



# Henriette's Relief Project

170 Chipman Park, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Newsletter No. 2, December 2007

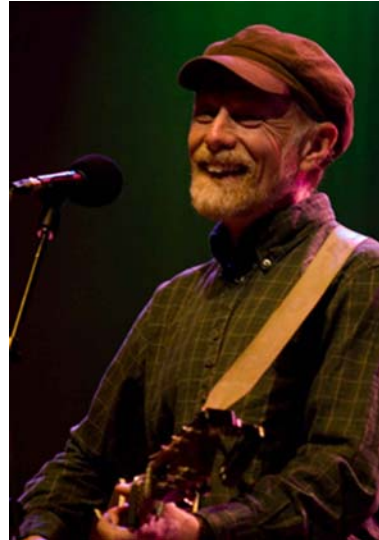
Dear Friends,

It is with deep sadness I must inform you that we have lost our dear friend Rusty Jacobs, managing partner of Woods Tea Company. Rusty passed on suddenly in August from a heart attack. Rusty and Woods Tea Company adopted Henriette's Relief Project in 2001 and have been the primary fundraiser for our relief work. The Woods Tea Company also lost band member Chip Chase in October 2006. We are thankful for all the efforts Rusty, Chip, Howard and Michael have given to help the Congolese children. If you are interested in reading more about Chip & Rusty, visit the website [www.woodstea.net](http://www.woodstea.net).

In this season of giving, please consider helping the Congolese children by making a tax-free donation of \$25, \$50 or \$100.

Once again, thank you for your support.

David & Patty Hallam



Back in 2001 when Rusty first called me, curious to learn a bit about Henriette's Relief Project, how could I have known a most brilliant star was about to enter my life! Being a Wood's Tea Company fan and on the shy side, I was in absolute awe that someone of his stature would take the time and effort to learn about our tiny project in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I was more than a little nervous to come and speak to the rest of the band at his request! They were very famous!

The meeting went well and thus began the groups unwavering commitment to about 350 children outside Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. No matter where WTC played around the country, Rusty would take just a moment to talk about the plight of these children and simply let people know there was a coffee can on stage if anyone would like to drop in a donation during intermission. Was it his choice of words, the sincerity in his voice, his authenticity, the respect and connection fans felt with the group? Whatever transpired in that moment, the energy that passed between performers and audience created unfathomable generosity and good will. I do know that thanks to Rusty's unwavering commitment to these children, WTC raised over \$70,000 on their behalf.

Rusty became a friend and integral part of our small effort, allowing us to do more than we had ever dreamed possible with our bake sales. After every concert tour he would bring a blue shoebox filled with donations!

I feel so privileged and honored to have called Rusty Jacobs my friend. I will forever cherish his faith and trust in David, Boudouin and I and our efforts, and remember his warmth, humility, compassion and fun loving nature that has enriched my life beyond measure.

In closing I find this quote by William Shakespeare to describe perfectly the essence of Rusty.

His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man."

Patty Hallam

**Mission Statement**—"Henriette's Relief Project is a non-profit organization with a mission to save lives, relieve human suffering and bring hope for a brighter future to people in developing countries. We provide food, medicine, and education to children and their families living in extreme poverty. By working as directly as possible with individuals and communities, we believe our small efforts bring positive change to the lives of the people we serve."



**Christmas Baskets**—The Christmas Basket Project has been launched in order to help the poorest families spend the year end festivities with dignity. The Christmas Basket is also used to stimulate participation of families in various workshops which are organized with their needs in mind. In 2006, the ceremony was quite impressive and included small shows and songs composed for this occasion by various women. It was an opportunity to thank those who have devoted their time and efforts to publicize our activities. The families each received a grocery basket containing fish, chicken, tomatoes, oil, flour and onions.



**Micro-Credit Loans**—Our micro-credit Program attempts to help the poorest families who have one or more children in feeding centers start an income generating activity.

The objective is to assist families in obtaining a small source of income so that they can continue their child's nutrition program after he/she leaves the nutrition center.

It should be noted that this program, which started in 2005, could not be continued in 2007 due to lack of funds. But, considering its impact with the beneficiaries, we hope to find means to start it again in 2008.

#### Our Resources

HRP, a United States non-governmental organization, has been funded by private individuals and the Wood's Tea Company—a Vermont based, national touring band. True humanitarians through their care, concern and generosity, Wood's Tea Company has raised thousands of dollars for HRP. At concerts around the country, they routinely took a few moments to tell the story of Henriette and gave people the chance to make a donation.

WTC currently consists of regulars, Howard, Michael and former member, Tom McKenzie. They have generously offered to perform a memorial concert in the spring of 2008 for Rusty with all proceeds benefiting HRP, date to be announced.

With the WTC in major transition it is adjusting to, it is imperative HRP find new and creative ways to finance our projects.



**Raising Awareness against HIV/AIDS**—More than a simple health problem, HIV/AIDS is today a real societal problem, with the solution being first and foremost prevention. This disease destroys the lives of individuals, families and communities. It is important to speak about it, within the family as well as in public. Through an increase in the level of knowledge on how it is transmitted as well as on its consequences that awareness is raised. Once an individual has HIV, a new life begins and one must be supported by the resources available in one's community. HKMF has committed to offering training and information sessions for families and the community in order to help them make wise decisions regarding their health.

**Would you like to learn more about us or make a donation? We would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Patty and David Hallam at (802) 388-1561 ([D\\_Hallam@msn.com](mailto:D_Hallam@msn.com)), 170 Chipman Park, Middlebury, VT 05753. [www.hrpweb.org](http://www.hrpweb.org)**