workroom. The two science labs, funded by *Manos Unidas*, are nearly complete; the head teacher's house, the "ablutions center," the water storage structures and the security gate are all complete. A temporary kitchen and dining hall are in use for the present. *Manos Unidas* is a non-profit agency in Spain that funds projects in Africa for women. How we connected with them is a whole other story!



The next big goal is the dorms and the dining hall. After that comes houses for all the teachers. This is necessary because the school is about 7 miles from the center of Naivasha. Transportation is by *matatu*, small vans with unreliable arrivals. Having teachers live on campus will allow them to give the students additional attention outside of class.



Here (left) students are eating in the temporary dining hall. They all help with chores, such as setting tables, cleaning up after meals and keeping the classrooms tidy.

Father Kiriti has written about how pleased he is with his new faculty. He says they are full of spirit, new ideas, enthusiasm and love of teaching. He reports that the beginning went smoothly and the girls are settling in comfortably.

Here (right) students are wearing the school uniform, hard at work in their beautiful new classroom.

If you would like to additionally support this project, here are several things you can do:

- Send a tax-deductible contribution to the Thomas Merton Center.
- Give a fund-raising coffee or potluck supper to help spread the word of the project, and the need that it is fulfilling



- Purchase note cards with original drawings by Kizito Magero (below). This is one of 10 drawings done by Kizito, a member of Father Kiriti's congregation. Cards are available in packets of 10 for \$20.

- All three!



To make a tax deductible contribution, please send your check to:

The Thomas Merton Center*
PO Box 60061
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Write "Kiriti Fund, girls' school" on memo line.

To give a fund raiser or purchase cards, send email to

margomca2@sbcglobal.net

Thank you so much for your continuing interest and support.

Sincerely,

Margo McAuliffe

*The Merton Center is a 501 (c) 3 organization