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new face >>>

Sister Francisca Kivindyó

This year, a new face joined Sister Florence's U.S. Tour, to share stories and raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and Upendo Village. Sister Francisca Kivindyó, a loving and effective Assumption Sister of Nairobi, serves as Assistant Director to Sister Florence at Upendo Village in Naivasha, Kenya. Sister Francisca has been serving Upendo Village for the past two years and this was her first visit to the states on mission appeal. While learning the ropes from Sister Florence and meeting new people, Sister Francisca also enjoyed her first experience of snow in Colorado and soaked in the beauty of nature, which she loves. We hope to see her soon again and for many years to come.



Our Appreciation

Dear Friends of Upendo Village,

Hello, and greetings from Upendo Village! Thank you all for your loving support and prayers during Sister Florence and Sister Francisca's stay, which was completed June 30, 2011. As many of you may be aware, with constant changes in foreign VISA security in the states, it was a struggle to move the Sisters' visitation plans from tentative to definitive. However, with much help from various advocates for Upendo Village, the Sisters were able to arrive as scheduled! As always, the Sisters' stay was as busy as it was fruitful. Some venues had to postpone scheduling of the Sisters until next year, but in God's divine plan, other opportunities surfaced—leading to cultivation of new relationships.

The Sisters were able to reunite with old friends and supporters while inspiring numerous new people to become advocates for the cause. They also had the opportunity to extend contacts beyond the Midwest from Colorado to South Carolina. They were warmly greeted for sharing at several Catholic parishes as well as a Jewish Temple. They also shared with high school students and with some corporate officers of Wheaton Franciscan Health Care—thanking, being accountable and raising awareness. There was such an amazing response during this past visit that additional churches have called on Sister Theresa, our Executive Director, to speak in the Sisters' place! In response, there is a possibility that the Sisters may make an additional visit early in this upcoming year! If you, your parish or group would be interested in reserving some of their time in February or early March or in late summer, please contact us at 630-909-6604 so that we can make arrangements.

Thank you again for all that you do for the people of Upendo Village. Your prayers and support keep Upendo Village moving forward as you join with us in doing God's work.

Current Events:

Meson Sabika and the Rotary Club of Naperville hosts their annual Benefit for Upendo Village

The Rotary Club of Naperville, IL hosted the third annual Upendo Village benefit with Meson Sabika restaurant's owner, Hossein Jomali. Sisters Florence and Francisca enjoyed the night of socializing, delicious tapas and sangria, while delighted supporters shopped hand-made crafts from Upendo Village. Thanks to the generosity of Hossein Jomali, and the dedicated work of Patricia Merryweather, Liz Zienty, and selfless volunteers, the night was a success.

Below: Shopper's purchases were wrapped by volunteers

Right: Tom Richardt on mission to Kenya



Board Changes

Board of Directors Chair, John Bielski, a member of the founding Board of Directors, chaired his final meeting in July, after nine years of service. Shayne Moore and Sandra Joireman also attended their final meeting after eight and seven years of service, respectively. Patricia Merryweather and Sarah Herzog were welcomed to the Board in May 2011.

The Wheaton Franciscan JPIC office (Justice and Peace and Integrity for Creation) presented an "Evening with Sister Florence", coordinated by Director, Sr. Glenna Czachor and Sharon Devo. The event, held at the Wheaton Franciscan Motherhouse in a welcoming setting was well attended by supporters and new comers—all eager to hear Sr. Florence's sharing and to engage in a lively discussion about the services and programs of UV. This annual event serves as an excellent venue for education, accountability and fund development as well as a commitment to the efforts of Upendo Village in learning what can be done at various fronts.

Right: Sister Florence enjoys a moment with Tom and Barbara Richardt at the JPIC event.

Grandmothers to Grandmothers—

Donna Schreiber, a member of St. Joan of Arc parish in Lisle, IL, with support of Deacon Tom Richardt, fostered the creation of this ministry, supporting grandmothers of Upendo Village who are taking care of orphaned children. When the women of this parish heard of the struggles grandmothers face when rearing orphaned children, they sprang into action. They organized a bake sale at St. Joan of Arc, pitching in whatever they could afford, and raised close to \$2000 in donations for Upendo Village! They now are finding fun creative ways to raise money to help UV's grandmothers. How can you empower your church or organization to help these mothers and grandmothers?

Contact us at contact@upendovillage.org or 630-909-6604 to share your ideas!



August 2011 Mission Team

The 2011 mission team of 24 generous nurses, doctors, surgeons and various volunteers of different backgrounds will be departing for Kenya for a two-week long trip donating their time and all expenses to the mission of Upendo Village. These inspirational volunteers will be featured in the next newsletters so stay tuned to learn about their journey.

Did you know...

...you can help Upendo Village save postage and paper by having these newsletters and all updates emailed to you instead of mailed?

E-mail: contact@upendovillage.org to request to be put on an email only list, and your email address will be added to a separate database. Thank you in advance for helping us go green!

- **WEBSITE:** www.upendovillage.org
- **ADDRESS:**
Upendo Village
P.O. Box 667
Wheaton, IL 60187
- **CONTACTS:**
Sr. Theresa Langfield, OSF
Executive Director
tmbalangfield@gmail.com
630-909-6691
Marybeth Medrano
Marketing Coordinator
mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org
630-909-6604