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Other Exciting News:

On Friday, March 13th, the American board hosted a party and raised over \$550 for the feeding program. Thanks to everyone who attended, Mac and Jacks Brewery and Hale's Ales for donating beer, and Caffe Vita and the Garage for donating prizes

Our Executive Director, Susie Marks will be a keynote speakers at Seattle University's "Working Collaboratively for Sustainability" conference on Saturday, April 4th. Please contact Susie for more details.

The Advanced Leadership class at Bellevue High School will be sponsoring a fundraising banquet Saturday, April 25th to support Hamomi. Please contact us for more information

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To donate or learn more about Hamomi visit www.hamomi.org.

To learn more about our fiscal sponsor visit www.liftupafrika.org.

For questions, comments, or removal from this mailing list, please email hamomi.jamie@gmail.com

New Uniforms Delivered to Hamomi

Do you have any idea how much it costs to ship 200 lbs of clothes from Seattle to Nairobi, Kenya? \$1,041 USD and this is the absolute cheapest option. For an organization barely able to fund a monthly feeding program for \$500, this is not a cost we can consider taking on. However, the last thing we want to do when getting people excited is to discourage them from donating items. Not everyone has money to donate, but everyone has old clothes, notebooks, and pens.

Everyone's first thought is, "Can't I just donate this stuff to Hamomi?" Well, yes...but there's a problem. The money to ship it over there is far greater than the amount it costs to just buy it in Kenya. We try not to discourage people from these ideas, and the result is a closet of medical supplies and a basement filled with bag upon bag of uniforms.



Student with her new uniform

When we heard that two different groups would be traveling to Kenya in February and March, we emailed them to see if they were willing to check extra bags full of uniforms. With our Executive Director, Susie Marks, in Kenya, we decided to try this more logistically complicated route. The two groups happily volunteered and received over 200 lbs of uniforms to carry with them.

On February 19th, 2009, our first 'shipment' arrived. The entire Goss family, Amanda and Chip, their two children, Lexi and Emory, and Chip's mother, Syd, spent an afternoon at Hamomi handing out uniforms from two huge suitcases. The students were not only happy about the new uniforms, but also loved having the foreign visitors who learned Kenyan songs and dances and even taught the students some of their own (the Hokey Pokey was a hit).

Tana Martin and Mary Martha McIntyre, two moms traveling to visit their children currently volunteering in Kenya, "delivered" their bags to Hamomi on March 12, 2009, and the visit was just as brilliant. They spread out their time over two days and even paid the medical bills for three of our students who were quite sick. The children are now feeling better and on their way to full recovery.



Amanda with students in their new uniforms

Over the course of these two visits we have fallen in love with this program. Not only is it saving us *thousands* of dollars but it is allowing us to branch out in a way we could not do before; getting people excited about Hamomi by allowing them to physically visit Hamomi.

Through this simple program, people can visit Hamomi who otherwise never would have. These were regular people who simply added an extra suitcase to their load for free and rewarded some truly deserving students.

We already have another person traveling to Kenya in June who has agreed to carry a bag. We are currently working with two different Kenyan study abroad programs to see if they will allow us to ask their students if they would be willing to bring bags filled with goods. If you know anybody traveling from anywhere in the world to or through Kenya, please let us know. Think of the excess of simple stuff we have in the US and how, with a little coordination, we can make that stuff meaningful again.

'Vase Race' Raises over \$1,200 for Hamomi

There is a common saying that competition brings out the best and the worst in us. For the juniors and seniors of Amber Graeber's AP US History and AP Government class at Bellevue High School, it was not the worst that shown through for two weeks in February, but the best.

At the beginning of February Amber challenged her students to a friendly competition: a vase race. Each class was given a designated vase to fill with loose change, each time it was filled the class received a point, the vase was then emptied, and the refilling process began again. The class with the most points would win a partner test on an upcoming exam. It seemed like a simple competition that would benefit the students while helping the children of Hamomi.

"It came down to a Friday after school, emotions running high and students flying into the room to make their last contributions to the effort. At 2:45pm we settled on our winner - the Juniors! We hauled all of the thousands of coins [to be counted]. I guessed we had raised over \$300.00...After two hours and lots of hand washing, the total was astounding... \$1,267.00. In the end, we all won" said Amber.

Thanks to Amber and all of her students. Your generosity truly proves that a little can go an incredibly long way.

Hamomi Teams Up with Facebook

With words like "poking" and "stalking", it is easy to understand why many people are reluctant to join Facebook. However, once you've joined you quickly understand the practicality and importance of Facebook as a social networking tool.

Because of to Facebook, Hamomi now has a "group" and "cause" with over 700 members. These applications allow us to send out information, updates, and requests to all our supporters, many of whom are acquaintances, old friends, or friends-of-friends who we would otherwise have no contact with. The Facebook Cause has proven to be one of our most successful fundraising tools. Through this page, our supporters can donate to Hamomi directly through Facebook. In addition, it allows supporters to post monthly fundraising goals, birthday wishes, and has a handy "donation meter" that allows supporters to see how even small donations can collectively make a huge impact.

In February, we posted a fundraising goal of \$500, the amount needed to fund one month of the feeding program. To compliment this effort two of our board members sent out birthday wishes—requesting friends donate to the Hamomi Cause in lieu of giving presents. The results were astounding. Our supporters donated over \$600!

To date, we have raised nearly \$900. Thanks to those who donated, joined the cause or group, or recruited their own Facebook friends to join. If you are on Facebook and have not joined the Hamomi Children's Centre group or cause please consider joining. To do so, please visit the following links:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/182425/37207975?m=6987e7df>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=23996740804>