



September 28, 2018

“WE ARE NOW PEOPLE” is coming to Chewelah!

Dozens of hardworking volunteers are racing toward the deadline for the Hands Across Nations Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction, coming October 6th at the Chewelah Civic Center. The atmosphere for the planning team is jubilant with high spirits knowing that what is to happen that night will change many lives in Uganda over the next year. More volunteers than ever before have stepped up and offered to help to plan the event, financially support it, and to serve in all capacities on the night. Never before has Hands Across Nations been blessed by so many in this community. It is no wonder that Chewelah has been dubbed “The Can-Do Town”.

After a 3 year absence from the U.S., Keith Jones, Co-Director of HAN is returning this week to join the HAN supporters for the Benefit night. Terry Trefz, our chef extraordinaire, will also be returning to put on a fabulous spread. Dinner includes grass fed, mouthwatering, beef pot roast with roasted organic vegetables, Mediterranean salad with baguettes and African pumpkin soup. Topping it off are yummy desserts of all kinds.

This year, HAN has not only graduated prisoners, disabled people and villagers in their reading classes, but they have expanded to the main prison in another language group, the Acholi Tribe. This is the way God seems to be moving. HAN works with men and women in prisons in the Lango Sub-Region, where they learn how to read and write in their tribal language, and learn mathematics. Some become teachers, and move on to learn to read and write in English, their national language. Some become English teachers and even trainers of teachers. Often they are transferred to another prison, sometimes in Kampala, the capital city, and sometimes in another tribal area. They become the reading program ambassadors and find the prisoners excited about learning to read in their own language. HAN is then invited to bring the method to the new prison. HAN willingly prints and sends primers in their language, developed by Literacy and Evangelism International, to the new classes.

Our Ugandan team in Lira can print out as many primers as are needed and off they go to train teachers in the new prison. We pray, God opens the door, and our team jumps into action and equips the willing literate prisoners so they can teach their fellow inmates to read after just 5 days of training. Within 4-6 months 75 to 100 inmates are reading the Bible and doing math. They see it as a miracle!

The financial backing to carry out this “miracle” comes mostly from people right here in Stevens and Spokane counties. The Annual Benefit is one of the ways HAN shows how the money is being used through videos and storytelling.

This is the one major fundraiser to be held to support all of the literacy programs in the prisons and villages for the Lango Tribe in N. Uganda. In the past year, the “Learning to Read to Read the Bible” program in the Lango language has exploded into the disabled, leper and beggars population. Many of them are wanting to come to classes but have difficulty getting there.

Therefore, proceeds from the special dessert auction this year will go toward providing wheelchairs for the disabled who are seen each week in Lira, crawling on their hands and knees, or struggling on crutches as they beg along the streets. Tricycle wheelchairs are needed for them to be able to attend new literacy classes. More than 60 people, most with disabilities or leprosy are members of those classes.

Fridays are designated for people to give to beggars so there are many dozens of people with all sorts of disabilities waiting for a few coins to be given to them from people passing by. Shop owners often have packages of biscuits or other small food items for them. We have come to know them and many are joining the literacy classes provided by HAN in Lira town. In the past, we have attempted to get classes started through churches with little success. Until now, only one church, in a town of about 100,000 has held a class for their illiterate members. That class graduated with the lepers and disabled classes this past April. Three new classes, led by disabled teachers, are now well on their way.



Regular wheelchairs like we see in our country do not work well on uneven dirt streets with huge potholes. Tricycles, using bicycle parts for driving them with their arms work quite well but are too costly for most disabled people. Providing a tricycle wheelchair gives them an opportunity to help themselves become useful and productive members of society. Already several of those with tricycle wheelchairs have become literacy teachers in the Lira community.

This year we have had extremely generous donations from businesses, organizations and individuals and the



auction items are over the top!

8 person, ½ day whitewater rafting trip and 1 night lodging



Guided ½ day fly fishing trip and 1 night lodging for 2 people

Team Autographed Gonzaga basketball



Set of drums and cymbals

1 Night at Davenport Tower Hotel



1 Week vacation, and another 3 day vacation at Pend Oreille Shores Resort, Idaho

2 cords Red Fir Firewood

1 truck load of 5/8" gravel, excellent for driveways, Dawson Trucking

1 ton hay



Frozen organic chickens from Burnt Valley Farm



Handcrafted Hickory Book case made by Dee Ward. The one she made last year was a hotly pursued item!



Rocking horse with classic children's books and toys, donated by Annie Ardohain



Adirondack Cedar rocking lawn chair from Tri County Stove and Spa, Colville



Homemade jams and jellies, by Judy Cumi

Fire pit and accessories

Charcoal Remedies Basket from CharcoalRemedies.com

Dinner coupons from restaurants in Spokane, Chewelah and Colville

1 Night at Mid Mountain Cabins, donated by Dave and Rey DeVeau

“Baskets” from The Shed, Chewvino, Gather Boutique and many others

Spokane Indians Baseball Game tickets



African Quilt to be raffled on the night of the Benefit

Opportunities to “bid” to support reading classes of disabled and prisoners

Special dessert auction to help purchase tricycle wheelchairs for disabled students and teachers

Tickets are still available, but going fast at Akers Drug in Chewelah, and Main Street Floral in Colville. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children up to 12 years old. We hope that you will come to see the results of how God has guided the Hands Across Nations team to use the funds raised and donated through this past year wisely and judiciously.

We look forward to seeing many dear familiar faces and hopefully many new faces at this year's celebration.

For more information contact Carolyn Jones 509-979-7448, or carolyn.jones@handsacrossnations.com.

"Sharing the Love of Christ in practical ways."