



Fact Sheet

October 4, 2010

- On a visit to Kenya in the mid-1990s, remote communities asked Mr. Parker if he could use his building skills to construct bridges that would make daily lives safer.
 - His friend and fellow development worker, Jay Hindson, introduced Harmon to footbridge building.
 - Jay returned to England as Harmon continued to construct bridges for poor communities.
- For Harmon, the bridges offer hope and inspiration that provide daily safe access to:
 - Life-saving healthcare
 - Basic education
 - Food and basic staples
 - Family in other villages
- Bridging the Gap is also about Saving Lives
 - Bridges overcome the dangers of impassable rivers that threaten lives.
 - Every life is important.
 - Bridging the Gap is not about numbers – it's about helping isolated communities.
 - Bridges have been built for remote communities ranging from a few hundred to 5000 people.
- Bridging the Gap has built more than 45 pedestrian bridges in Kenya since 1996 improving the safety and quality of life for thousands of marginalized communities.
- Harmon built his first bridge in West Pokot, Kenya over the Moruny River at the request of a community.

- The smallest bridge is the 60 foot (20 meters) span over the Talek River.
- The bridges vary in cost due to variation in length, location and other factors.
- Largest bridge is the 375 foot span (112 meters) over the Galana River, the second longest river in Kenya.
- Bridging the Gap helps communities help themselves in the IPO bridge building process.
 - We empower and improve the quality of life for marginalized communities in Sub-Saharan Africa:
 - **Community Initiative**
 - First step. For a successful footbridge
 - **Community Participation**
 - Imperative for true and lasting empowerment
 - Villagers provide labor
 - **Community Ownership**
 - Rewards the hard work for everyone involved
 - They also learn to maintain the bridge.
- The Need is Great; the Need is Now
 - Demand for our bridges far outweighs our current financial ability.
 - Funding for bridges comes from individual donors and the villagers themselves, who primarily supply the labor for bridge construction.
- Bridging the Gap Inc. is a U.S. federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All U.S. donations are tax deductible. Visit: www.bridgingthegapafrika.com.
- Vote NOW and OFTEN for Harmon Parker as the CNN Hero of the Year at: www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/archive10/harmon.parker.html.