

Camera

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SCHOOL REPORT | *Weekly news about your school district*

Students support Kenyan school

Horizons class raising money for kids worldwide

By Amy Bounds
Camera Staff Writer

Pictures of a Kenyan school made of sheet metal, with students sitting at simple desks on a dirt floor and no textbooks, reinforced the determination of students at Boulder's Horizons K-8 charter school to raise money.

A class of about 25 Horizons students in fourth through eighth grades is spending the next two months working with Boulder's Global Education Fund to raise money for the school in an impoverished area of Nairobi, Kenya.

The Kenya project is part of a new, two-month elective class offered at Horizons called "Making a Difference." Other classes are knitting blankets for children in Afghanistan, putting together care packages for orphans in Honduras and raising money for local nonprofits.

Students working on the Kenya project recently heard a firsthand account of conditions for children in Kenya from Fred and Alice Afwai, who started both the Kenyan school and a nearby orphanage.

"We want them to have hope in their lives," Fred Afwai said.

The school, which doesn't have electricity, enrolls about 250 children. Most don't have textbooks, requiring them to carefully copy the teacher's notes from the board. Students also must walk — three of the boys walk two hours each way.

A lunch program also recent-



Johanna Snow | For the Camera

Gracie Harding, right, 13, Razan Kanjo, 11, and Emma Freedman, 13, of Horizons K-8 charter school, listen to guest speakers Fred and Alice Afwai, of Kenya, talk about their school and orphanage. The Horizons class, in partnership with Boulder's Global Education Fund, is raising money for the Kenyan school.

ly was started to prevent students from leaving in the afternoons to search for food on the streets. For most, the simple school lunch of rice and beans is their only meal of the day.

Horizons eighth-grader Madison Reese said hearing about the Kenyan students' dedication to learning and attending school was "inspiring."

"It makes you want to act," she said.

To raise money, the students plan to collect used books and sell them by setting up book stores at their school. They also plan to make and sell gift-wrap and bookmarks. Along with fundraising, they'll research what it's like in Kenya and write letters to Kenyan students.

Money is needed at the Kenyan school for textbooks, to help students afford the 20-cents-a-day lunch and to pro-

vide scholarships for students who pass national exams for secondary education.

"It's a great way for kids to help kids," said Liz Berry, Global Education Fund program director.

Berry, her husband and her three sons spent several weeks visiting orphanages in Kenya. One son, Ben Gips, is a fifth-grader at Horizons who's work-

ing on the Kenya project and plans to share his experiences with his classmates.

"The most important thing I noticed was how happy they were with what they had, even though they didn't have very much according to American standards," he said.

Contact Camera Staff Writer Amy Bounds at 303-473-1341 or boundsa@dailycamera.com.