Dr. Nancy Glass to Return to Walungu

In June for the third consecutive year Dr. Nancy Glass of Great Lakes Restoration (GLR) and the Center for Global Health at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) will lead a research team to Walungu Territory which is located about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Bukavu in South-Kivu province of the DRC. Dr. Glass will lead a team including at least two JHU students. The team’s work this summer will continue studies begun in 2008 and 2009 in conjunction with the Rama-Levina Foundation to design a protocol for the reintegration of the survivors of rape as a weapon of war into their families, villages and communities. The process includes one-on-one interviews (both of new participants and follow-up with interviewees from past years); health care screening and referrals; and, providing basic information about health and legal rights. Rama-Levina is a Congolese NGO partner of GLR dedicated to the eradication of sexual violence against women.

This year Dr. Glass hopes to add a new element measuring the health impacts of increased social and economic security to her study. She also hopes to able to introduce the GLR Pigs for Peace (PFP) project into Walungu. Given sufficient funding, this will be accomplished in coordination with PAIDEK which is another long-standing Congolese NGO and GLR partner, specializing in micro enterprise support and finance. PAIDEK currently operates PFP in the DRC.

Pigs for Peace Building Momentum

Recently, GLR sent PAIDEK, our operating partner in the DRC, $5,000 for the purchase of another 100 pigs. In addition, since the beginning of the year the project has received 26 “interest” piglets from participating families in repayment of the loan pigs funded by GLR and provided by PAIDEK. Even more promising, GLR was just contacted by the Friends of Megan Call. This group was organized by Larisa Call and her daughter Megan who is starting college and plans to pursue a nursing curriculum. They have already raised $525 in a couple of weeks; their target is to raise funds for 100 pigs.

Donation Gratefully Acknowledged

Just after the first of the year GLR received sixteen computer workstations, a laptop, monitors and printers from Buccaneer Computer Systems & Service, Inc. (BCSSI) of Warrenton, Virginia. Each of these will make a big difference in the operations of a partner NGO, a classroom, a clinic. GLR has reinstalled software, but we are still in the process of gathering additional peripherals and power cables. All of the equipment is Dell, except the printers which are Hewlett-Packard. If you think you may have some of the needed items to donate contact mark@glrbtp.org. Our continuing thanks to BCSSI for your generosity.

HAVE NEWS? Email GLR at info@glrbtp.org