

*Years of NJ fund raising  
bring accessible water  
one step closer  
for Kenyan village . . . .*

## **Borehole water soon to flow in Nyanchonori!**

*Prepared by Jane Lee, HKA board member, August 2016*

A **pictorial recap** from late July 2016 . . . .

*Nyanchonori Village, Southwestern Kenya, East Africa, July 24, 2016* – What a day it was in a small southwestern Kenyan village on a tea-growing mountaintop in late July 2016 when an estimated 250 local residents of all ages – from infant to elderly – gathered with about 30 visiting representatives from Hopewell Valley, New Jersey (NJ), USA, to celebrate the official commissioning of a recently drilled water borehole – the first collaboratively funded communitywide well of its kind for the greater community in this rural area.

A visual glimpse of that week's activities follows . . . .

### **Borehole celebration:**

### **The first borehole of its type in Nyamira County, Kenya**



**The borehole itself:** Well, it may not look like much – a mere pipe (*shown above, foreground*) sticking out of the ground, with a metal cap soldered on top, until the day, soon to come, when water will be piped to large holding tanks a bit further uphill for use by the greater community.

But, for this community at this time, this borehole, even in its infant state, already marks a new beginning for the residents of this small multi-village area who currently do not have easy access to clean, dependable, running water for drinking, bathing or household use year-round. This 200-meter-deep borehole – more than 650 feet down, drilled in a central location in Nyanchonori in March 2016 – has been years in the making. And, upon its drilling, it's already proven itself to be a true gusher, a strong, productive underground source of potable water, just waiting to serve area residents.

Once the final needed pumping equipment and distribution pipes are in place presumably before the end of this calendar year, this borehole should provide fresh water to area residents, eliminating the need for villagers, primarily women and children, to hand-haul water, by bucket or other vessel, from distant springs, streams or other sources one or more times each day, a task that can take members of area households, primarily women and children, an average 4.6 hours each day, as found by a special water survey of area residents, conducted by the NJ-based non-profit organization, **Hopewell-Keroka Alliance** (HKA), in late July 2016. The resulting time savings, and the health benefits derived from, clean water should prove both an economic boon and quality-of-life blessing.

How did this borehole come to pass?

In a special cross-cultural bond, students within the Hopewell Valley Regional School District, based in Pennington, NJ, have hosted fund-raisers (including bake sales, soccer all-nighters, water walks and coin collections, by jar) over the past eight years to raise more than \$14,000 US total to help drill this borehole and turn the dream of healthful, easily accessible water into a reality for the people of Nyanchonori and surrounding villages in these highlands.

More specifically, working together since 2008 to raise partial funding toward this borehole project have been students primarily from **Hopewell Valley Central High School** (HVCHS), along with HKA board members and volunteers, all from the greater Hopewell Valley area in west-central New Jersey.

In a new cooperative venture, this borehole and its accompanying water-distribution system are being jointly funded by both HKA New Jersey and the government of **Nyamira County**, Kenya, the overall county within which Nyanchonori resides. HKA had initiated this borehole project by funding an earlier geologist's report on water availability and environmental impact. In turn, the county intends to install the borehole pump and motor and a solar-powered supply system, among other items, according to one county official in late July 2016.

**One important note:** Once operating, this borehole would continue to be supplemented by other existing, ongoing local sources of water for area residents, including rooftop-rainwater and rain-barrel collection, and hand-fetching of water at local streams or springs.

**HKA New Jersey** is a tax-exempt, non-profit charitable organization that works hand in hand with its sister organization **HKA Keroka**, based in Nyanchonori Village, the latter organization of which manages wide-ranging community-desired health, education and infrastructure-improvement projects on the ground in Kenya.

