



**RISE eNewsletter**

**December 2009**

*"... if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness..."* Isaiah 58:10

*"Do not think that we are fine when you see pretty buildings and nice cars in Angola, for that is not reflected in the face of the hungry and poor children and rural families. CAPITAL is what we need to build schools and hospitals and feed ourselves, but LOVE is what we need to survive and embrace a better future. LOVE moves you to do what you are doing now, makes you live like us, and makes you reach beyond your own lives. God has made you all our blessings...and there's nothing much greater than the blessings of God.*

*You are the hope of those who are socially excluded, of those who are hungry to learn, of the father and mother wishing a better future for their kids, of those who dreamed like I once did, the dream to BE someone, like I am today.*

*Thank you ARC, thank you RISE, thank you Dr. Andrew Cole, thank you all. We need you to live...so we survive..."*  
Bonifacio E. S. Sessa (Boni), excerpt from RISE 2009 Year End Letter

Boni is a young man we met in the Osire Refugee Camp, whose college education was sponsored by RISE. He won a scholarship to complete his master's degree in the US and now works in Luanda, Angola.



### **Christmas for a Cause!**

Moms Educate Africa hosted three fun holiday events, "Gingerbread House Making," "Christmas for a Cause" and "Deck the Halls Holiday Party" on Saturday, December 12, bringing hope to children in Angola. Kids had a great time creating gingerbread houses, decorating cookies, making ornaments and cocoa mix, and got to see Santa! This group of Evanston and North Shore moms are working together to raise money to build a school in rural Angola - they love being moms, challenging themselves to make a difference in the lives of others and impacting the lives of kids in Angola through their efforts!

[Moms Educate Africa](#)

### **In This Issue**

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**Message from Lynn**

## 2009 Annual RISE Benefit Spend yourself

The RISE Benefit was a wonderful evening! Our benefits are unique and experiential as they seek to give an understanding of Angola, and raise awareness as well as money. Guests were challenged to compare life in the US and Angola, to think about the ways we are alike, sharing the same dreams, yet how our lives are so different because of where we are born. Our challenge was to raise \$80,000 to build a U-shape school for 800 kids - the goal was reached thanks to many generous donors! The funds have been wired and the school foundation is underway - the future of those 800 kids, their families and the entire community will be changed because of education!

[See the spend yourself video](#)



## Bank of America Chicago Marathon Update

The Marathon was an incredible success on every level...more than anyone could have dreamed or imagined! Individual runners challenged themselves to do what many had never done, a special sense of community developed and the team was supported by hundreds of people rallying to give to a bigger cause.

Many cheered the team on race day and the end result was that enough money was raised to build two schools in Kaila and Gamba, Angola, one L-shape and one U-shape - the communities will be transformed because of the joint efforts of many coming together! The excitement and gratitude are immense and the schools are underway!

[Team RISE Video](#)



## Give a gift with lasting meaning...

### Help a child go to school!

Looking for a gift for a teacher, a special friend, family? Celebrate friends and family with gifts that really matter - give a gift with lasting meaning! By giving a gift to help a child go to school, you will change lives now and for the future. All gifts, big and small, make a real difference! We'll be happy to put a card in the mail to you or you can "print a card" from our website.

[Invest in the Future](#)

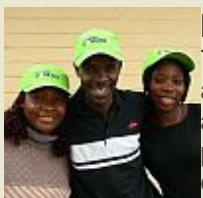


## Students helping students...

### Schools helping schools!

Students have a wonderful desire to help others - several area high schools are working hard to raise awareness and funds to help kids in Angola. Glenbrook North High School sponsored a 5K Walk/Run in November with about 250 participants. Community High School West Chicago, Maine West, Wheeling and New Trier High School students have planned a turkey trot, Night of Stars, Skate for RISE, Turnabout Dance, Battle of the Bands, change drives, t-shirt sales and more...

[See what others are doing](#)



## It Takes Courage! Radio Pilot Project

The *ITC!* Radio Pilot Project launched in early November as a strategy to layer and reinforce concepts of character and courage community-wide. The project includes the production of the *Grandma's Village* drama series (based on the concepts of the *ITC!* Youth Curriculum), the training of local church lay leaders and teachers to lead discussion groups, and the airing of the radio program twice a week, for 32 weeks. Listening groups have been formed, 14 in schools and 51 in churches, discussions follow each program and there is growing interest,

Greetings!

We hope that you find our eNewsletters informative and inspiring. Amazing things continue to happen, with added opportunities, partnerships and participation! Thanks for your support and partnership -- together we can do what we could never do alone!



**RISE embraced a dream to impact Angola through education -- one child, one classroom, one school at a time.**

### Quick Links

[Giving Opportunities](#)

[2009 Benefit Photos](#)

RISE is now on Facebook...

[Become a Fan](#)

Read more about Bonifacio in our [Spring 2007 Newsletter](#)

excitement and participation.

[It Takes Courage! Radio Pilot Project](#)

## Tracking Our Progress

- 125 schools - 115 in session, 10 under construction
- 55,000+ children in school
- 924 teachers, leaders and pastors certified to teach *ITC!* Curriculum
- 1000+ teachers and leaders trained in RISE workshops
- 20 containers shipped
- 22 Pilgrimage of Service Teams, including over 200 participants

## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Information Meeting - Summer 2010 Pilgrimage of Service: Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, 8:30-10:00am

at the RISE Office

Angola Trip - Oversight and Development: Jan. 28 - Feb. 14, 2010

## Contact Information

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