

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad  
**Herausgeber:** Organisation of the Swiss Abroad  
**Band:** 39 (2012)  
**Heft:** 2  
  
**Anhang:** Regional news : United States

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# REGIONAL NEWS UNITED STATES

## Editorial

### Dear Readers in the United States

If one of these days I will have a nervous breakdown or a heart attack, it will all be your fault! Here I sit at my computer, the calendar says the deadline for the next Swiss Review is approaching fast, and what do I have? Nothing! Zilch! Nada! Except the ads from our faithful advertisers. To you I say "Thank you! Thank you"! Obviously, you want to read some articles, even though – I hope – you check out the ads too. So I'm looking around, trying to motivate people to send me articles, thinking of something interesting I could write. And then what happens? 2-3 days before the deadline, articles start pouring in. Not one or two, no, lots of them. So I start to worry again. How will I fit everything onto eight pages? If you have an article that you would really like to see in Swiss Review, here is a hot tip: Send it in as early as possible!



It seems that some articles suddenly motivate you. In Swiss Review # 1 we had Goldi Merker with his model trains and now we have Rudy Stauffer with his 100-year-old authentic steam engines.

If possible, I try not to repeat similar articles. This time we have two exceptions: A book review about the birds of Northern America and an article about Wheels 4 Life, Hans Rey's charity. I am sure you won't mind. And please – send interesting articles....

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wbaur@roadrunner.com

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## North Carolina Swiss Society of Charlotte

The Raclette evening at the Sardis Swim & Racquet Club was held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the great appetizer plate with cold cuts, the salads (including Nüssli Salat), fresh bread and "Laugebrötli", baked by our member Angelika Brunner. The cheese was delicious and our "Racleurs" were busy with serving the hungry crowd. Desserts, Espresso or Latte followed and then the evening was rounded out with the traditional raffle drawing for some great prizes, including the first prize of a "Gold Vreneli", donated by Marco Deillon and won by Snezana Coffey. Thank you to all the helpers and volunteers that made this evening so pleasant.



At the Raclette evening, the Nüssli-Salat was definitely the front runner among all salads!

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the "Old-Timer Raclette" was at our Honorary Consul's residence, Heinz and Erika Roth. The club members of 80 years old and over had a great time reminiscing about the good old times of the Swiss Society of Charlotte. It was interesting for me personally to hear the various stories as their concerns and views still apply to today's environment and situation. Besides enjoying the Raclette, wine, coffee, cakes and a Schnapps here and there, everyone left in good spirits - no pun intended - and is looking forward already to next years gathering.

For further information on upcoming events, visit us on our Website: [www.swisscharlotte.com](http://www.swisscharlotte.com).

We are all looking forward to seeing you at one of our activities and would like to hear from you.

On behalf of the Board and with Best Regards,

WALTER HESS  
PRESIDENT

(mailto:wally@gmail.com)

Swiss Society of Charlotte

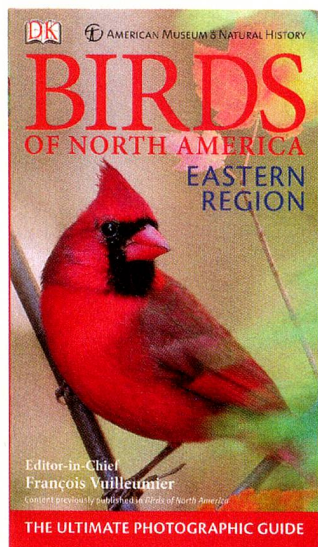
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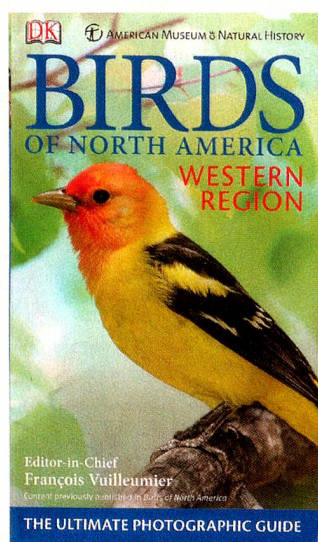


