

FRIENDS OF THE VALLEY

Adopt a school, Plant a fruit, Feed a child!

October 2018 Edition



Thank you!

Friends of the Valley (FOTV) USA and Kenya Board want to thank you for showing your commitment to our organizations mission and vision. None of our work could be done without our amazing donors, partners and volunteers. We want to send a special thanks to Tumaini Baptist Church for hosting our 2017 and 2018 Annual Dinner. The dinner has provided a great opportunity to reflect in our year and also to honor and recognize individuals. The overwhelming support we have received has made 2018 one of our most successful years since the organization was founded. We look forward to 2019 as we seek to reach more schools with our programs.

FOTV Background:

FOTV was founded and registered as a Non-Governmental organization in the state Maryland, USA, on February 3, 2010 with the following pillars: promoting community participation in eradication of poverty in Kenya through the building of dams for clean water and irrigation and promotion of food security and use of renewable energy, such as solar and wind. By registering FOTV, we wanted to enhance advocacy, collaboration and partnerships in economic development so that the citizens are empowered and become less reliant on government assistance even on basic needs such as food. In this regard, we remain hopeful that the proposed Chebuskech dam in Kiboino will be considered for funding in the first 5 years of the administration of H.E. Governor Kiptis. The dam will not only become a great source for water for domestic use, but also for irrigation thus enhancing food security for Baringo County.

In October 2012, FOTV was recognized and awarded by the Kenya Embassy, Washington, DC, at the Diaspora Conference for positive contributions towards community service.

Our Goals:

- Empower friends, valley by valley
- Establish strong partnerships with friends, local and international organizations
- Advocate for sustainable funding for the building of dams and drilling of boreholes
- Advocate for the establishments of irrigation projects
- Promote food Security through initiatives such growing fruits in schools
- Advocate for the use of renewable energy which will lead to a sustainable environment

Welcome to our
first newsletter!



MAKE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION!

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:

We appreciate your donations. It will help us advance our food security goal through: Adopt a School, Grow a fruit, Feed a child! Program.

ONLINE OR MOBILE DONATIONS!

www.friendsofthevalley.org

In Kenya make donation through
Mpesa PayBill # 480552

EVENTS PAGE!

If you want to sponsor a school, or want to help organize a tree planting in your neighborhood, see: www.friendsofthevalley.org

Adopt a School, Plant a fruit, Feed a child! Initiative/Affruitation:

2014: Launched the pilot program in 5 schools – (Kiboino, Kapsigorian, Kiplabal, Oinobmoi and Sironoi) by planting 220 mango seedlings.
2015: Coordinated the donation and planting of 700 seedlings in 16 schools spread across 3 counties (Baringo, Uasin Gishu and Nandi).
2016: Over 1,500 seedlings was donated to 27 schools in two counties: Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo
2017: Coordinated the donation and planting of over 1,300 seedlings fruit seedlings in 34 schools in six counties (Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet, Uasin Gishu, Bomet, Kericho and Baringo)
2018: Coordinated the donation and planting of 400 Mango seedlings in 20 schools, Mogotio sub-county in May 2018, 160 Avocados in 2 schools, Belgut sub-county, Kericho County in June 2018, and our most recent activity was donation of 300 seedlings to 9 schools in Ewalel Chapchap ward, Baringo County. As you may remember, in our conversation I shared some of the reasons why we have low seedlings survival rates, and that forms part of the areas we need to collaborate. We have worked closely on provision of seedlings and research with Cheptebo AIC Rural Development Centre and Kerio Valley Development Authority and other small nurseries since 2014.

