

Dear Sycamore Creek Elementary School,

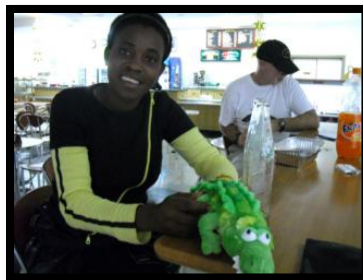
I am sending Kirby back to you now, but I must say – he isn't in the same condition as when you last saw him.

Let **him** tell you about his adventures.

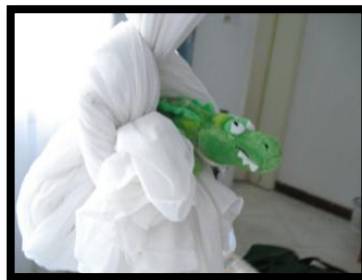
First I arrived at the Denver airport where I saw my Croc friends at a kiosk. I posed here with the Crocs behind me. The next time I came out of Beth's backpack I was in the Brussels Airport. Look how nice and clean I was in that picture.



The next time I came out was when I met Amani Jean-Paul and Munguiko Sarah at the airport in Entebbe, Uganda. We arrived at the airport at 10:30 p.m. Sarah really liked me. We waited for Charity to arrive. Sarah and I tried to get some rest while we waited. Charity's flight arrived at 3:30 a.m. and we stayed at the airport until the sun came up. We were so tired!



We got a taxi and all of us loaded up to go straight to Hoima. In the taxi was Jim, Joe, Beth, Charity, Jean-Paul and Sarah. We also had four large backpacks, four smaller backpacks and four large duffle bags. Yes – there were many of your Crocs in those duffle bags.



It was a long, bumpy trip but we made it to Hoima and got a motel so we could rest. The first thing Beth did was introduce me to a mosquito net. It was hanging over the bed, but tied up for the day.

The net is so important to cover us at night so the bad female mosquitoes wouldn't bite us and give us malaria. We were very safe because this net can save lives! Think Humanity buys similar nets for refugees for only \$5 each. Four

children can sleep under each net. These nets are treated with insectide to keep mosquitoes away at night and the nets last for five years! That's only about \$1.25 per child for five years. I was getting an education on malaria and prevention!

The first child that got to hold me was Mumbele. Mumbele is an orphan. Beth told me that she met him in 2007. His mother had died from malaria when Mumbele was only 6 years old. Last year Mumbele's father died. Now Jean-Paul's family takes care of him and he lives with JP, his wife, three of their children and three orphaned children, all in a tiny little mud hut with a dirt floor, no running water and no electricity. Can you imagine that? Here is a picture of Mumbele in 2008 and Mumbele today. Before Mumbele never smiled, but see him now. Beth took this picture at St. Patrick's Guest House where we stayed. Mumbele is so happy and well cared for now. He loved his new Crocs and we had a good time together.



Soon I got to be held by another orphan. His name is Janvier. He lives at the CLC. That is the COBURWAS Learning Centre. Think Humanity gets sponsors to help orphans and children so that they can have a place to learn, be safe and loved. Janvier used to be very sick and so, so sad. His parents abandoned him and he had no place to go. Now he is so happy and his new name is "ornery boy."

On the left is Janvier a year ago before he lived at the CLC and Janvier now. Janvier got a new pair of Crocs thanks to you.



I didn't visit many more children until the day we walked and walked and walked in the hot sun all the way to Nyamiganda Village. This is a village where Think Humanity had distributed mosquito nets in June 2009. They recognized many of the children's faces and the children recognized them too. After all, not many visitors come from the USA to visit and help in a refugee camp. I thought we would never arrive because I was carried for more than an hour. The road is very dusty and nothing stays clean for long because the red dirt sticks to everything.



Here I am above on Beth's lap waiting to hand out shoes to the children. On the right I am on Ericson's head so I can get a good view of all the children around me.

All of the visitors from the USA spoke to the crowd and so did the Think Humanity managers, Amani Jean-Paul (JP) on left and Nsabimana Emmanuel on right (we called him Emma). Beth introduced me to the children and JP translated my words. JP was silly with his hat on side-ways. Emma always smiles. He was orphaned at age eight and raised his brother and sister all by himself! These TH managers are very special and have so much love for their community.



Below - JP had the children line up. Then he asked them to turn towards us and sit with their legs in front.



Emma and all the TH volunteers were trying Crocs on the children's feet.



Everybody was hoping that the shoes would fit their feet.



A lot of children got colorful shoes this day! The line was so long that you could not see the beginning and end. Then it was time for me to get my photograph taken with the refugee children! Here I am. Thank you Sycamore Creek for allowing me to visit my friends in Africa.



The girl on the far right didn't get a pair of shoes this time, but she was happy to hold me in her arms.



The children were so nice to me, but I will have to tell you that I did get dirty and I will never look the same as I did when you sent me to Africa. Beth tried to wash me up when I got to her home in Colorado.

Beth and Emma visited the Acholi Quarter Camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in a camp outside Kampala. Beth got me some jewelry to wear. I really like my jewelry. It is made out of recycled paper. I hope that you let me wear it for a long time!




Love, Kirby

Thank you Sycamore Creek Elementary School!



Beth Heckel, President
Think Humanity

Oh and P.S. – at the beginning when I said that Kirby was not in the same condition as before; I was not referring to the fact that he got dirty and some of the threads came out of his feet.

I was referring to his heart . Kirby said he is forever changed after meeting refugee children in Kyangwali. He will never forget them and he wants you to always remember these children too. They are victims of war and they lost their homes and had nowhere else to go. Many of the children are orphaned or have lost one parent or sisters and brothers. They came to the camp with what they could carry and they need our love and help.



Pictured are orphaned children from the Congo coming into the refugee camp with their only possessions.