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Dear The Posterus Foundation,

Coming to Jilore, Kenya 15 months ago gave me an in depth perspective on challenges in rural Kenya. There was nothing more to my quaint village than two schools, a dispensary, a church, and two small shops. Electricity had just arrived, but with poverty being the main problem in my area only the schools were able to access it.

Since we had so little in the village, the only option to access many things was to travel into Malindi, our closet big town. For me as a Peace Corps Volunteer on a basic monthly living allowance that was a lot compared to many family incomes here, I found it tiring, stressful, and costly to constantly have to travel to Malindi for errands. It became a weekly trip for me just to mail a letter, find a newspaper, use a computer, and go to the supermarket, hardware store, or library. At 200 Kenyan shillings and 2 hours round trip, it added up fast and soon I dreaded going into Malindi. Then I had to ask myself, "how is possible for a village member, especially the out of work youth, that are below the poverty line, with maybe a spouse or children, able to do this for basic needs like a 3 shilling photocopy?"

This is where the idea of the Jilore Vijana Resource Center grew into a project. It was my goal to have the center offer resources to the community on a beginning level to reduce the need of traveling into Malindi for basic things. This in turn would save them money, time, and energy while also benefiting the community with educational opportunities.

With the support and help of the leaders in Jilore and the outside donors, we were able to make this project a reality. It took time to sensitize the community about what this center can offer them, but I've seen and have been told that it is finally catching on and being understood. Now with the building completed, the resources will soon be flowing in and the community will be active and benefiting.

The interest in the Jilore Vijana Resource Center is so strong that I can't wait to see how much it will do for the community and how much it will expand in the future.

Thank you again,



Lee Ann Sobczak  
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