

**RAFIKI YA MAISHA**  
Amis Pour la Vie  
Lifetime Friends

Présidente : Claire MATHIJSEN  
Vice-président : Reid FELDMAN  
Secrétaire Général : Christian ROTH  
Secr. Gén. Adjointe : Anne FRANÇOIS-PONCET  
Trésorier : Marino PULLIERO

Paris, December 9, 2011

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**2011**

*Deep concern for the well-being of the future children of strangers, children we will never know, is the hallmark of individual emotional growth.*

**Wilfred Bion**, Psychoanalyst

Dear Friends and Members of Rafiki Ya Maisha,

This year we made great progress toward our goal of creating a permanent and sustainable home for the Sergoek Youth Polytechnic, a vocational school for the "lost" generation of youth in the rural village of Chepkanga, located in the Eldoret area of North-Western Kenya.

**Mission statement:**

'To provide professional training to Kenya's high school dropouts who lack useful academic or technical skills'



*Build Skills with "lost" Youth in Kenya*

**Themes: Education, Economic Development, Women and Girls, Technology**

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RAFIKI YA MAISHA plans to build 8 workshops in order to equip unschooled teens with professional skills. The new structure will be built with homemade bricks. The training of the youth, especially girls, aims to achieve empowerment and self-reliance.

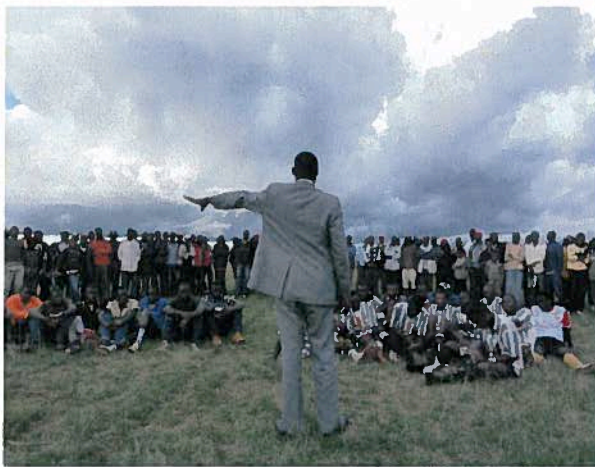
This has been a remarkably eventful year for RAFIKI YA MAISHA, characterized by financial breakthroughs, a 5 acre land allocation, 4 government appointed instructors, 3 trips to Chepkanga, 2 terrific volunteers, a new Board of Governors and a memorable First Paris Rafiki Party below the Eiffel Tower...just to name a few.

All architectural plans and permits for the permanent building are now in place – and we are well along in our fundraising for the future permanent facilities. Ongoing operations of the school, in temporary facilities, produced good results with 25 new students getting vocational training since September in four new courses: *Food Processing Technology, Electrical and Electronic Technology, Carpentry and Joinery* and *Fashion and Design*. These courses come in addition to the existing workshops in *Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy* and *Computer Technology*.

Here are some highlights of our achievements this year:

- I. The project received significant donations and commitments of **matching gifts** and **other funding from Kenyan sources**:
  - Donation of a 5 acre plot of land
  - A pledge of \$ 40,000 in structural funds from the Kenyan Government
  - Operational funding for 4 teacher salaries and 25 student scholarships
  - Four newly appointed government teachers
  
- II. Significant fundraising milestones on our side:
  - Qualification for **non-profit status** in the US, through permanent membership of GlobalGiving, a channel for **US-tax-deductibility**
  - Award of a **30,000 € grant from the French government** - the *Fonds Social de Development* - administered by the French Embassy, Nairobi
  - Award of **9,396 € from the Association Femmes d'Europe**, plus other significant private donationsso that now **we have 40 % of our capital** raised or pledged!
  
- III. The **First Rafiki Paris Party** was held on April 30, 2011 under the patronage of the Kenya Delegation to UNESCO and the Kenya Embassy to France. The houseboat of the *Vedettes de Paris* moored at the foot of a sparkling Eiffel Tower welcomed 150 international, intergenerational and multicultural guests who tasted coastal Swahili cuisine in a friendly ambiance.
  
- IV. The ongoing vocational training programs at the Sergoek Youth Polytechnic temporary facilities are in full swing with **six workshops operational**.
  
