

# Living Waters International, Inc.

## - Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Spring Newsletter

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*Living Waters' mission is the support of Roman Catholic missionary and international development projects in Africa.*

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## Cyclone Honde Wreaks Havoc

**By Sister Etness Katherine Chiomba, CMC,  
Madagascar, Africa**

It was Thursday, February 27 where-  
by heavy winds blew all over the land from  
morning till the following day. On Friday,  
February 28, there was little drizzling fol-  
lowed by heavy rain, which lasted  
for hours. But during the night we  
were surprised to see that water  
flowed onto the road near to our  
convent. When we went out to see,  
villagers told us it was a flood, which  
had taken place because of Cyclone  
Honde.

Within an hour, water was  
fully all over our convent and the  
entire area. We did not sleep that  
night but kept watching, trying to  
block water from entering our  
house by putting sacks full of sand  
on the doors. Our region of Morondava  
was more severely affected, and the  
worst in and around our village  
Androvakely, whose residents depend  
on cultivation.

On 1st March early morning, the  
people came to the convent in sorrow  
and distress, they narrated that all  
their crops were destroyed by the  
floods. Their pump-

kins, watermelons, brinjal (eggplant),  
and cucumbers, which they were  
expecting to harvest in this month  
of March have all been destroyed.  
Their efforts are all in vain. We try  
to console them with our daily  
prayers and words of hope.

Many people have lost their  
homes, but the main problem that  
has arisen is the unavailability of  
food in the area. People are  
desperate - eating a meager meal  
only once a day, which is unusual  
for their lives. Many children

are failing to attend classes at  
our school due to starvation.

We hope you will find it in your  
hearts and your wallets to donate  
to this most pressing issue.



*"...water was fully all over  
our convent and the entire  
area. We did not sleep that  
night but kept watching,  
trying to block water from  
entering our house..."*



## A Servant of the One Who Makes Things Grow

### A Tribute to Karen Prunty, Cofounder of Living Waters International

by Eileen Hartl

Anyone who had the privilege of being a loved one of Karen's or a friend, can honestly say that her way of living exemplified not an answer to the question, "Who am I?" but rather, "Whose am I?" Through her baptism, Karen knew she belonged to God; called to serve others. She opened her heart to the Holy Spirit in the service of others by planting seeds of hope, beauty, joy, and more into the everyday circumstances in front of her, both near and far.

For sixty-six years, she lived like there was no tomorrow. She was a Class Valedictorian (1976), and an inductee into the Wrightstown High School Wall of Fame (2024). She grew up working in her parents' grocery store and learned the art of making cakes alongside her mother, Bernice Vandewymelenberg. She was a devoted wife to Brian, a mother of five children, and a grandmother of ten. She cultivated her God-given talents and skills with all her mind, heart, body, and soul. And for the last half of her life, she helped poor children and orphans to receive an education in East Africa.

Karen collaborated with numerous missionaries supporting their work of tilling the soil of pastoral, educational, and social activities. She worked countless volunteer hours recruiting everyone she knew to sponsor children. "God blessed her to find many benefactors to support the sponsorship program which she launched in 2000. Her acts of love and compassion will always remain in our hearts and memories. Now, an effort to start a school in her name at Dodoma in Tanzania will be a beacon of hope for many who need quality education," Father Mathew Thazhatukunnel, MSFS.

Sister Anne Joseph, HCS, shared the ease with which she developed a close relationship with Karen: "I could openly express my fears and desire to bring light to the children through education and give them the dignity they deserve. Karen had a great capacity to

**"She cultivated her God-given talents and skills with all her mind, heart, body, and soul."**



Eileen with Sister Anne and Karen, Moshi, TZ October 2022

listen and respond and hundreds of children have benefitted through her hands, today, they are praying for her." Even in her death, Karen thought of the children and left a treasure to start a primary school for the Holy Cross Sisters in Moshi, TZ. "Be sure," Sr. Anne lovingly speaks to Karen, "many village children who walk every morning more than an hour to reach school will have the benefit of your generosity."

For three years, her children and closest friends watched Brian and Karen uproot the everyday things we sometimes take for granted. Family, holidays, going to Mass, making cakes, and in large part, her work of Living Waters. Her ALS, her "Garden of Gethsemane," was a labor of love fully expressed right up to the day she passed. For her children, it was her "remarkable strength, that pursued life with such vigor and optimism that she was ordering her garden seeds right up until her final day." We can be sure; she took them with her to the garden of His Heavenly Paradise.



## A Note from Jeff Brigman, Treasurer

In 2024, of the \$1.34M in gifts from over 260 donors, \$1.24M went out to missions in Africa, Asia, and South America; a 7.3% increase from 2023! We built schools, clinics, and advanced clean water, solar energy projects, alongside agricultural and community development programs and much more with 94.4% of funds going overseas. This lean operation is sustained by the countless hours volunteered by our dedicated team members.

We are immensely grateful to our 260+ benefactors who contributed in 2024. For more details, including our latest IRS 990 return and annual financial audit, please visit our website.