HKA New Jersey has raised about \$170,000 US total over the past eight years in support of these projects. Both HKA New Jersey and HKA Keroka are all-volunteer organizations, their board members each giving freely of personal time and talent. *(For more information or to donate funds or volunteer time, please see: [www.hkalliance.org](http://www.hkalliance.org).)*



**The community gathers:** Above, in late July 2016, an estimated 250 local village residents, county-government officials and Hopewell Valley representatives gathered for what was called a **Borehole-Commissioning Day** to celebrate the drilling and near-completion of the new borehole (*shown above in right foreground*), the first communitywide well of its kind regionally in this part of Kenya.

**The goal:** By the end of this calendar year, piping from this borehole could be in place to newly installed water-holding tanks atop an adjacent hill or perhaps to yet-to-be-built strategically placed kiosks, with metering, ensuring equitable water usage amongst residents. At the time of this celebration, two 10,000-liter water tanks already sit in place, empty and awaiting filling, with an additional 50,000-liter tank still to come.





**A message of hope and time management:** Above, **Dr. David Matara Angwenyi**, of Hamilton, NJ, – whom one attending Kenyan official that day called “a true son of Nyamira County” – addresses the crowd during the public borehole-commissioning celebration that hot afternoon in late July 2016.

**Dr. Angwenyi’s message:** “Together we make a global community. We learn so much from one another whenever we allow communication. We have one limited resource we all share, evenly distributed amongst all of us, rich or poor, black or white: **Time**. How do we use this resource? How we use time can greatly influence our future. For me, I see time as an opportunity to make a difference. This means, let’s not waste time. I call upon each of us to use time for the things that matter. Let’s work together to make water easily available for everyone.”

The 5,000-resident Nyanchori Village is the childhood home of Dr. Angwenyi, an HKA co-founder and current HVCHS biology teacher since 2004. Dr. Angwenyi had made his way from Kenya to the United States for college a decade earlier before entering the teaching profession.

Committed to the concept of educational diplomacy, Dr. Angwenyi – along with fellow HKA co-founder **Dr. Lillian Rankel**, then HVCHS’ advanced-placement chemistry teacher – led the first group of HVCHS students to Nyanchori in 2007.

The following year, inspired by the often-harsh realities of daily life they had witnessed in rural Kenya, Hopewell Valley teachers and residents collaborated together to launch the HKA non-profit, all-volunteer, charitable organization as a cultural bridge between the two communities, American and Kenyan.



**The HKA perspective:** Above, during the borehole celebration in Nyanchori in late July 2016, **Dr. Andy Jackson** (*above*), HKA co-founder and treasurer, university professor and mechanical engineer, by training, discussed the eight-year relationship between HKA New Jersey and this particular area of Kenya and the prospects for this borehole and other possible similar ones in area villages in the future.

After citing HKA-funded infrastructure improvements (among them, the tea-buying center, all-weather roads, health clinics and school wiring and electrification) in recent years, Dr. Jackson said, “The next thing: **Water**, which has become possible, because the county stepped in to help. Without the county’s financial assistance, this borehole would not have become possible. We appreciate that Nyamira County will complete the work, so people here will have water. (*Gesturing toward all the NJ student travelers seated behind him*) None of this would have been possible if not for these students and their predecessors, if they hadn’t held fundraisers at school with the goal of helping finance this borehole.”

One high-ranking county official later that day called HKA “an extremely important partner, focusing on, and investing in, infrastructure here in Kenya.”





**High-level area officials attend borehole celebration:** In addressing the large crowd that blue-skied afternoon in late July 2016, one attending Nyamira County official said that Kenya’s national government has declared water to be a basic human right.

Indeed, the 2010 Revised Edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya, in Article 43(1), says, “Every person has the right . . . to clean and safe water in adequate quantities . . . .” As such, each of Kenya’s 47 existing devolved county governments, established in 2010 and headed by a governor, must determine how to deliver water to its residents. Perhaps in line with that vision, Nyamira County calls itself the “County of Possibilities” ([www.nyamira.go.ke](http://www.nyamira.go.ke)).

