

# Bean Fair Coffee brings joy to Swaziland



Photo courtesy of Steve Baird  
Youth in the village of Nkamazi in Swaziland sit with brand new fair trade soccer balls, purchased with money raised by selling Bean Fair Coffee at last December's Chelsea Craft Fair and personal donations from owner Anne Winship.



Photo Courtesy of Steve Baird

Steve Baird of AIDS St. John waves from a crowd of Swazi youth after presenting them a gift of soccer equipment from Y Focus. If you see mouths moving, it's because their chief asked them to say "thank you Canada."

By Rowan Lomas

Though worlds apart, locals have made a difference in Nkamazi, Swaziland, bringing joy to village children for the price of a cup of coffee.

At December's Chelsea Craft Fair, Anne Winship of Bean Fair Coffee in Wakefield sold enough cups of fair trade coffee to purchase eight new soccer balls for the Nkamazi youth association. For one village to affect another on the opposite corner of the world, almost 15,000 kilometres apart, is an inspiring project, said Winship.

"It makes me feel great. From my small village to that small village is amazing, it's nice to have a direct impact on kids' lives who have so little joy," she said. "They deserve to have some fun too, dammit."

Last month the balls and other soccer equipment arrived in Swaziland in a joint project between Y Focus, the Ottawa YMCA service club, and AIDS St. John, a New Brunswick non-profit organization that is working in the rural village to address the impact of the HIV epidemic.

Swaziland is the country with the world's highest known rates of HIV infection, according to UNAIDS, and almost half of pregnant women are infected resulting in astounding numbers of orphans. In Nkamazi, a town of 1800 people, the number of orphans grew from 77 to 110 in a six-month period last year.

The Y Focus project has distributed over 600 sports balls to projects in 17 countries.

Winship also plans to field a team in a Fair Trade soccer tournament in May where she hopes to raise money for the Wakefield Grannies contributions in South Africa.