## Book Review

### Birds of North America Eastern Region



### Birds of North America Western Region



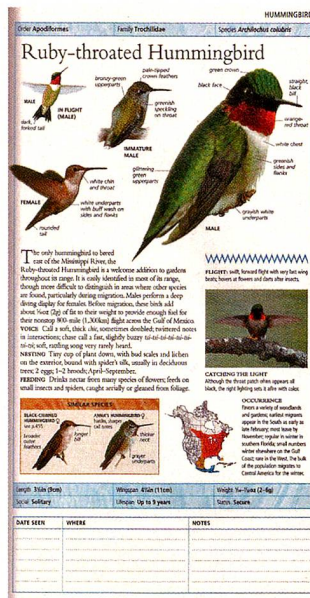
**Editor-in-Chief: François Vuilleumier, American Museum of Natural History, New York**  
Remember? A few years back I was able to present the very large book "Birds of North America." It was so successful, that a new edition was created, this

time in soft cover and divided into two handy books to take along on your birding trips. This definitive field guide uses innovative close-up photography to bring more than 450 eastern and over 550 western bird species to life on the pages. Each page, dedicated to one bird, contains photographic identification, detailed illustration on plumage and posture in flight, plumage variations according to age, male, female, breeding and nonbreeding birds. Furthermore, information is given on behavior and habitat, maps where the birds can be seen all year, in summer and winter and while migrating. Finally, a picture of similar species of birds that are difficult to identify and a section that allows you to record your bird-watching activities conclude the page.

Below are two samples of pages, one from each book:

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Eastern Region** (This is a copy from the text too small for you to read on the picture)

"The only hummingbird to breed east of the Mississippi River, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is a welcome addition to gardens throughout the range. It is easily identified in most of its range, though more difficult to distinguish in areas where other species are found, particularly during migration. Males perform a deep diving display for females. Before migration, these birds add about 1/16 oz (2 g) of fat to their weight to provide enough fuel for their nonstop 800-mile (1,300 km) flight across the Gulf of Mexico.



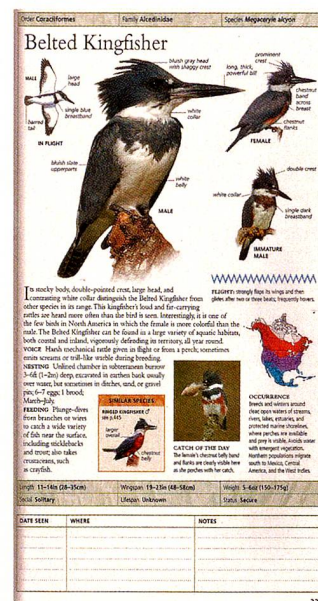
**Voice:** Call a soft, thick *chic*, sometimes doubled; twittered notes in interactions; chase call a fast, slightly buzzy *tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi*; soft, rattling song very rarely heard.

**Nesting:** Tiny cup of plant down, with bud scales and lichen on the exterior, bound with spider's silk, usually in deciduous trees; 2 eggs; 1-2 broods; April - September.

**Feeding:** Drinks nectar from many species of flowers; feeds on small insects and spiders, caught aerially or gleaned from foliage".

**Belted Kingfisher - Western Region**  
"Its stocky body, double-pointed crest, large head and contrasting white collar distinguish the Belted Kingfisher from other species in its range. This kingfisher's loud and far-carrying rattles are heard more often than the bird is seen. Interestingly, it is one of the few birds in North America in which the female is more colorful than the

male. The Belted Kingfisher can be found in a large variety of aquatic habitats, both coastal and inland, vigorously defending its territory all year round.  
**Voice:** Harsh mechanical rattle



given in flight or from a perch; sometimes emits screams or trill-like warble during breeding.

**Nesting:** Unlined chamber in subterranean burrow 3-6 ft (1-2 m) deep, excavated in earthen bank usually over water, but sometimes in ditches, sand or gravel pits; 6-7 eggs, 1 brood; March - July

**Feeding:** Plunge-dives from branches or wires to catch a wide variety of fish near the surface, including sticklebacks and trout; also takes crustaceans, such as crayfish".

The books are available on Amazon.com and in major bookstores or at the museum web-site:  
<http://amnhshop.com>.

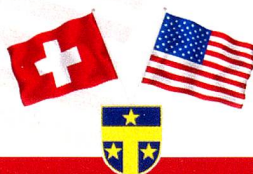
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## Book Review

### *Jungle, Solitude, and Dreams*

By Kathryn Arango

A ticking cuckoo clock marked the hours of my childhood. My father collected beer steins and kept a cigar box full of watch parts—Swiss traditions brought by my grandfather Gross when he and his family came to America from Zofingen in 1882.

