

THE COOKSTOVE PROJECT AT The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco

By Suzy Condit

On March 31, 2017, The Cookstove Project was introduced to the Hudson River Presbytery meeting at Stony Point. From that simple encounter, an amazing phenomenon took place, with breathtaking results!

You may know that The Cookstove Project, a 501 C3 nonprofit, works to stop the deaths, diseases and environmental destruction caused by cooking indoors over open fires. (Sadly, 4.3 million people, mostly woman and children, will die this year from household air pollution due to open fire cooking.)

The Cookstove Project formula is simple: a \$10 donation equals one clean cookstove. “10D=1C” Not only that, the project gives on-the-ground education and training to women and their families; they build lives--they build community--as they build cookstoves.

Inspired by how a single cookstove can transform the lives of the women and children, a plan took shape.

Three faith communities-- PCMK Sunday School, Mount Zion’s Apostolic Church and the Islamic School of Upper Westchester—took up the challenge to fund a number of clean cookstoves. In the hallway of the Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco where they shared space, the tally sheets for each group were mounted, side by side. Over the school year, each group raised money with talent shows, Holiday and Christmas cards (handcrafted by the children), bake sales and family photos. The cookstove numbers on each poster climbed with each passing week.

In November 2016, the tally was:

Islamic School of Upper Westchester	80
Mt Zion Apostolic Church	75
Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco	12

As the year progressed, the numbers slowly climbed. Spurring each other on, the groups exceeded their previous goals and came up with new ways to raise funds.

The FINAL tally as of August 2017,

Islamic School of Upper Westchester	300
Mt Zion Apostolic Church	100

Unbelievable! The final total for the year was 646 stoves! The effort made throughout the year by these outstanding students will greatly impact the health and daily lives of these 646 families in rural villages of Uganda and Nepal. Not only was this exciting and educational for the young people, but it brought together different faith communities to help save lives.

As the faith communities start the new year, the Islamic School and PCMK are continuing their efforts to raise funds for the Cookstove Project. The tally begins!!!!

If you'd like to get involved with The Cookstove Project, just contact me at Sbcondit@yahoo.com or my cell at 914.523.8246.