



MEDIA CONTACT:
Nicole Castagna, 708-335-5581

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Homewood-Flossmoor Graphic Design students create for Matanya's Hope charity

March 21, 2011 (Flossmoor, Ill.) — In early March, three classes of *Graphic Design I* students at Homewood-Flossmoor High School were inspired by a visit from Michelle Stark, creator of Matanya's Hope, a non-profit organization based in Kenya, East Africa, and in the U.S. The organization is focused on eradicating poverty by educating Kenya's children, as well as providing them with other life-sustaining programs and opportunities.

The visit gave the students the opportunity to create posters that reflect and apply to the real world, according to their teacher, Heidi Stachulak. Posters — which will be on display at the high school, within the H-F community and also in Kenya — promote things community members can do to help the children of Kenya.

“This has been an incredible, real-world learning experience for our students to learn about life in Kenya, learn how design can make a difference in another person's life and how to use the essentials of good design to spread a message,” said Stachulak.

Posters include images of rainwater storage tanks, clothing for children and education. According to Stark's website — matanyashope.org — most Kenyan children only complete eight years of education due to poverty. Her organization has helped more than 150 students successfully continue their studies into upper grades and beyond.

Each year students in H-F's *Graphic Design I* class complete a poster project as part of their studies. Stachulak chose Matanya's Hope for this year's poster project after meeting Stark through a program at Governors State University. When she met with the students, Stark — accompanied by Kenyan Thom Serere Maitai — brought food from Africa, authentic clothes, jewelry, photos and a film of the children she has helped through her organization.

“I have learned that little things you do can make a difference in someone's life,” said Kym Grell, H-F student. “I also learned that through design you can spread a message of hope.”

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a three-time National Blue Ribbon award-winning school, located at 999 Kedzie Avenue in Flossmoor, Ill. For more information, visit hfhighschool.org or call 708-799-3000.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a comprehensive community high school located in the South Suburbs of Chicago. The district serves the villages of Homewood and Flossmoor, and portions of Chicago Heights, Glenwood, Hazel Crest and Olympia Fields. A tradition of excellence is the cornerstone of H-F — the result of commitment on the part of district residents to the idea of a community high school with high standards for students and staff, and a solid goal of excellence in education.

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