I grew up in a Swiss area of Ohio, near towns with alpine-style architecture that hold yodeling and stone throwing contests. The Amish (many originally from Switzerland) work the rich farmland with powerful horses. Cheese shops abound. I visited Switzerland last summer and it seemed familiar. The chalets adorned with gingerbread and cowbells felt like home.

I am grateful that my father maintained a connection with our past. He registered his children and we have done the same, passing our Swiss citizenship on to the next generation. Curiously, one has emigrated to the Interlaken region—a full circle—returning to where generations of my father's grandmother's family come from.

In *Jungle, Solitude, and Dreams*, I describe how a pristine remote area of Colombia was invaded by war and social change. With my husband we homesteaded for years in his native land until the

innocence of our isolated paradise was lost and the country whirled into chaos brought on by the insatiable appetite for cocaine coming from abroad and the money it generated. Based on letters sent to my family and diaries kept during those years, this story has all the elements of a fascinating novel — adventure, danger, and love — except — it really happened.

## JUNGLE, SOLITUDE, AND DREAMS



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Illustrated by myself with descriptive art quilts, this book is available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) in black and white or color.

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# The Graphic Arts of Hans Erni

At the Museum of Printing History

Houston, February 23, 2012 – June 9, 2012

February 23, 2012 saw the opening of the Hans Erni poster retrospective at the Museum of Printing History in Houston, Texas. A very large and enthusiastic crowd attended the opening and the audience of critical observers appeared to warmly receive the exhibit. Under the sponsorship of the Consulate of Switzerland in Houston, with the strong support of numerous Swiss corporations, as well as the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta, the event could only be deemed a great success.



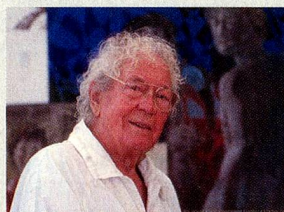
International dignitaries visiting the show

This was Erni's first official museum exhibition in the United States and the Museum of Printing History was enthusiastic about participating in the event. See their announcement of the event on the next page in the separate box.



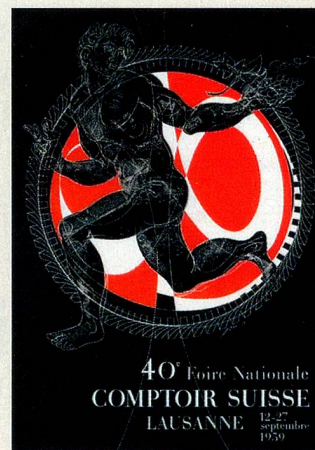
Professor Andre Droxler, a Swiss Geologist, with several Hans Erni posters.

Prior to the opening, the Swiss photographer, and Houston resident, Johnny Bernhard journeyed to Luzern to interview Erni at his home. The resulting video was a warm moment, with Erni expressing himself on various topics, and was the best possible substitute for the actual presence of the artist whose age, at 103, discourages lengthy travel. Erni actually celebrated his birthday during the week of the show. He sent his thanks for the interest and support, and the audience, in return, sent him birthday wishes. Bernhard's works have most recently been exhibited as a retrospective at the Musée des Suisses dans le Monde in Geneva.

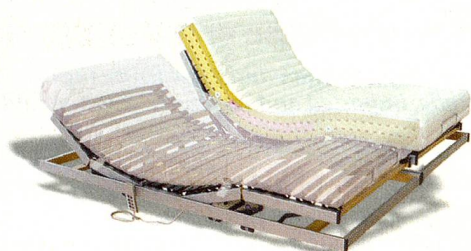


Hans Erni at his 100th birthday party

Another native of Switzerland, Sybille Hagemann, Associate Professor of Graphic Arts at the University of Houston, wrote an excellent brochure about the life and experiences of Erni and an interpretation of his works. Her brochure was very educational and lent greater understanding to those visiting the show. Both John and Sybille are also volunteering their time to give Gallery Talks during the time of the showing, since the social and political representations of some of the older posters are not always clear to the non-Swiss viewer. Truly Erni is a Swiss artistic icon and has been active in the arts for



This Poster was used as the logo for the exhibition. It dates from 1959.



