

*TM Rural Community Development Organization*  
*Bridging the Gap*



**June 3, 2013**

Greetings from TM Rural Community Development!

When we visit our local libraries, we rarely think about the world that is opened up to us through the availability of books and other resources. The East Lansing Capital Area District Library, which is readily accessible to my family, has over 102,000 physical books and over 25,000 virtual books for our educational enrichment. Small towns and schools in our area typically house libraries of varying sizes. Yet, many rural areas of Kenya do not have a library of any size.

The lack of books has alarming repercussions. Most children in rural Kenya reach the upper grades without reading skills. School dropout and low self-esteem are inevitable. A cycle of poverty, child labor, prostitution/slavery, teen pregnancy and drugs are the all-too-often outcome.

TM recognizes the dangers associated with illiteracy. Reading is a life skill essential for success both academically and financially. Investing in reading skills forms the human capital of knowledge, skills and problem-solving ability that has enduring value.

You can be a part of addressing the problem of illiteracy in rural Kenya! TM is focusing on providing reading resources to this underserved population. We are asking for your help in two ways:

- **We need hundreds of gently used books that reflect positive values!** Story books or educational books appropriate for children in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, as well as adult books (fiction or nonfiction) will help us lay the foundation for creating a culture of literacy in rural Kenya. Because TM is now arranging for a 40-ft. container in which to ship much-needed medical equipment and supplies to rural Kenya, this is an ideal time to send books. Our goal is to completely fill the remaining area of this container with books!
- As you can imagine, the cost of shipping a 40-ft. container is prohibitive. The current estimate is \$10,500. To date, TM has raised \$3,000. The remaining \$7,500 seems daunting. **Your gift of \$20 or more will help to meet this need.**

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Would you consider being a part of creating a culture of literacy in rural Kenya? .Your financial donation of **any amount** will make a difference!\* Gifts may be made online via PayPal at <http://www.tmruralcommunitydev.org/>, or by check. Please make checks payable to “TM Rural Community Dev.” and send to **C/O Mary Ann Stanford, TM Rural Community Development, 12 Jones Avenue, West Lebanon, NH 03784.**

If you have books to donate, please call me at (517) 324-7001. **The container needs to be shipped by the end of June.** Your prompt response will help us meet this important deadline!

Thank you for caring about this critical need in rural Kenya.

Sincerely,

Ruth Okello, President  
TM Rural Community Development

*\*TM is a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Your donations are tax-deductible.*

*T.M. Rural Community Development Organization*  
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