



Fall 2008



Out of the darkness – light

Out of the deserts – beauty

From this ancient land...

The human race.

Dr. Michael Meegan,  
Director  
ICross International

This newsletter is created for friends and family of Hekima Place – to keep them in touch with Kate and the girls and what is happening here and in Africa to further our mission.

## Kate's Summer Visit to the States

Fundraising took Kate to Buffalo, NY, and London, Ontario for the Strawberry Festival and back to Erie, Pa to visit friends at the Benedictine Monastery. Another trip to the Dominican Motherhouse in Columbus, Ohio served as a Thank you visit to the sisters who include us in their Blessing Fund every year. Later in the summer after speaking at three Pittsburgh Churches and one in Ohiopyle, PA. Kate visited St. Patrick's in Bedford, NY, Stephen Gaynor School friend in New York City and the First Prebyterian church in Moorestown, NJ. All these churches have been among our friends and sponsors for several years. Rotary and Kiwanis connections and speaking engagements were also on Kate's agenda during her visit.

### Summer Fundraisers

In addition to Kate's many visits to churches and other organizations to raise awareness of Hekima Place around Pittsburgh and out of state, fundraisers to help continue the work were going on

around her as well. Thank you to Bower Hill Community Church in Mt. Lebanon for holding "A Touch of Africa" evening that included an African drum and dance group, storytelling, a market place with crafts and wonderful African desserts.

Patti Dittman, Vice President of our Board, arranged for a "Ladies Day Out" one Saturday in July; it included lunch, a movie and coupons for many stores at the Southside Works. Door prizes and a silent auction were held as well. The restaurant host, Tusca, also donated 20% of their profits from all food and drink sold on a later night in July. Thank you to all the generous people who participated in these events.

In Virginia, a new friend offered an evening of music by her daughter and friends from Berklee School of Music. Bonnie Awosika's daughter Ayo is a songstress and composer and she with two friends offered an evening of auditory delights at her Mom's home.

## LCA Holds "An Evening in Paris" Prom Event

On behalf of Kate Fletcher, the girls, and the Board of Directors we want to thank Jamison and the other Prefects of Lexington Christian Academy for their donation – the proceeds from their "very successful" prom benefit this last June. Working off an idea by Taylor Matsalia, Jamie took the lead to coordinate the Lexington (MA) Christian Academy's prom. The prom theme was "An Evening in Paris". The event which included a breathtaking 16' Eiffel Tower and storefront mural was not an easy feat and took lots of dedication. Thanks to the students, parents, faculty and staff volunteers that coordinated the details. A special thank you to the 46+ sponsors (including 23 local businesses) for their generosity and kindness.

Lexington Christian Academy is an independent college preparatory school that exists to educate young men and women in the arts and sciences in the context of a complete commitment to the historic Christian Faith.

When Taylor and her parents returned from a visit to Kenya in the summer of 2006, she was inspired to turn the senior prom into an "other centered" project that would benefit the less fortunate. We are most grateful to Taylor, Jamie and all the Prefects and faculty that raised such an amazing amount of money for the orphan girls of Hekima Place. Be blessed all of you.

## News from Nairobi

The summer months of May, June, July are the second term of school in Kenya. It features field trips and track and field events. This means that Class 8 had a trip to Naivasha to see the flamingoes on the alkaline lake; the smaller ones went to the newly renovated Nairobi Museum and the Scouts camped out in the Ngong Hills.

Back at Hekima Place, we had volunteers all summer long: four from Waynesburg University, one from Steubenville University and another from Xavier University. As we go to print, there is an MIT student here for one year of help, mainly at the school during the day and with homework at night. For two months, this summer a Nigerian Sister did an internship with us for her Social Ministry Classes at Tangaza College.

In August, five of the Catholic girls were Confirmed by the Cardinal of Nairobi, John Juhe, and Baby Johnny was baptized at a home Mass on Hekima Place's Third Anniversary of Founding, August 15th. The girls presented songs, dances and skits, and the mums outdid themselves with a lovely luncheon.

The following week, six new girls were received from a slum orphanage which was neglecting them: these children are three sisters, two siblings and a single girl who range in age from 5 to 13. The children came to us through Tricia Mara, an actor from California who had been assisting Kenyan orphans over the last two years. They are so happy to be here and are sparkly, wonderful children.

These new children to Hekima Place experienced their first hot shower, new pajamas, their own bed, bubbles to blow, jump ropes and they saw their first movie. Pray that Hekima place will love them out of the pain from the abuse and neglect they suffered for the past two years and in the course of their parents dying.

## Kate Fletcher Tell me Your Story

Kate was recently featured on a Daryn Kagan webcast. Kate not only spoke about how she started Hekima Place but also how it is never too late to find one's purpose in life after the death of a beloved spouse. She ended with an invitation to anyone who wants to come, visit, and volunteer.

Daryn Kagan, is the creator and host of DarynKagan.com, an online community that features a daily Web cast of stories. Daryn's mission and motto on the website is "show the world what is possible". Kate's inspirational story includes a great video of her and the girls and a very up close and personal interview with Kate. Go to [www.darynkagan.com](http://www.darynkagan.com) and click on "Over 60 – Never Too Late". Daryn has been so inspired by the work of Hekima Place that she is going to Kenya for two weeks over Christmas to spend the time with the girls who cannot go home this holiday.

## Hekima Place Welcomes 5 New Board Members

Five individuals were welcomed to the Board of Directors over the past several months. New members include Pam Batz, Betsy and Alan Hohlfelder, Pat Quolke and Louise Foster. These additions increase our Board of Directors to 17 individuals dedicated to helping Kate further her mission.

## Coming Events

December Awareness Meeting

St. Paddy's Party

Spring Fling

First Annual Golf Outing

## Purpose

Our purpose is to keep Hekima Place alive by raising money through donations. Funds are needed for salaries for on-site personnel; tuition, food, medical services, supplies, repairs, etc.

We thank the benefactors for donating their time and for underwriting the production of this newsletter.

Hekima Place is a 501 c3 non-profit organization.

Official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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