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From left to right Honorary Swiss Consul Margrit Young-Zellweger, Beth Zurbuchen, President, The Swiss Center of North America, and Amanda Stevenson, the Museum Curator

over eight decades. His posters are an important part of his output and have helped establish his place in Swiss art history. The exhibited works were representative of his input in the

political, social, ecologic, athletic, artistic and international relations arenas among others. Generations of Swiss have grown up exposed to his works on an ongoing basis. He has clearly earned his reputation and the evening's responses also clearly underscored this fact. The exhibit spared none of the notoriety that, at times, confounded the life and career of the artist. This particularly impacted his efforts on behalf of mutual understanding and world peace and a dismissal of the politics of confrontation. One work on display was the famous poster of 1955 urging dialogue and friendship between Switzerland and the Soviet Union. Another expressed the same sentiment on relations with the People's Republic of China. His efforts on behalf of Women's Suffrage placed him at the core of a not always popular struggle in modern Swiss history. But, in the end analysis, his life and works underscore an amazing commitment to the world he inhabits and his ongoing attempts to change it for the better. Quite simply, Erni has not only been a wonderful artist, but also a wonderful person and this exhibit is a fitting tribute to him.

The exhibit will run through June 9, 2012 and anyone visiting

Houston during this time is encouraged and welcome to attend it.

MARGRIT YOUNG-ZELLWEGER  
HONORARY SWISS CONSUL IN HOUSTON  
swissconsulhou@gmail.com



Two more samples of Erni's graphic art

Presented in partnership with Nespresso and the Consulate of Switzerland in Houston, The Graphic Arts of Hans Erni consists of 40 large scale posters dating from WWII to the present, representing the first major retrospective of Erni's work to be presented in the United States.

Supremely facile as a painter and draughtsman, Erni has designed more than 150 posters, mainly as painted illustrations. His themes are wide-ranging, from the arts and music, to social and environmental themes, to technology and science, sports and nature. His media extend from sculpture and painting, to prints and book illustration, stage design and tapestry. Erni is known in particular for illustrating postage stamps, lithographs for the Swiss Red Cross, and participation on the Olympic Committee. Erni is perhaps best known for his posters, murals, and sculptures, displayed practically everywhere in Switzerland.

Hans Erni (born February 21, 1909) is one of the best known Swiss artists. Born in Lucerne, he was trained as a surveying technician and draughtsman. Erni studied at the Kunstgewerbeschule in Lucerne, 1927-28, then in Paris and Berlin. Erni was the co-founder of the Swiss Group of Abstract Art "Allianz" in 1937. Still working in his studio every day, Hans Erni celebrated his 103rd birthday in February 2012.

[www.printingmuseum.org/index.php](http://www.printingmuseum.org/index.php)

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## California Railroad Back in Time

The Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad is a dream fulfilled for a Swiss immigrant and his family who were forced to leave the Stauffer and Sons cheese business behind in Hungary in 1944. With new opportunities offered in the United States, the family decided to emigrate and start a new life.

Belongings in hand, in 1950, the family boarded the Queen Mary and journeyed to their new home in Wisconsin, "The Dairy

Rudy, having spent many days skiing and mountaineering in Switzerland, longed for the mountains. His godparents lived on a large mountain ranch near Yosemite in California and had told Rudy many stories about the steam trains that hauled logs. Being intrigued by them and the chance to see real mountains again, Rudy moved his family. In 1954 he and his wife Luce began developing the land and eventually built the Swiss Melody Inn. The Inn with the obvious Swiss theme and



Gold panning is one of the many activities one can participate in at the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad

State." They started a new cheese business in a small kitchen in an old two-story building that they developed into a major business supplying cheeses for a number of national companies. Rudy Stauffer and his brother Alex were looking forward to a long life in the Midwest producing cheese under the Swiss Bear label, a throw-back to the Hungarian times where their ancestors began the business in the 1880's.

Luce's Swiss restaurant cuisine became an extremely popular stop for Yosemite-bound tourists.