Among other high-ranking local officials in attendance that day, **Hon. Benson Sironga** (*shown above*) – a member of the Nyamira County Assembly representing Nyanchori and the surrounding area, specifically responsible for roads, transportation and public works, and a newly named ex-officio HKA Keroka board member – discussed with village residents the probable next steps and timeframe in completing this first borehole and its accompanying water-distribution system.

Sironga pledged the county’s ongoing partnership and assistance in financing and installing a pumping system for the borehole, as well as two kiosks, or water stations, from which residents could come draw water for daily use at a small fee, still to be determined (perhaps either one or two Kenyan shillings – equivalent to one or two U. S. pennies – for each typical 20-liter jerry can, or container, of water). These same jerry cans sold by roving vendors in other areas can cost up to 20 Kenyan shillings each and can contain contaminated water, requiring boiling for sanitary use.

Given the stated goal of sustainable water year-round for this community, currently under discussion within Nyamira County are the following questions:

- How many people this first borehole might serve without becoming stressed or depleted.
- The cost of each hand-hauled 20-liter jerry can (roughly 5 gallons each).
- Daily quantity limits for area households, if deemed necessary.

The county is considering drilling additional boreholes in coming years, officials said.

Economically speaking, half of Nyamira County residents (some 350,000 people, of 700,000 total) lives at the poverty level, one official said later.



**The power of one:** Above, **Sierra Kochersperger**, a rising HVCHS junior, spoke during the borehole celebration in late July 2016 about her efforts six years earlier – as a local fifth-grader at Hopewell Elementary School in Titusville, NJ – to raise water-specific funding for the people of Nyanchonori.

By setting out collection jars in classrooms around her primary school and hosting a coin drive amongst her fellow young students, she personally raised \$200 US total toward this particular borehole project.

“When I was in fifth grade, students from our local high school came to my school and told us about the water problems you have here,” Kochersperger says. “As an 11-year-old, I knew I wanted to help, so I set up collection cans around my school and raised about \$200 to help purify your water and build this borehole. From my experience with this project, I would tell younger students that it is possible to have a dream and to work toward achieving it, no matter what.”

Translating her remarks from English into the local language Kisii for the assembled crowd that day was **Naphali Makora**, who currently resides with his wife in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, but hails from Nyanchonori Village and still owns family property there. He happened to have been visiting the village that same week.

One high-ranking Kenyan county official later that day said, “In the United States, there was a student who thought we should get water, and so she raised \$200 US. That was very moving, very powerful.”

During the same meeting, another official echoed that same sentiment to four visiting HKA New Jersey board members, saying, “What you do for us is done because of your love. That girl in Class 5 raised that money by herself. Her parents did not give her that money (*to pass along toward this borehole project*). She raised that money herself.”





**She sold her land in support of her community’s water needs: Jane Sarange Bosire** (*shown above center right*), a widow and mother of three children, sold a portion of her small vegetable farm (roughly 25 feet by 100 feet) at the center of this mountaintop tea-farming village in September 2015 for the benefit of her community, so that her neighbors would have the ability to draw water from this borehole.

“I strain a lot because I’m alone, no husband,” says Bosire, separately, who says she came to Nyanchori Village in 2001 from her childhood village far away to marry her husband Andrew here in his childhood village. Her husband died at age 37 several years ago within days of having contracted a fast-moving stomach illness.

As a result, Bosire tends her own fields and livestock. In addition, along with other local women, she currently is learning marketable skills, such as sewing boys’ and girls’ school uniforms and loom-knitting coordinating sweaters for school uniforms, through her village’s newly launched **Seeds to Sew International** women’s collective, which promotes female employment and financial empowerment ([www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchonori-seeds-sew-launch](http://www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchonori-seeds-sew-launch)).

Despite the hardships of life, Bosire says that, with knowledge and a powerful faith in God, a person can do anything.

