



## Tembo Kenya Community Development Society Newsletter:

December 2011

[www.tembokenya.org](http://www.tembokenya.org)

*Tembo-Kenya began work in Africa again* at the end of September 2011 when Rod and Patricia left Canada. While they are away you can follow them on the blog at [www.blogtembokenya.blogspot.com](http://www.blogtembokenya.blogspot.com)  
We are also on Twitter and Facebook.

*Our first task is thank our Kenyan friends for their warm welcome back to their country.* It is always a joy to talk them again and to recognise their faithfulness in maintaining the activities of Tembo. While Rod and Patricia were away the members of our Advisory Committee paid school fees, looked after problems arising from the economic situation with regard to our students and conducted business training for groups.

*We are especially excited about the arrival of a Canadian agent* at the beginning of November. Nancy Carson has volunteered for other Canadian charities in Kenya and is now our VP. She will work specifically on Read for the Top, Student Selection and Teacher Seminars. *Karibu tena, Nancy, Welcome back*

At the end of December we will welcome Tanya Harmon. Tanya is a great fund raiser and will be donating to job training and Business Education. She will work with our trainer, Alex Omino

*Prices in Kenya* have tripled over the past five or six months. Although for us this is somewhat offset by the rise in the value of the dollar against the shilling, it is causing great hardship and misery amongst the general population. We received requests for extra fee payments from boarding schools and many are closing early this month because they can no longer afford to feed their students. (The Kenyan school year runs from January to December.)

*Water:* one result of the change in the exchange rate is that we can do more projects with our Canadian dollars. We expected to do five water projects (wells and protected springs) but find we can do six and still replace collapsed latrines in a secondary school. We will be putting in eco san (composting) toilets for girls because in this school digging new traditional latrines would contaminate the water supply.

*Read for the Top is flourishing.* We conducted the first contest in a secondary school where the students had to read the set texts for their exams. We are eagerly waiting to see what their results will be. Another school conducted their third session organised by their own teachers. The children who participated in the first two contests have delighted everyone by rising from last place to first in their school division of 54 schools, capturing the top three spots for English.

*Last week we dedicated the Virtues Centre in Kakamega* to the memory of John Kavelin, co-founder of the Virtues Project and marking the generous donation of material sent to us in his name.

*November and December* will see the collection of marks from our academic and job-training students. November will also see interviews for new job training candidates. January brings interviews for secondary scholarships as well as the arrival of Jim and Mary Higbee for seminars for teachers of English. These seminars will take up most of the month.

*Thank you:* to all our sponsors who sent in donations to arrive to our Treasurer by the third week of November so a wire transfer can be made at the end of the month. Thank you for your consideration.

*We are now featured* on GoVolountouring <http://govolountouring.com/help-build-skills-western-kenya>

*Remember Tembo at Christmas.* A donation to Tembo-Kenya makes a great Christmas gift for friends and family. Your dollars will bring hope and relief that will ripple on for years to come.



*Krismas furaha wote;* We wish you and yours joy at Christmas

Please note that you can now donate directly from our web site by using Paypal or Canada Helps buttons on the 'Donations' page. You can also contribute to funds by purchasing 'Nice Time' an e-book of letters and pictures from 2001 for \$9 through the web site.

*Kwa herini na asante sana* (Farewell and thank you)

*Patricia, Rod and Nancy*

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