The resort was located on the old right-of-way of the Madera Sugar Pine Lumber Company, which ran logging trains through the mountains to supply the nearby mill. Over 140 miles of narrow gauge track and a 54-mile flume were spread over the central Sierras. Rudy studied this history. Railroad log-



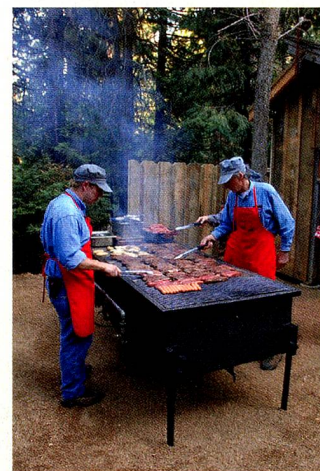
The Shay locomotive gives people "a ride into history" behind an authentic steam engine

ging equipment from a shuttered lumbering operation near Sonora became available in 1965. So Rudy, with little but a dream, purchased a Shay locomotive, logging railcars and tons of spare parts, deciding that this was the perfect opportunity to see history reborn in the mountains near Yosemite National Park.

With participation from the Stauffer family, the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad was born. An engine house, ticket office and a museum were built and two miles of narrow gauge track re-laid. In 1967, the inaugural run was made provid-

ing locomotives, both approaching 100 years old, and the passenger cars are maintained in the railroad machine shops. The track is maintained using the same techniques that were used at the turn of the century.

Over the years, thousands of visitors have enjoyed the steam train excursions through the Sierra National Forest. Today's features include daily one-hour narrated steam train trips, moonlight special evening BBQ



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trains, gold panning, group tours, weddings and corporate events. The Yosemite Sugar Pine Railroad operates from mid-March through Thanksgiving weekend.

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Proud Rudy and his # 15 engine in full 1st of August outfit

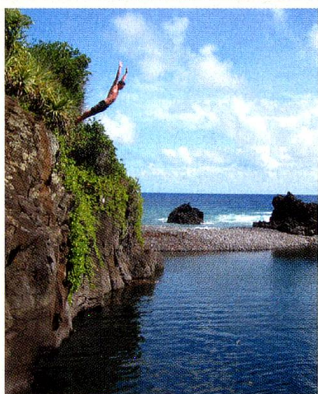
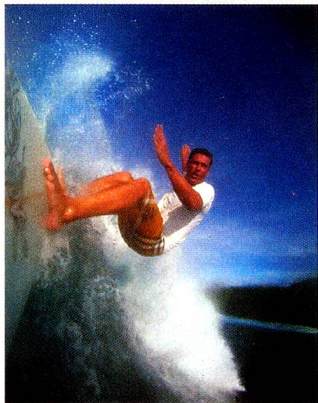
ing the public with a "ride into history" behind an authentic steam engine. In 1968, the Stauffers sold the Swiss Melody Inn, which later became known as the Narrow Gauge Inn. In 1981, Rudy and Luce's son Max took over the railroad business. Since that time, another Shay, more passenger cars and a diesel electric locomotive have been acquired. The two Shay

For further information and schedules for the Railroad call 559 683 7273 or visit ymspr.com.



## Maui Hawaii Paradise In Their Backyard

Surfing warm-water waves, cliff diving from volcanic shores, and scuba diving with 12-foot manta rays aren't things you usually hear Swiss citizens doing on a daily basis. But then again, Chris and Natalie Norberg haven't enjoyed the pure joy of a real raclette in over 4 years either.



Chris - surfing and cliff diving

Far from the pristine beaches of Hawaii, Chris' family story can be drawn back many centuries to its Swiss roots (notably when his mother's side of the family [de Pourtales] were given the noble title in Neuchâtel by Frederick the Great [1760] of Prussia.) With his sister born in Geneva, where his mother spent much of her childhood, Chris had visited family in Switzerland regularly for as long as he can remember. Chris' father is largely responsi-

ble for his interest in travel. California-raised Will Norberg was known for his joie de vivre and taste for new experiences in foreign lands. Will's travels in Europe, straight out of college (where he met his adored wife Michèle,) not only spawned a new generation of travelers, but delivered legendary inspirational stories.

After college, Chris and his girlfriend were looking for some fun in paradise before settling down back home. A 6 month trip to Hawaii has turned into 6 years, a wonderful wedding, 1 beautiful daughter, many travels across the globe, and 2 successful businesses. Natalie pursued her talent in photography, and is now one of the most sought after wedding photographers in Hawaii. Chris has honed his skills of online marketing, which has turned into a rather successful agency for advertising local Hawaii businesses.