# Spotlight

By Karl Hanke

Hello! My name is Karl Stephen Hanke, and I work at All Saints Catholic School in Antigo, WI as the Director of Curriculum and Middle School Religion Teacher.

I grew up on a small hobby farm in Wittenberg, WI helping with feeding our cows, pigs, and cats, as well as bailing hay, cleaning out the animal pens, and all the other chores one does on a farm! I have an older brother and an older sister. I decided to be a teacher after having an excellent one in high school social studies. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Broad Field Social Studies from UW-Stevens Point and my Educational Leadership Masters Degree from Marquette University.

I have worked at All Saints for 11 years and joined the Catholic Church through St. John's in 2020 after being raised Lutheran. Up until this year I taught Middle School Social Studies and Religion. This year I am only teaching Religion, due to my new administrative curriculum duties. I am also the advisor for our school's middle school service club (KIDS Club). Besides education, my other passions include biking,

**"I am thrilled to get the opportunity to help LWI by leading its social media outreach and sponsoring a student of my own!"**



Karl on a trek at Bryce Canyon National Park.

National and State Parks, traveling, and playing/watching sports.

I learned about Living Waters International when I began at All Saints, as I knew we were sponsoring a student. After inviting Steve Zimmerman to speak to our KIDS Club students for the last 2 years, I felt called to do more. I've always felt a passion for service, but felt I needed to do more outside of school. I am thrilled to get the opportunity to help LWI by leading its social media outreach and sponsoring a student of my own! Ultimately, I hope to advance the mission of LWI by helping it to reach more people than ever before through social media and my school.



Baby Sultan with his grandmother, Theophista, Aunt Elizabeth, (a twin to Anastazia) and Sister Rosamystica.



## A Tragic Beginning for A Newborn Baby

Meet infant Sultan, born with a scrotal hernia and what is more, his mother, Anastazia, died a maternal death in the process of delivering him! Sister Rosamystica Sambu, Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa, reached out to us on behalf of his relatives for their pressing needs at this time. *"As one of my friends, I beg your assistance in serving the life of this little angel. May God bless you when you are meditating on how to help them."* The most pressing need currently is lactogen milk and a surgical procedure for the hernia. Please see the insert for donating and may God bless you for being a source of encouragement and consolation in this Season of Easter!



## Goretti Fundraiser

### MUSIC IN THE PARK FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR GORETTI

**When:** Monday, June 9th, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Where:** City Park West, 230 Aurora St, Antigo, WI

**Music:** Carl Jackson with Wild Spirits (Country & Variety)



*Pizza, ice cream, pies & desserts will be served.  
We hope to see you there!*

**Volunteers & donors  
needed: Call Eileen @  
715-610-9567**

**FUNDS TO BUY  
DIAPERS &  
SUPPLEMENTS**

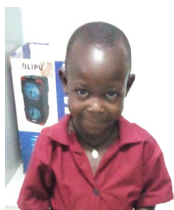
## Kudos to the Knights of Columbus Council 1002!

Our sincere appreciation goes to this council for raising funds for the people of Madagascar at the April pancake breakfast. It was great seeing people that came for a delicious breakfast while at the same time feeding the hungry. Thank you, KC's, and patrons, you serve the Lord so faithfully!



KC John Steger, "We had good attendance today."

## Students In Need



**Name:** **Noeline Achieng**

**Gender:** Female **Birthday:** February 15, 2018 **Country:** Uganda

**Favorite Subject:** English & Literacy One

**Favorite Pastime:** Playing with friends & singing

**Other Remarks:** When Noeline's father passed away in April of 2024, her mother went back to her family leaving Noeline to live with her grandmother. They live in a one-room mud hut with a grass roof and earthen floor. Grandma is struggling economically to support Noeline and her siblings.



**Name:** **Kenete Bombo**

**Gender:** Male **Birthday:** July 27, 2012 **Country:** Mozambique

**Favorite Subject:** Portuguese

**Favorite Pastime:** Playing football & Txitxopi

**Other Remarks:** Kenete's parents are divorced. He lives with his mother, Ermalinda, in a one-room hut with coconut walls, a grass roof, and an earthen floor. Her occupation as a farmer helps primarily to feed the family. Kenete does his part by tending the animals and plowing the land.



**Name:** **Martin Muthomi**

**Gender:** Male **Birthday:** August 26, 2013 **Country:** Kenya

**Favorite Subject:** Kiswahili

**Favorite Pastime:** Singing & listening to stories

**Other Remarks:** Martin lives with his father, whose occupation is that of a farm hand. He has two siblings; the family is very poor, living only on a small plot of land with no area to cultivate food for themselves. The approximate monthly income is \$50 for a household of four. He helps at home with cleaning and fetching water.

### Student Sponsorship

\$30 a month provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly ..... \$30
- Annually ..... \$360

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.

See more children waiting for sponsorship at:  
[livingwatersinternational.org](http://livingwatersinternational.org)