- V. Rafiki Ya Maisha Kenya, our **local sister organization**, is actively sponsoring the Cyber Café, the brickmaking project and the Youth Center. Two elected youth representatives joined the board. We met with the local leadership on three missions during the year to give them our input on organizational issues.

- VI. Our ongoing volunteer program furnished **2 volunteers**, Ciara from the US/Australia and Nicholas from Paris/USA, who contributed their talents and energies to our grant writing efforts and to the organization of the local soccer tournament -for the joy of both the girls' and boys' teams.
- VII. We were honored to welcome in our home Ambassador Mary Khimulu, Delegation of Kenya to UNESCO and Prof. Margaret Kamar, our MP for Eldoret East and recently appointed Minister for Higher Education in Kenya!



*The chief's speach to the youth*



*Soccer players with Ciara and Nicholas*



*New students and the temporary facilities*



*Party smiles : Claire Mathijsen with UNESCO and Kenya Embassy diplomats*

**FINANCIAL REPORT:  
(November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2011)**

Donations:	
- Institutional Donations	9,796.00 €
- Individual Donations	32,762.40 €
TOTAL DONATIONS.....	42,558.40 €
Interest accrued.....	342.06 €
Expenses:	
- Rafiki Party	3,712.60 €
- Missions to Kenya	4,574.11 €
- Operating expenses: - Photocopies	260.00 €
- Translations	633.00 €
- Other	1,037.81 €
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	10,217.52 €
Bank Balance:	
- Checking Account	-39.67 €
- Savings Account	+70,864.87 €

To finalize the project, **we have set the following goals**, which we hope to meet with your help in the coming year:

1. Work towards meeting our final operational and capital fundraising goals, requiring an additional 114,500 €.
2. Start building on the new site.
3. Recruit qualified volunteers for the positions of (1) an engineer/architect, (2) a principal and (3) a business plan consultant for turning the brick-making project into an income-generating operation.
4. Continue our assistance with administration of current activities, by helping to
  - organize new sports tournaments
  - systematize the brick making
  - include additional women leaders in RYM
  - update our website
  - recruit new student volunteers
  - showcase green building technologies
  - demonstrate that change is implemented through skills training
  - encourage gender equality

We would like to give **special thanks to our sponsors and generous donors:**

- Ambassade de France au Kenya, *the Social Fund for Development*, 30,000 €
- Association Femmes d'Europe, for *the Developing Nations & Rapid Aid awards*, 9,363 €
- Association of American Wives of Europeans, Charitable Donation, 400 €
- Rafiki Club, International school of Paris, EABJM, fundraising, 2,600 €
- Volunteer fundraising at Brown University, Providence, \$ 900 and HEC, Paris, 280 €
- Kenya Delegation to UNESCO and Ambassador Mary Khimulu for her partnership
- Kenya Embassy to France for their patronage
- Private donations from Europe, USA, Canada, Africa, Asia and Australia

We are **pleased to welcome** our new Vice-president, Reid Feldman, a long-time supporter and friend and our new Deputy Secretary General, Anne François-Poncet, our standard-setting first student volunteer.

We are happy to inform you of our new RAFIKI website page and information on

- GlobalGiving : [www.globalgiving.org/projects/build-skills-with-youth-in-kenya/](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/build-skills-with-youth-in-kenya/)
- EABJM : [www.friendsofeabjm.com/initiative-parents](http://www.friendsofeabjm.com/initiative-parents)

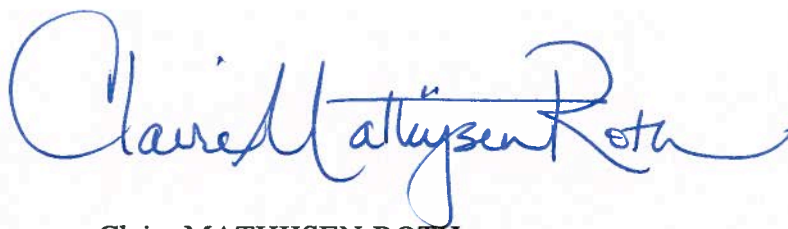
We are aiming to raise 114,500 € in the next two years, in 2012 and 2013.

**We are counting on you to raise the 60,000 € needed in 2012.**

Your help with our ambitious plans is welcome. Your donations, tax deductible in France, Europe and the US, can be made by check, bank transfer or on line. See form attached.

With my warm best wishes,

Sincerely,



Claire MATHIJSEN-ROTH  
President