Introducing Bosire (in Swahili, learned primarily while studying abroad in western Tanzania in Fall 2015) before the large crowd in late July 2016 was **Mandy Lee**, a rising senior at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, USA, currently majoring in international relations and the environment. Lee formerly served as president of HVCHS’ Model WHO (World Health Organization) student club. Along with her HVCHS student peers, Lee had spent her high-school years hosting multiple student fund-raisers (soccer all-nighters and bake sales, among others) for the purpose of drilling this first borehole in Nyanchori Village.

*(See separate profile on local female farmer Jane Sarange Bosire.)*





**An existing source of daily water:** After hiking down a steep incline to visit one local source of daily water for Nyanchori Village residents (*shown above from left to right*) in late July 2016 are:

- **Rogers Akama**, HKA Keroka board member and chairman of that group’s water subcommittee.
- **Dr. Andy Jackson**, HKA New Jersey co-founder and treasurer.
- **Mandy Lee**, HKA New Jersey board member.
- **James Omanga** (*kneeling*), HKA Keroka chairman.

It’s said that this particular spring is the water source “of last resort” for the village as a whole. **Dr. David Angwenyi**, an HKA New Jersey co-founder who grew up in Nyanchori Village, says this water, probably spring-fed, has been flowing year-round since he was a boy. As a boy, he says, he used to collect water there for his family in the dry season when other sources had dried up.

The water, while clear and flowing, is unfiltered and untreated, as is true of other local sources of water (such as springs, streams or rivers) for daily use in this region. Typhoid or other water-borne illnesses or infections have been known to strike. Water should be boiled for sanitary use and human consumption in this area.

To access this water source, one either must hike up or down a steep hillside. Extremely steep. Said author of this piece nearly tumbled down this incline en route to view this spring – to the mirthful delight of local village women watching from the roadside at the top.

Just imagine these same women, or their children or other family members or neighbors, who might have to traverse that wicked path – balancing heavy water jugs, by hand or atop their heads – more than once each day. For some Nyanchori families, fetching and hauling water can take an average 4.6 hours each day, a July 2016 HKA New Jersey water survey of local residents has found.

## Community focus group: Tapping into local needs, desires, ideas



**The community meets:** Above, HKA New Jersey and HKA Keroka members lead a three-hour community focus group, attended by approximately 25 community members total, in a classroom at the local high school in Nyanchonori Village in late July 2016 to discuss water needs and pricing related to the coming borehole for Nyanchonori Village. The borehole was drilled in March 2016 and is slated for completion before the end of this calendar year, if possible.

Leading the discussion that morning (*shown above from left to right*) with community stakeholders, including community leaders, health-care workers and representatives from faith organizations and schools, were:

- **Enock Mokaya Omanga**, a rising senior and electrical-engineering major at Gusii Institute of Technology just outside nearby Kisii Town, Kenya, translating from English or Swahili to the local language Kisii.
- **Mandy Lee**, an HKA New Jersey board member and rising senior at Georgetown University, conversing in Swahili and English.
- **James Omanga**, Enock's father, and HKA Keroka co-founder and chairman.
- **Dr. Andy Jackson**, HKA New Jersey co-founder and treasurer.
- **Rogers Akama**, an HKA Keroka board member and chairman of that group's water subcommittee.



Dr. Jackson suggested to the crowd that, by charging 2 Kenyan shillings for each 20-liter water-filled jerry can gathered by village residents at the new borehole, then the overall community might be in the position to afford the drilling of one additional borehole every two years – with the ultimate goal of having four such boreholes total in place within the next six years to serve the more than 5,000 people in Nyanchonori Village and beyond.

Dr. Jackson also suggested the formation of a non-profit community water company to manage this effort, metering the flow of water to residents and planning for future boreholes, among other tasks.

“You could make this area the first community in Nyamira County to have sufficient water,” Dr. Jackson says. “Given that the supply of water might be finite, a primary objective would be to manage the flow for the sake of fairness and equity, with the goal of additional boreholes in the future.”

He suggested that the community set household limits on the amount of water drawn from the new borehole by residents each day, while continuing to use water collected from rooftop systems or nearby streams or springs for watering crops or farm animals.

