



Dear Friend of Dareda Kati and Bacho:

This summer's visit to Tanzania affirmed the conviction of Karimu's Board that the people of Dareda Kati Village, including the subvillage of Bacho, make up a tightly-knit community, dedicated to improving their own lives and those of their children. Karimu continues to listen to the villagers because they understand their needs better than we do. Then we supply what resources we can and leave it to the villagers to execute their plans.

Here, we give you some glimpses of our trip, which was packed with meetings, celebrations, cultural exchange, and hard work by our volunteers. Most of what follows comes from Karimu Cofounder Don Stoll's online Tanzania Diary (<http://dstoll49.wordpress.com>), where you can find a more complete description.



Ufani School children wait to greet their teacher



Councilman Barnabas and Ufani School children at a clean-water tap on the Rift Valley escarpment

AUGUST 1

Clean water comes to the village

Daniel Amma, the handsome, thoughtful Assistant Head Teacher, led our volunteers on an informative tour of Ufani School, culminating in a look at the five-thousand-liter holding tank for the school's brand-new water system. Karimu had funded the purchase of the tank and the laying of pipes that bring fresh water to Ufani and a handful of taps along the route that the pipes take from the water source on the breathtaking Rift Valley escarpment, which towers above the school. The government has assumed responsibility for regularly disinfecting the water. This will save many lives...

AUGUST 2

Internet for the secondary school; the HIV patients' project

Today we found time to call on Catherine Boay Buxay, Headmistress of Ayalagaya Secondary School... Her dreams include a computer lab with Internet access for



After lunch at midwife Yasenta's (center, with head tilted)

her teachers and students... The Internet seems a long way off for a school that still does not have electricity. However, power lines now run along the other side of a dirt road that skirts Ayalagaya. Bringing them to the school is likely to cost only a little over \$2,000, while installing a solar energy system ought to cost no more than \$3,000... So, like any good leader, Catherine is looking ambitiously ahead to her next move.

We also visited the home of Flaviana, leader of a group of HIV patients who have used Karimu money to build a ventilated, concrete chicken coop, soon to be stocked with laying hens. Profits from the sale of eggs will help the patients buy necessities that they often go without.

AUGUST 3

Improving the health clinic and educating nurses and midwives

Today we visited the Dareda Kati public health clinic. With money provided by Karimu, the clinic is adding the first shower, the first sinks, and the first three toilets it has ever had.

These will not be pit toilets, but modern flush toilets... But the clinic is remote from most of the people it is supposed to serve... We raised the possibility of making the clinic mobile by supplying it with a piki piki—"motorcycle" in Swahili—and Martina Hando, the nurse in charge of the clinic, loved the idea... We made an immediate grant of \$1,340 for the purchase.

The clinic nurses and the midwives of Dareda Kati and the surrounding villages do heroic work in challenging conditions. Dr. Susan Hughmanick, a Karimu Board member and OB/GYN specialist, worked with them on our last two trips, but she couldn't return this year. So she sent Greta Kent-Stoll, daughter of mine and of my wife, Karimu Cofounder and President Marianne Kent-Stoll, with posters and other educational materials for the nurses and midwives. The women walked up to six miles for Greta's seminar on topics like how to avoid post-partum infections and hemorrhaging. Greta also stressed the importance of feeding babies only breast milk, and never water that might be contaminated and cause fatal diarrhea.



Project Manager Sifaeli Kaaya with volunteers Tiffany Powell and Lynae Banks

(Several days later, Greta would be moved by the overpowering generosity that characterizes the entire village when the nurses and midwives invited her to lunch, presented her with a gift, and performed a song they had composed in her honor.)

AUGUST 7

A grim discovery

Today's visit to Bacho Primary School was an eye-opener... Its closest source of more-or-less drinkable water is on the school's uphill side, a steep mile and a half toward the plateau above. On a typical day, Head Teacher Stephen Nakei sends fifteen or twenty of the school's two hundred and fifty students on a trek up to the water source, carrying buckets... The water is not disinfected... I don't think Karimu can walk away from this need.

AUGUST 8

New classrooms, but a need for more construction at Ayalagaya

Thanks to our volunteers and the local builders working alongside them, Ayalagaya Secondary School will have three new classrooms when the next term begins in a few weeks... Karimu may also have to build a new, smokeless kitchen for the school's cooks, Peter and Faustini... They prepare hot lunches for the five hundred-plus students... Their health worries us because, like huge numbers of people in the world's poorest countries, they cook over open fires. And the schoolchildren are exposed to the toxic, drifting fumes when they line up to receive lunch...

AUGUST 10

Teachers' meeting and the Ufani Olympics

Our annual meeting with the teachers of Ufani School ended on a high note when we handed over \$500 for purchase of a laptop and modem.

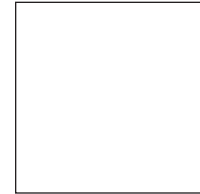


Head Nurse Martina Hando and volunteer Greta Kent-Stoll

We had already agreed that the teachers would receive \$260 to make a modest start on a school farm project, which will raise money to maintain the construction that Karimu has funded and to meet some of Ufani's other needs... We also discussed professional development... Five of the seven teachers want to take courses this year, so Karimu has set a goal of raising \$1,500 to wire to them by October. That will cover three fourths of the cost, with the teachers pledging to come up with the other twenty-five percent from their own salaries.

When school starts again, the teachers will use Karimu funds to begin a free-lunch program for approximately fifty students, children of the poorest families in the village, who, until now, have gone without lunch.

After the meeting, we headed down to the cow pasture in front of the school for the "Ufani Olympics," which consisted of five relay races.



Leaders and Assistant Leaders from Inspire Worldwide, of London, look after our volunteers and free up Marianne and me for meetings with the teachers and village leaders. The boundlessly energetic and able Sarah Charlton, who had passed up a chance to attend Olympic events in her home city so that she could join us for her fourth trip to the village, supervised the games while wrapped in the Union Jack.

Before coming to dinner with us, the young mathematics and science teacher, Melchiory—whom we had congratulated for his recent marriage—assured us that “This was the best day of the children’s lives!”

AUGUST 13

Until we meet again...

We said our goodbyes today... Most volunteers have formed deep attachments to some of the people here, so leaving is the



Inspire Leader Sarah Charlton in her Union Jack with volunteer Sabrina Salkind and competitors in the Ufani Olympics



Above: Volunteer Lissa Alvarado socializes in midwife Yasenta’s yard



Right: Volunteer Alice Harrison and friend Maggie at the farewell ceremony

hardest part for us... The farewell ceremony consisted mainly of music and dance, performed joyfully by our younger volunteers and the village schoolchildren, and skillfully orchestrated by Anne Justine D’Zmura, a two-time volunteer who teaches theater at California State University at Long Beach.

The villagers look forward to next year when they can welcome new volunteers, who will quickly become friends, by promising them that they can “Feel free—this is your home now!”

Asante sana (“Thank you” in Swahili) from the Board of the Karimu International Help Foundation: Lorraine Flores, Susan Hughmanick, Joas Kahembe, Marianne Kent-Stoll, Don Stoll.