



It Was a “Smashing” Benefit Dinner and Auction!!

Merry Christmas!

Dec 21, 2018

The HAN 2018 “We Are Now People” Benefit is now history but it is definitely one to remember for several reasons. This year, we had a Planning Team which was so organized, that most of the organizing the meal, and acquiring of auction items were nearly completed a month before the event! We were blessed with dozens of people who volunteered to work on the various teams; serving, cooking food, providing desserts, setting up and taking down tables and chairs, decorating the tables, setting up the live and silent auctions and collecting money.

Below is a sample of the people and colorful items which together made another memorable evening together, raising awareness and funds for the Lango people of N. Uganda.



Terry Trefz, our dedicated chef, and two of his assistants, Lisa and LeeAnn



Organic pot roast, veggies and salad were the main course.....



With over 20 choices for dessert!



A team of 20 servers made the dinner go smoothly and efficiently!





Keith and Carolyn Jones, Co-Directors of Hands Across Nations. It was the first time in 3 years that Keith had returned to the U.S.A.



Stunning baskets and auction items.....



and Ugandan handicrafts, gave attendees oodles of choices to bid on and purchase.





Jay, auctioneer and Brock, MC, are an entertaining show of their own, bringing hilarity to the bidding, engaging even the kids.



Gio Rojas sold tickets for the beautiful African Quilt to his great aunt Nancy.



Connee and Jeff Potter outbid everyone for the Gonzaga basketball. Nick Katona, head of servers, and Debbie Barbee crafts manager were indispensable!

This special night in the fall each year has become a time of celebrating the past year of progress through the Hands Across Nations "Learning to Read to Read the Bible" program and taking care of the "least of these" brothers and sisters of Christ, and setting out the plans for the coming year.



Our generous supporters have the opportunity to be a part of making an enormous difference in the lives of thousands people of the Lango Tribe who were devastated due to war. This past year was a year of rejoicing with the first graduating class of Lepers and disabled people, who are now becoming teachers and contributors to their families and villages. Keith's videos commemorating the classes, graduation, and taking care of the needs of the poor, was visible evidence that many ordinary people, doing their part in giving themselves and their finances to God, can accomplish something beyond all expectations and marvelous!

The total raised was just over \$23,000! One major blessing was that there were 20 "bidders" who gave \$100 each to sponsor 20 literacy classes for the prisoners and lepers/disabled people! Others partially sponsored classes. Over 20 fabulous desserts raised more than \$1,100 toward providing wheelchairs for the disabled people who are in our literacy classes and on the streets of Lira. And the silent and live auctions raised the bulk of the rest of the total along with several donations which came in just before and after the event.

Chewelah and the surrounding communities have some amazing people who have supported Hands Across Nations. Two special young ladies are Makayla and Kaitlyn Duke, daughters of Devan and Josh Duke. Makayla has raised over \$1,000 with her "Pennies for the Poor" fundraisers in the past 3 years. After seeing the videos about the many disabled people in our classes and begging on the streets of Lira who need wheelchairs, her sister, Kaitlyn decided she will raise money to help provide tricycle wheelchairs for them.





Her slogan is “Kaitlyn’s Cash for Wheelchairs”. Anyone wishing to donate to her campaign through her great grandmother Mary Knapp, can call 509-936-0319.

For those of you who wondered why Keith and Carolyn stayed longer than expected in the U.S., the extra 4 weeks was due to a heart condition and an error in a prescription written for Carolyn which slowed her heart to a dangerous 24 beats per minute. She landed in Providence St Joseph’s Hospital ER which has a skilled team who unquestionably saved her life. After an overnight in Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, she was able to return home with follow up visits to the cardiologist. God is faithful, and we are pleased to be back in Uganda!

Returning to Lira was inspiring as we found all the prison classes in the 3 local prisons had progressed to where most are already taking their exams this week! Our team quickly organized the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Prison Christmas Sing at Lira Main Prison, with close to 100 people from our Lepers and Disabled Classes attending to sing Christmas songs and dance outside the fence while the prisoners danced inside for a full hour. More on that in the next newsletter.

We both want to Praise the Lord for sending His Son into the world to be our Savior. Jesus is the one we honor and serve here in Hands Across Nations. Our whole team: Peter, Jonathan, Lucy, Grace, Richard, Victor, Isaac, Martin, Suzan, Andrew, Keith and Carolyn wishes you a very Blessed Christmas! Thank you for your prayers and support as we move into a new year with hope and anticipation of God's continued working through HAN in N. Uganda.

Sharing the love of Christ in practical ways,

Keith and Carolyn Jones

If you would like to communicate with us please use the emails below. If you "reply" to this email, it does not come directly to us and the whole newsletter comes with it, using an excessive amount of internet data on this end. Thanks so much for understanding.

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