Those community representatives attending the community focus group voted overwhelmingly that day in favor of forming a water company to oversee water distribution and of serving as ambassadors in reaching out to the rest of the community to promote the formation of such a water company, the judicious use of borehole water and the continued expansion of clean water sources, among other items.



**Opening the discussion:** Above, **Rogers Akama** – a board member within HKA New Jersey’s sister organization **HKA Keroka** – speaks about the local non-profit organization’s water goals for the community at the start of the communitywide focus group in late July 2016. For HKA Kenya, Akama is responsible for water-related issues.



**Enthusiastic give and take:** Above, a community leader involved in issues related to women and children lends her perspective, while encouraging her fellow colleagues and neighbors to serve as ambassadors in support of this borehole project.

“Water is very important,” she says, speaking of hygiene and cleanliness. “Water is very special to human life. All people should have clean water.”

Robust discussion ensued concerning the possible creation of a locally managed and run water company, possible additional water boreholes in years to come and possible water pricing and daily water quantities allowed, by household.

*(See separate profile on local health-care worker **Concepta Omwenga**.)*



## One-on-one water surveys: Taking the pulse of local village residents' water wants and needs



**The water-surveying team:** Above, **Enock Mokaya Omanga** and **Mandy Lee**, both university students in Kisii Town, southwestern Kenya, and Washington, DC, respectively, reunited to conduct in late July 2016 more than 100 one-on-one water-usage surveys together and separately amongst residents of two adjacent Kenyan villages, Nyanchonori and Mong'oni.

Omanga served as translator, as needed. Both he and Lee interviewed in Swahili, and Omanga would translate from Swahili into the local language Kisii, as necessary. Shown in the background is the administration office of the local high school in Nyanchonori Village, following a water-related communitywide focus group held at the school that morning. Omanga and Lee first had met each other six years earlier during Lee's first trip to Kenya as a student participant in HVCHS' second student trip during Summer 2010.

Survey results demonstrated the following amongst village residents, Lee writes:

- Average estimated daily water consumption per household: 247.1 liters (or 65.3 gallons) total, mainly hand-carried, with the lowest cited amount (13.5 liters per household per day) going toward drinking and the highest cited amount (79.3 liters per household per day), toward washing. Agricultural uses (for crops and animals) also require large quantities of water for each household each day (at 47.8 and 62 liters, respectively).
- Average number of people in household: 7.9 persons (frequently, multiple generations).
- Families reported spending an average of 4.6 hours per day to collect water, largely from a stream, spring or rain barrel.

- Women and girls were responsible for water collection in 77 percent of the surveyed households.
- Some 80 percent of respondents identify themselves as farmers.
- The top concerns amongst residents about water included the distance of water sources, water contamination, and water shortages in the dry season.
- A majority (87 percent) of surveyed residents are willing and able to pay one Kenyan Shilling for a 20-liter jerry can of water from the borehole (82 percent would be willing to pay 2 Kenyan shillings each jerry can).

This on-the-ground research was funded, in full, by two undergraduate “Improving the Human Condition” and “Social Innovation and Public Service Fund” grants awarded to Lee by her college Georgetown University in Washington, DC, in Spring 2016.

Toward the end of her follow-up report to her university, Lee writes: “. . . we gained a more complete understanding of water management systems and government regulations by meeting with the District Water Officer, County government officials, and the managers of a successful community-based water and sanitation company in a nearby town . . . . Additionally, we were able to garner the attention of local government officials, whose resources can supplement outside funding for our projects. After a few critical meetings, we gained the support of local leaders, who promised to provide the funding for a pump, motor, solar power, and kiosks to initiate water distribution from the borehole. Lastly, our success will be measured by the number of people served by the borehole, the number of hours saved from fetching water, the reduction of health expenses from water-borne illness, the reduced uncertainty during dry seasons, the economic opportunities produced by water availability, and the amount of reinvestment in community projects from the water company . . . . In the future, the HKA intends to drill additional boreholes in the two villages to ensure an adequate supply of water to meet the daily demand of all residents. For those who are not able to afford to pay for water, the HKA will work to create an equitable outcome, possibly through discounts, service hours, and/or provision of rain barrels. In the end, the ultimate goal is to make clean water accessible to the whole community year-round.”





