



PHOTO COURTESY JEFF KAWZENUK
 CDCI West principal Jeff Kawzenuk says six-year-old Dennis loved his new tuque so much he wore it all day under the hot African sun.

His experiences will remain with him a lifetime. He realized early in his journey that Tanzania is a beautiful country, but its people have nothing, and little hope.

The village of Kilema set up by the Catholic Church is small, but over 100,000 live in the nearby bush in crushing poverty. There are four primary schools, a secondary school and a vocational school to serve their children. But the vocational school has four sewing machines and 40 students. Teaching in the impoverished schools is from another era when resources were limited and canes were used to enforce discipline.

The more prosperous families light their simple homes with kerosene lamps. On the day Mr. Kawzenuk arrived, two orphans died in a fire started with the highly flammable and expensive liquid.

The group he was in took with it 75 solar-powered lights and set

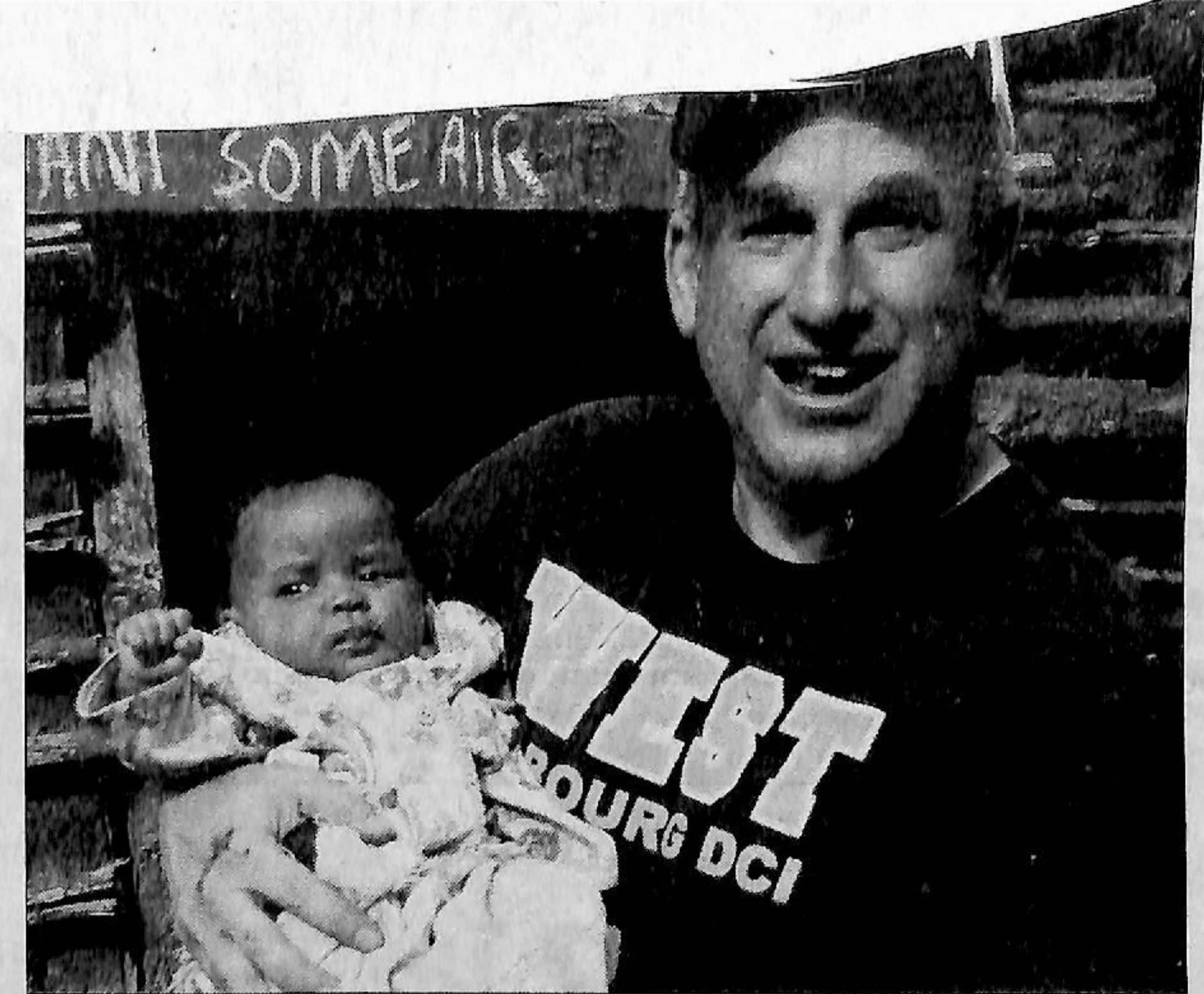


PHOTO COURTESY JEFF KAWZENUK
 CDCI West principal Jeff Kawzenuk holds a baby abandoned by her young mother miles outside the village of Kilema, Tanzania. The child now lives with her great, great grandmother and grandfather who have lost the remainder of their family to AIDS.

Three weeks in the remote village of Kilema, Tanzania

Projects to support a community

Despite the ongoing daily tragedy, Mr. Kawzenuk says the people are positive and work hard.

There was plenty of help with the school cookhouse project they were doing. The one it was replacing had been destroyed in an earthquake, along with two schools.

The schools have been empty for a year with no immediate prospect of being replaced.

In introductory meetings with school administrators, the number one concern was the need for 10 new toilet pits to replace the two now serving the 350 students.

When the truck loaded with bricks arrived on the cookhouse site, 50 nine- and 10-year-old kids showed up to help, forming a line to move the 15-20-pound bricks from the truck to the job. The job was done in 15 minutes.

Work is slowed by lack of funds, and by lack of tools. The cement is mixed by hand, gravel moved pail by pail, water brought to the site in five-gallon pails. Materials are cut by machete. Jeff was surprised that concrete could be cut to within a quarter inch of the desired thickness in the hands of someone experienced with the cutting tool.



PHOTO COURTESY JEFF KAWZENUK
 Jeff Kawzenuk and an HIV-infected worker take a break while young orphans and a grandfather look on in the village of Kilema, Tanzania..

kitchen table. It's not about imposing our lifestyle on them. They have their own culture, but they need to eat and the hardworking Tanzanians he met understand the value of education.

The impact of their valuation of literacy was brought home to him shortly after his return to work when one of his secondary school students didn't want to walk too far to a co-op placement. He has just returned from a place where impoverished five-year-olds walked eight miles on mountainous paths to get to school, gaining an education at great family sacrifice.

Big problems

Expanding on some of the pressing problems he mused, "The roads are unimaginable. How do you get to people? How do they get hydro?"

If Mr. Kawzenuk was impressed by the condition of the roads, he was even more taken by the transportation.

Twenty-four people, some with chickens on their laps or three sheets to the wind, would be hanging off the minivans imported from China or Japan as they lurched along the pathways. You could negotiate a 10-km. ride for 20 cents.

Perhaps one of his biggest surprises was