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**January 20, 2009**

#### **Into Africa**

Several people with close ties to Lake Forest and Lake Bluff are departing for Africa on Wednesday to climb 19,500 feet up Mount Kilimanjaro, raise \$60,000, film a documentary and build 25 underground wells. Why? Because the wells are needed, and they feel called to help.

"When you have a calling in life, it's important to answer that call," said Chris Moses of Lake Bluff, spokeswoman for It Can Be Done Africa, a group formed in 2007 to help bring fresh water to the 30,000 people of the Uru region of Tanzania. "There are lots of things to do here at home, and we do them. But you have to have clean water first."



The group departing today includes Margie Braband of Mount Prospect and Barbara Joye, who raised her family in Lake Bluff and presently lives in Evanston. The trek is being filmed by Ms. Joye's son, Jeremy Vranich, a film student at Flashpoint Academy in Chicago; Sam Fell of Lake Bluff, who also attends Flashpoint Academy; and Catherine Lynch, a Columbia College graduate who grew up in Lake Forest.

The photo shown here was taken during last year's exploratory mission and includes, from left, Ms. Joye, Ms. Braband and Ms. Moses with their African liaison, Florentina Masawe, and two African men who helped the women hike the rain forest in search of water sources.

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Ms. Braband will make the trek up Mount Kilimanjaro with the young film-makers and her sister, Mary Legallet from San Mateo, CA, and Poppy Moelter and Ron Ricci, both of whom hail from over the Wisconsin border. While the group is trekking, Ms. Joye will remain in Uru to research well locations, water sources and construction companies.

The group is guided by a strong spiritual faith. Ms. Moses is a women's counselor who operates Featherheart Holistic Ministries and works part-time in The Present Moment, an inspirational gift store in Libertyville. Ms. Joye is a spiritual teacher who by day manages a Lake Forest dental office. That they felt "called" to Africa is easily understood by some people, while others either do not get it or are skeptical of such musings.

This is how Ms. Moses describes the experience of "being called:" "When I feel my heart pull to do something, then that is when God is telling me that is what I need to do. That is what Margie felt when she came down from the mountain (last year), and when she told us her story that is what Barbara and I felt. And when we went last January to meet the people, that is when we really knew. We could help."

It Can Be Done Africa has a goal of raising \$60,000 to build 25 wells to help women and children who travel two to five hours a day to retrieve water---and the water isn't even clean: it's contaminated by pesticides and human and animal contaminants. Each well costs \$2,000, and the group is asking people to become "well stewards" to take on the fund raising of each well. "Your well becomes your personal story of bringing water to the people of Uru," said Ms. Moses. So far, the trekkers have raised \$25,000.

To donate and/or learn more about the trek, visit the [It Can Be Done Africa](http://ItCanBeDoneAfrica.com) website. You can follow the group's journey on its blog, [itcanbedoneafrica.blogspot.com](http://itcanbedoneafrica.blogspot.com)

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