So what does this Swiss family abroad do when not shooting the beautiful scenery or building fun Hawaii websites? They live a slow-paced, much-appreciated life. The virtues of a slow-going life are not taken lightly in Hawaii. It takes years to perfect, but once achieved, can bring true happiness. On an average day, the Norberg family can be found going to the beach, enjoying a spectacular sunset, lavishing precious time on a slow-cooked meal, and enjoying the company of good friends while discussing the next camping trip, hike, surf session, or exploratory adventure.

The Norbergs have traveled to many countries around the world, and they intend to continue the adventure. Within the next few years, their goal is to



Chris and Natalie Norberg's wedding - could it be any more romantic?

move back to Switzerland allowing their children to fully experience European cultures, foods, and history. They realize that paradise comes in many flavors. Sand and sun constitute many fantasy perceptions of paradise,

but often we take for granted what's in our own backyard. The Norbergs intend to enjoy their home on Maui to the fullest, and also travel to find new versions of paradise (and hopefully carry on the tradition of inspiring

their own special brand of joie de vivre.)

TEXT:

CHRIS NORBERG

<http://maui-maps.com>

PHOTOGRAPHY:

NATALIE BROWN,

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Natalie and daughter Mia at the beach

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We are working on details: Consult **our website** for updates.



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## California Wheels 4 Life

### A Hans & Carmen Rey Charity

Several years back I published an article about Hans "no way" Rey, the world-famous mountain bike rider and his charity. It has grown quite a bit since he and his wife first started in 2005. To date they have given out more than 3000 bicycles in over 120 projects in 20 dif-



ferent countries around the world. **Their Mission:** Wheels 4 Life provides bikes for people in developing countries in need of transportation to get to work or

The pictures say it all: bicycles everywhere, transporting anything you can think of, and happy faces wherever you look!

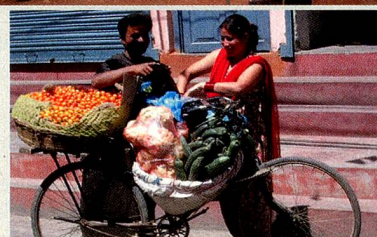
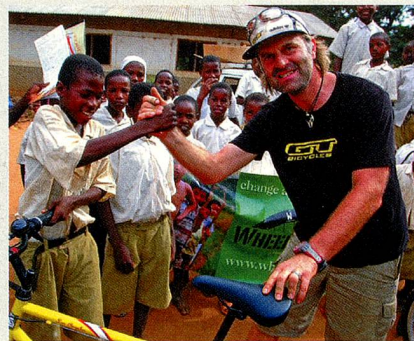


to school, including health care workers.

### Wheels 4 Life changes

**Lives:** A bicycle can make all the difference in a person's life. It can be the difference between having a job or not, going to school or not, seeing a doctor or health care workers and bringing your produce to the market. A bicycle does not need a paved road - it can go practically anywhere, even on a small foot path.

For more info, go to:  
<http://www.wheels4life.org/>



WAL BAUR

wbaur@roadrunner.

HANS REY

[hans@wheels4life.org](mailto:hans@wheels4life.org)

### A message from one of our recipients

01/30/12

My name is Betty Otoi, 37 year, a widow and peer counselor in my village Acet (Gulu District, Uganda). I would like to greatly thank Wheels 4 Life and VAC-NET for providing us free bikes that have changed our lives, I received my Bike in September 2011, and this bike has brought an indisputable change into our family.

Apart from me using the bike to attend weekly reproductive health meetings, I use my Bike to transport greens which I plant in my garden to the market and in return I buy posho (Corn) for my children this has never happened before I got this bike. My son John Bosco uses the bike to go to school and on the same route he carries our milk to dairy where we sell and get some money. The bike which was given to me turned to be a great tool within our family the change we are realizing within the few months are great and I assume that all those who benefited are experiencing the same.

I wish to greatly thank Wheels 4 Life and VAC-NET for this great support to our family and pray that this great project be extended to more beneficiaries.

Thank you and God bless your work

Betty Otoi

<http://www.wheels4life.org/>

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Deadline USA 04/25/2012  
On web-site as of 06/06/2012  
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Approx. arrival USA by mail:  
Beginning of July 2012

Swiss Review 5/12

Deadline USA 09/05/2012  
On web-site as of 10/18/2012  
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Approx. arrival USA by mail:  
Middle of November 2012