

5/08

Karen Ettinger, Director K-12 Education
World Affairs Council of Oregon
620 SW Main, Suite 333
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Ms. Ettinger,

We are submitting the following proposal for the "From Awareness to Action!" grant and are excited to share with you the international service work our students have been, and will be, doing. We feel that our group's mission and upcoming projects make us excellent candidates for the "From Awareness to Action" grant.

Students and teachers of Trillium Charter School created Kids for Kenya in 2003 in order to provide educational opportunity for Kenyan and Northwestern youth, underscoring the interconnectedness of global communities through cultural exchange, education, and service. We are fortunate to have a special partnership with Humble Hearts School located in Nairobi, Kenya, giving us the unique opportunity to form close, personal connections with our Kenyan community.

We were incredibly fortunate to travel to Nairobi as 16 students and 5 adults in the summer of 2007. We formed lasting relationships and came to better understand the strengths and needs of the program there. Together with our Kenyan counterparts, we built desks, tables, and shelves, planted a garden, painted the building and outhouse, helped build the foundation for the orphanage, provided 38 suitcases of clothing and books, cooperated in staff development, and helped initiate and facilitate a group to deal specifically with the problems facing young women.

During the 2007-8 school year, the Kids for Kenya students worked hard to produce many successful events, and laid the groundwork for long-term sustainable support for our Kenyan community. Students put on the Autumn Harvest Festival, the Crab Feed, the Shop Africa campaign at holiday time, and established the student-run Kids for Kenya coffee cart here at Trillium. Altogether, students have helped raise over \$3500 that goes directly to programs at Humble Hearts. We had originally intended to use this money to help start a sustainable business for the Humble Hearts community.

Unfortunately, due to the political violence in Kenya over the past several months, food prices have risen dramatically, and we used the entirety of our fundraising dollars to support the food program. We are now seeking funds to help Kids for Kenya and Humble Hearts start a sustainable business, sewing reusable feminine hygiene products.

Most girls at Humble Hearts stop going to school when they begin to menstruate, as resources are too limited to buy basic feminine hygiene products.

With the "From Awareness to Action!" grant, we can purchase a sewing machine and enough material and supplies to provide reusable feminine hygiene products to 100 girls. This simple investment has the ability to create a life changing effect for dozens, perhaps hundreds of girls: equipped with the basic essentials to care for their bodies in a safe and discreet way, these young women will be more likely to continue their education.

We can purchase the sewing machine ourselves when we travel to Nairobi this June to help establish this sustainable program. As we are in regular contact with the Humble Hearts community, we will be able to track and report on the progress of this endeavour.

I believe that this Kids for Kenya project is an ideal fit for the "From Awareness to Action!" grant. Our project is international in scope, provides a potentially life-altering service to young Kenyan women, and is readily measurable by simply tracking the number of reusable feminine napkins Humble Hearts is able to provide to its community.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you might have.

Regards,

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