



It Works! An update from CanAssist Director, John A. Geddes – March 2011

When we started the CanAssist African Relief Trust (CAART) in April of 2008, we were enthusiastic and optimistic but also cautiously apprehensive that we would be able to make it work.

In three years, CAART has funded over \$135,000 in infrastructure projects in East Africa ranging from a small school farm in Kenya to a large multi-classroom building in Uganda. We have provided rainwater catchment and storage equipment to clinics and schools, bought a motorcycle for health education outreach at a Ugandan clinic, cemented the floors at a small Ugandan school and expanded a school in a remote Maasai community in Kenya.



The generosity of our donors has allowed us to improve health and educational opportunities for school children in several communities and improve water and sanitation facilities in others.

In short – it *is* working. Here's why.



We are a small non-governmental charitable organization that connects communities in Canada with East African groups who require the building blocks to improve well-being in their region(s). We deal directly with organizations, schools and clinics in Africa, limiting the number of layers required to interact. We are people dealing with people, not governments dealing with other governments.

We work with people like Peter or Benta or Mama Nora – all responsible, enthusiastic individuals who dedicate their time and energy to helping others in their community. We correspond regularly with Richard, the head teacher at Muwonge Secondary School, or Evans, the director of the Badilisha Ecovillage Foundation on Rusinga Island, Kenya. Knowing these community leaders personally helps us stay informed about progress for our various projects.

CAART is fortunate to have many volunteers and donors from across Canada and all walks of life. These range from a six-year old who has collected money from her neighbours and relatives to retirees who have generously supported their favourite CAART projects. We have had gifts from small schools in rural Ontario and concerned individuals in Whitehorse, Yukon.

In May, a physician in Nanaimo, British Columbia organized a fundraising dinner in her community. In October, a Kingston musical group donated their time and talent for a Motown dance that was both fun and successful in helping fund CAART projects in Kenya. We had a mystery walk in downtown Kingston in June and a Christmas concert at St Mark's Church in Barriefield. Corporate donations assisted with production of our 2011 calendar. We have even had some volunteers who have funded their own travel to East Africa to visit our partner communities and provide us with valuable feedback and suggestions. We are not just sending money; we are actively engaging with our friends in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Our projects are always changing with new African partners being added. The best way to follow us is through our website <http://canassistafrica.ca> or our new Facebook page.



I have just returned from East Africa where I met with ten of our community partners in Kenya and Uganda. The need there is ongoing and seems endless. Nevertheless, bit by bit, CAART is funding infrastructure development projects that will support change toward better health, self-sufficiency and productivity.

The CAART Board of Directors thanks you for your support. We want you to know that your gifts are working already to help African schools, clinics and communities. I also bring back heartfelt thanks from the many African children and adults, young and old, who are grateful for your generous caring.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

The CanAssist African Relief Trust is a registered Canadian Charity -#83251 82111 RR0001

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<http://canassistafrica.ca>

One of our donors has again pledged to cover all administrative costs. This means 100% of every donation goes directly to East African projects.