**The community responds:** Above, community members who had spent the morning attending a water-related communitywide focus group in Nyanchori Village in late July 2016 later complete water surveys – one side written in English; the other, in Swahili –on the grounds of the local Nyanchori high school in late July 2016. Seated in the center are survey duo **Mandy Lee** and her Kenyan translator and assistant **Enock Mokaya Omanga**.

At right front is **Nelson Giteya**, HKA Keroka board member and secretary and elder brother of **Dr. David Angwenyi**, of Hamilton, NJ, an HKA New Jersey co-founder and that group's vice president for Kenya affairs.

*(See separate profile on local deputy school principal **Nicholas Nyareki**, concerning an HKA New Jersey microscope donation to the secondary school in support of science education that same morning.)*



**Out on foot (1 of 2):** Above, HKA New Jersey board member **Mandy Lee** conducts a water survey (in Swahili) with a resident of Nyanchonori Village in late July 2016. In total, she and her Kenyan counterpart and fellow university student **Enock Mokaya Omanga** conducted more than 100 water surveys with residents of two local villages – Nyanchonori and Mong’oni – that week.



**Out on foot (2 of 2):** Above, HKA New Jersey board member **Mandy Lee** conducts a water survey (in Swahili) with a resident of Nyanchonori Village in late July 2016. In total, she and her Kenyan counterpart and fellow university student **Enock Mokaya Omanga** conducted more than 100 water surveys with residents of two local villages – Nyanchonori and Mong’oni – that week. The women (*shown at center*) in red and green, respectively, are **Askah Nyanduko** and **Yulkas Mongina**, sisters of **Dr. David Angwenyi**, of Hamilton, NJ, an HKA New Jersey co-founder and that group’s vice president for Kenya affairs.





**With the women:** Above, HKA New Jersey board member Mandy Lee assists local women in completing personal water surveys (in English or Swahili) in Nyanchori Village in late July 2016. In total, she and her Kenyan counterpart and fellow university student **Enock Mokaya Omanga** conducted more than 100 water surveys with residents of two local villages – Nyanchori and Mong’oni – that week.



**Obtaining the male perspective:** Above, **Enock Mokaya Omanga**, representing HKA Keroka, and HKA New Jersey board member **Mandy Lee** conduct water-related surveys with local men on the grounds of what will become the **Global Connections Center** (*read more on next page*) in Nyanchori Village in late July 2016. In total, the two university students conducted more than 100 water surveys, together and separately, with residents of two local villages – Nyanchori and Mong’oni – that week.

Soon-to-be international education hub:  
Foundation stones lain for coming Global Connections Center



**A special spot atop mountain:** Above, at the center of Nyanchonori Village lies a mountaintop plot of family land owned by **Dr. David Angwenyi**, of Hamilton, NJ. There, Dr. Angwenyi, an HVCHS biology teacher, plans to construct what he's named the **Global Connections Center** (GCC). Since 2007, Dr. Angwenyi has led multiple groups of NJ high-school students and faculty/staff/community chaperones on trips throughout Kenya, including a generous amount of time spent in his childhood village Nyanchonori each trip.

Several years ago – in addition to his work with the **Hopewell-Keroka Alliance** (*discussed earlier*) – Dr. Angwenyi founded the **Global Connections Kenya** (GCK) organization, offering U. S. high-school students the opportunity to build global bridges of understanding through educational diplomacy and service-learning experiences, domestically and abroad.