Thanks to our partners:

- Kass FM International
<http://www.kassfm.co.ke/home>

AIC Cheptebo Rural Development
<https://www.cheptebo.org/>

Keiyo Soy Ministries
<http://www.ksmministries.com/>

Otech Gaa
<http://otechgaacommunity.org/>
- Hope for change foundation

Tumaini Baptist Church <http://tumainichurch.com/>

Baringo County Government
<http://www.baringo.go.ke/>

Gotabgaa DC
<http://www.gotabgaadc.com>

ASIS Community
<http://www.asiscommunity.org/>

Find out how you or your company can adopt an upcoming planting:
www.friendsofthevalley.org











FUN FACT ABOUT MANGOES

The vitamin content of mango depends on the variety and maturity of the fruit. When a mango is green and still growing there is a high vitamin C content, as the fruit ripens and matures the amount of vitamin A increases

Friends of the Valley News!



Friends of the Valley during a planting ceremony!!



2017 Annual Dinner. The catering team- headed by Brenda Sergon did an amazing job with the cooking!



Our stand at the county fair!



2017 Annual FOTV Dinner with guest of honor- AMB. Michael Sergon



Guest of honor presenting certificates to 2017 recipients



Some of the attendees at the 2017 Dinner

Please visit our website for more pictures! www.friendsofthevalley.org



Community Participation: Annual Dinners in the USA, and personal appeals

Every year since 2014, FOTV has been banking on grass root effort by approaching the Kenyan Diaspora living in the United States and other countries by asking them to give back to their native country, Kenya. In the state of Maryland, USA, Annual Dinner is held where friends from the community, the Embassy officials, and church leaders are invited to sponsor a dinner plate of Kenyan cuisine. During the Annual Dinner, a report is presented showing Seedlings Survival Rates from the previous year and summary report on the successes and opportunities, Financial Report and Goals for the upcoming years. Proceeds from the Annual Dinner and all funds collected from those who want to adopt their former schools through our "Adopt a school, Plant a fruit, Feed a child!" are used to buy the seedlings as well as use towards administration and logistics.

Currently, we are only targeting primary and secondary schools because they are the places close to our families and communities, and allow us to use students as our great ambassadors to achieve our objectives.

Areas for Collaboration with the County Government:

At Friends of the Valley (USA) and Friends of the Valley (Kenya), we are proposing the following areas for collaboration:

- Subsidizing our donations of the seedlings to the tune of at least 50%

Fencing of the school's garden/shamba in order to protect the seedlings from livestock

Providing water to allow sufficient watering of the seedlings at the tender stage. This can be done through- donation of Kentanks, or assisting schools to harvest and store rain water; and in the long term assisting schools to drill boreholes
Providing extension officer services or training to schools on how to tender the seedlings, especially protecting it from pests and termites

Providing auditing services; for example, sending the agricultural extension officer to report and log survival rates; and passing it on to FOTV

Assist with transportation/logistics of the seedlings from the nursery/supplier to location/school where launching will be done

Donate a demonstration farm to Friends of the Valley (Community Based Organization), Kenya. In this farm, FOTV will plant a variety of donated seedlings where schools/ community can visit to learn and see how to grow and take care of fruit trees.



Our Current Launching Activities Process:

At Friends of the Valley (USA) in conjunction with Friends of Valley (Community Based Organization in Kenya), every year when we launch our Affruiation program we do the following:

- Donate mango/Avocado/other fruit seedlings to a list of schools in selected counties such as Baringo, and other surrounding counties in Rift Valley.
- Due to a limited budget, FOTV, USA maintains the right to decide which and how many schools to launch the program in any given year
- Provide the survival rate log, the print outs, other materials need by schools during the launch
- Coordinate the schedules on when to launch, follow up to make sure the seedlings arrive at the designated launch location on time
- Provide FOTV banners for branding and recognition of the efforts of our donors

Friends of the valley is a non-profit organization, founded in 2014.

Leadership:

Mr. Stephen K. Sergon
President, Chair of the Board

Dr. Solomon Kendagor
Vice President (Interim),
Board Member

Jackson Changwony
Treasurer, Board Member

Kip Kipyegon
Secretary, Board Member

Dr. Janet Tarus
Board Member

Alice Aranga
Board Member

