

# Pens not a paltry donation to students in Africa

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A pen or pencil may not seem like much in America — but for students in Uganda, it's a vital and often hard-to-come-by tool that they need to pursue an education and enrich their lives.

In an effort to address this basic need, coordinators with Loveland's Think Humanity — a nonprofit that helps refugees in Africa — are asking community members to donate writing utensils to be given to students abroad who desperately need them.

"A pen is so small to us here, but we don't really grasp how much something like that is im-

## How to Help

Think Humanity, a nonprofit that helps refugees in Uganda, is collecting new and slightly used pens, pencils, crayons, markers and other writing materials for students.

Donations can be sent to: Think Humanity, 2880 Spring Mountain Drive, Loveland, CO 80537.

Call 667-9335 for more information.

portant there," said Beth Heckel, executive director of the nonprofit. "There's a huge need."

At two African schools the nonprofit supports, students are required to write extensive notes and journals throughout their ed-

ucation.

Often, they'll run a pen dry in just two weeks, Heckel said — and the students aren't always able to afford a new one.

In a country where education can lift citizens from poverty, students need to have all the help they can get to continue learning, Heckel said.

And something as small a pen or pencil (or lack of one) should not hold them back.

"It's one more way to lift them up and help them," Heckel said of the donation drive. "They can further themselves by being educated."

The nonprofit is asking community members to donate blue and black pens, pencils, colored

pencils, crayons and markers.

In January, volunteers will return to Africa to hand out the writing utensils at two schools: a learning center for children 3 to 7 years old and a girls' and boys' secondary school.

Heckel suggested that people buy new supplies during back-to-school sales. Slightly used pens and pencils will be accepted, too.

Additionally, Lovelanders can contribute money to the cause. Every \$10 donated can buy 100 pencils in Africa.

Each donation will make a difference in the African students' lives, Heckel said.

"It would be really helpful to their whole learning process," she said.



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For more information on helping students in Uganda through Think Humanity, visit [www.thinkhumanity.org](http://www.thinkhumanity.org).