



# Service Learning News

## 10.29.07

by Judy Brookhart

Dear Parents,

A number of the seventh grade advisories met with Penny Frese last week. Mrs. Frese arrived with a PowerPoint presentation about a program called Children of Ubumi. The program supports a group of children orphaned by AIDS in Zambia by providing them with a place to live, schooling and above all, love, compassion and nurture as they grow up. Our seventh graders were clearly touched by the pictures and stories, for these children are close to them or their siblings in age, yet far apart on the level of simplest needs being met.

Our seventh graders learned that while Mrs. Frese and her husband were in Zambia last year, they took supplies for macrame and showed the orphans how to make simple hemp bracelets. The Zambian children loved it, and picked it up very quickly. So together they devised a plan to have the children make simple tie-on bracelets that have a red bead in the center for AIDS awareness. The Freses then designed a card to which the bracelet could then be attached. On one side of the card is a picture and information about one of the children. On the other side of the card is information about AIDS in Africa and the Ubumi project.

After our seventh graders heard the story, they joined the children of the orphanage in making bracelets, which a local area high school will sell. All the funds from the sale of these bracelets will go to a special education fund for the Zambian children. I think it is hard for us to imagine the good that we can do until we hear firsthand from someone who has a passion for the situation. Mrs. Frese expressed her love for the Children of Ubumi in such a way, and our seventh graders movingly responded. These bracelets will help to make the orphans' difficult lives easier, and more importantly, it gives them hope.

I hope you enjoy the accompanying pictures showing the creative ways that seventh graders manage hemp bracelet weaving!

*Judy*