As part of his GCK efforts, Dr. Angwenyi plans to raise funds and build the GCC structure on this plot of land where his Kenyan childhood home once stood. This new, larger venue could house students or other travelers from around the United States or world. According to the GCK website, the GCC will be a place “where students from the United States and Kenya will converge to learn,” serving alternately as a cross-cultural international conference venue or local education center. (*For more information, please see: [www.globalconnectionskenya.org](http://www.globalconnectionskenya.org).*)





**Foundation stones lain:** Above, in late July 2016, **Dr. David Angwenyi** (*shown center, in dark suit, standing in front of proposed rendering*) leads a combined group of hundreds of NJ-area visitors, mainly high-school students and their chaperones, and area residents in laying the foundation stones – locally made red-clay bricks, lain end to end in a circle – representing what is planned to become the **Global Connections Center** in the months and years ahead. Fund raising for this Kenyan educational hub currently is underway. In a nutshell, 10 bricks cost 100 Kenyan shillings total, equivalent to \$1 US. (*For more information, please see: [www.globalconnectionskenya.org/fundraising.html](http://www.globalconnectionskenya.org/fundraising.html).)*)

Translating Dr. Angwenyi's remarks from English into the local language Kisii for the assembled crowd that day was **Napthali Makora** (*center, in light-colored suit*), who currently resides with his wife in Boston, Massachusetts, but hails from Nyanchori Village and still owns family property there. He happened to have been visiting the village that same week.





**Building a global bridge of understanding between two communities, Kenyan and American:** Above, during the public foundation-stone-laying ceremony in late July 2016, **Dr. David Angwenyi** (*shown standing, center rear, in jacket, tie and sunglasses*) – founder of the planned **Global Connections Center**, expected to be completed by 2018 on his family land in Nyanchonori Village – explains his vision of this educational center to hundreds of local and international attendees, including area children (*foreground*) and some 24 visiting high-school students and their Hopewell Valley, NJ, chaperones.



**Embracing local education and creativity (1 of 2):** Above, **Lea Hopkins** (shown above right), an HVCHS engineering teacher, enjoys a moment together with a Kenyan student one morning in late July 2016 when a representative sampling of some 80 local students from different local schools each would receive a newly commissioned complete school-specific uniform, including a coordinating hand-loomed sweater, all created by local village women, as part of the non-profit **Seeds to Sew International** chapter recently launched in Nyanchori Village. (For more information, please see: [www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchonori-seeds-sew-launch](http://www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchonori-seeds-sew-launch)).

A 24-member delegation of HVCHS students, faculty members, chaperones and community members had joined together with local village residents that week to celebrate, among other accomplishments, the near-completion of a recently drilled water borehole – the first of its kind – for the greater community.

In commenting on the new school uniforms, **Dr. David Angwenyi**, the HVCHS biology teacher who masterminds these GCK student trips to Kenya, said: “Kenyan students cannot go to school without proper uniforms. Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of some very young NJ students, dozens of Kenyan schoolchildren today have received new uniforms, sewn by village women.”

Back in New Jersey, grade-schoolers at a local Hopewell Valley primary school – the **Bear Tavern Elementary School in Titusville** – had collected \$400 US total to finance the sewing of these 80 uniforms by the Nyanchori women as part of the Seeds to Sew program.

Afterward, the local women served a big delicious outdoor community lunch, including a plentiful stew of locally grown potatoes, topped with a light tomato broth, homemade chapati bread, hearth-baked over flames, and locally grown bananas.





**Embracing local education and creativity (2 of 2):** Enjoying a moment together one morning in late July 2016 with a local student in Nyanchori Village is **Jennifer Dawlabani** (*shown above left*), a rising HVCHS senior and member of the high school's student-run **Global Connections Club**. That same morning, a representative sampling of some 80 local schoolchildren received full new school uniforms, including hand-loomed coordinating sweaters, as part of the non-profit Seeds to Sew International chapter recently launched in Nyanchori Village. (*For more information, please see: [www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchori-seeds-sew-launch](http://www.seedstosew.org/2016/06/16/nyanchori-seeds-sew-launch)*).

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