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Darien Rotary Club Raises Money for Elementary School Toilets in Kenya

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The Rotary Club of Darien Foundation is raising money for a sister Rotary Club in Kenya to build toilets for elementary schools there. The link between the two groups: former Darien resident Kate Crowley.

An effort to raise \$1,500 for the project through the ImpactVine.org website run by the Community Fund of Darien raised 100 percent of its goal on Saturday, Nov. 4.

From 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, the Rotary Club will have a meeting to update Club members and other donors of the progress made, and show how the Impactvine web page works. The meeting takes place at

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HSBC Bank, 151 Post Road, Darien.

Here's what the [ImpactVine fundraising Web page](#) for the project says about it:

The Rotary Club of Darien is partnering with Kate Crowley (former Darien resident) of the Rotary Club of [Kilifi, Kenya](#) to raise \$1,500 on The Impact Vine to build toilets at primary schools in rural Kenya.

The Darien club will contribute an additional \$1,000, and we are applying for a Rotary District matching grant of \$2,500 for a total fund raise of \$5,000.

Your contributions will be more than tripled!

The Rotary Club of Kilifi has been working for a number of years to bring toilets to primary schools in Kenya's Ganze sub-county. Primary school enrollment numbers have surged in Kenya since the introduction of free primary education in 2003, and this has placed a severe strain on school infrastructure.

Funds raised through this project will be used to

- build one block of toilets with a hand washing station
- provide adequate water storage
- include sanitary towels for girls and
- will provide health education materials for all students.

Each block has six toilets and serves about 150 students.

Originally from Darien and a long-time visitor of our club, Kate is the chairperson of the Kilifi club's water and sanitation committee. Her committee has built 11 blocks of toilets already, including one sponsored by the Rotary Club of Darien in 2012.

We were all very impressed with the outcome of our past partnership and were delighted by updated photos of the clean and well-maintained block of toilets that Kate showed us on a recent visit to our club.

Ensuring adequate sanitation at schools is a basic human right and a key component of quality education. When schools have ample clean toilets, the spread of disease is reduced, and student attendance levels are much higher. This is especially true for adolescent girls who often miss school when they are menstruating. Clean toilets with adequate privacy is a crucial part of making sure that all students can attend regularly.

Join us in supporting this project!