



The Bead

News and Stories From BeadforLife

June 2011
Party to Safari Issue

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Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

~William James



An Unexpected Gift

Sometimes in life, things happen that are totally unexpected but forever change you if you allow yourself to be open to receiving them. In November 2006, I received one of these unexpected gifts from my sister, Tera, who had just hosted a BeadParty that I was unable to attend. It was a package with a gorgeous 3-strand necklace and 3-strand bracelet of green beads made from recycled paper by women in Uganda. I loved the beads and the story of the women. Each time I wore the beads, I felt this amazing connection with the resilient women, many of whom were mothers just as I am. I received compliments often and was always thrilled to share the story of the beads and the women who made them. Who knew that BeadParty and this simple gift would eventually change my life?!!

Those beads started me on a journey I never anticipated. In January 2007, Tera called and invited me on a trip to Uganda – the first trip BeadforLife organized (and the same type of trip that could be yours if you win our **Party to Safari** contest!). By March, I was boarding a plane, proudly wearing my beads, with my sister.



-Heather Ditillo,
Program Director
North America & Europe

Nothing could have prepared me for the deep impact of meeting the BeadforLife members – each with pure joy, immense gratitude and determination beaming from their eyes.

Or foreseeing the beauty that is Africa in its wildlife and experiencing the incredible generosity of the Ugandan people, as well as getting to see BeadforLife in action. I returned home with even more beads in hand, and began giving them as gifts to the women in my life... putting the ripples in motion to change their lives as well. Soon after I began volunteering with BeadforLife, and before I knew it I was applying for a job as the Program Director and moving my two boys and husband

BeadforLife's Party to Safari Sweepstakes

Join BeadforLife's **Party to Safari Sweepstakes** and help us meet our goal of raising \$155,000! Your support will fund a full year of **Entrepreneurial Training** for our current Members in Uganda!

Hold a BeadParty between June 1st and September 30th, 2011* and you will be automatically entered to win our **GRAND PRIZE** – an all-expense-paid trip to Uganda to meet BeadforLife's Members and experience an amazing safari! And share the fun - each person you get to host a BeadParty increases your chances of winning!



No time to host a party this summer? Have your friends or family host a BeadParty and put your name in the Promo Code. You will BOTH be entered to win our GRAND PRIZE. For every 5 people you refer** you will automatically win a \$50 Gift Certificate to BeadforLife.

Don't forget – each referral counts! So please be sure to get as many people to host a BeadParty this summer as you can. Now get out there start Partying to Safari!

For a complete list of Rules and Regulations and to register online [click here](#).

*Please note, if you're already registered to host a BeadParty between June, 1st and September 31st, 2011, you will be automatically entered into the Party to Safari Sweepstakes.



across the country from Pittsburgh, PA to Boulder, CO to begin my work here.

Those beads, you see, were "magic beads," as many of the children in the elementary schools I visit call them. The beads led me on a life-changing journey of true meaning and purpose. I know many of you experienced this "magic" as well when you hosted BeadParties. Hearing your stories of how hosting a BeadParty has changed your life is one of the greatest pleasures of my work.

To each of you who have hosted one of our 10,000 BeadParties since we were founded, I say THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart! You have not only impacted the women and their families in Uganda, you have also deeply affected those who attended your party and those who received a gift of our beads or Shea Butter products because of your BeadParty.

To those of you in the BeadCircle who have not yet had the pleasure of hosting a BeadParty, I say JOIN US! **Party to Safari** this summer ... but beware it may be one of those unexpected gifts that forever change you!

-Heather Ditillo,
Program Director for
North America & Europe

Watch the new BeadforLife Video

Introducing the NEW BeadParty Video. Watch to learn about the new ways your support is helping BeadforLife's programs grow in Uganda and in the US.



Shopping is Giving

Summertime and the living is easy... With summer in full swing, dress up your favorite sundress with an easy-breezy splash of color! From juicy reds and oranges to our **fun and flirty Katogo line**, BeadforLife knows how to accessorize. Whether you choose to layer several styles creating a unique, textured look or simply don a single strand of beads, your summer style will be bright, bold and beautiful!



Also take advantage of our **FREE shipping promotion**

******Your name must be entered in the promo code to qualify.

About the BeadforLife Party to Safari Trip:

- Spend 10 days / 9 nights with others who are passionate about global issues
- Visit the BeadforLife village to see the life-changing benefits of home ownership
- Explore environmental issues and their impacts on people's lives
- Visit an AIDS clinic and find out what living with HIV means in Africa
- Visit schools and spend time with Ugandan teachers
- View wildlife on a 4-day safari in Murchison Falls National Park

It's Summertime – BeadParty Time!

The summer months bring opportunities for fun, relaxed gatherings with friends and family including school and family reunions, church camps and alumni get-togethers. So why not bring a BeadParty box along? By introducing people to BeadforLife's beautiful, handcrafted jewelry and Shea Butter products you're adding a meaningful and memorable activity to your reunion!

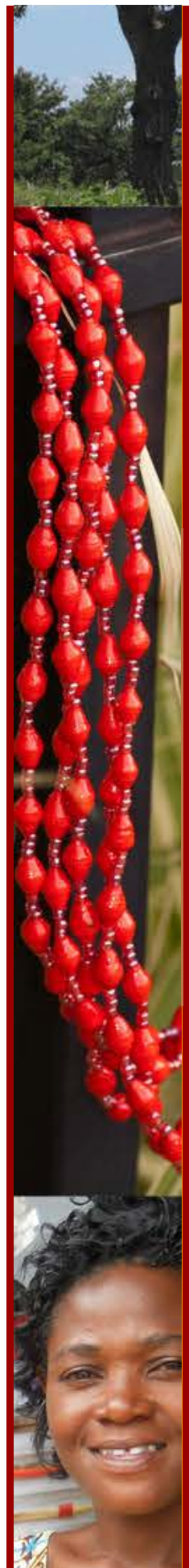
Some suggestions to add purpose to your partying this summer:

- BBQ, Baked Beans... and Beads! Give your annual 4th of July party a boost with BeadforLife!
- Farmer's Markets are booming with handcrafted goods – this is a perfect setting for BeadforLife.
- Tailgating or picnicking on a summer evening at an outdoor concert is so delightful – make it more special by sharing BeadforLife.
- Bored kids? Enhance their usual lemonade stand with BeadforLife. It will give them something interesting to write about in their "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" essay!
- The best family reunion yet! Young kids to great-grandparents can all be involved. Wouldn't your family feel honored to raise money to help a Ugandan family in need?

Women's Gold

Did you know that each BeadParty box contains Women's Gold? Or at least that's what Shea Butter is called in Africa. Besides beautiful handmade beaded jewelry, each box contains **African Lemongrass and Lavender Soap** and **Peppermint Lip Balm**. Each product is only \$4 (much cheaper than a bar of real gold) and the benefits of your purchase extend far beyond looking good. You're doing good...

By buying Shea Butter products from BeadforLife, you provide a market for shea nuts and help women like **Ongu Sidonia**.



for the month of June! Purchase \$50 or more of our beautiful beads and soft **Shea Butter products** and receive FREE shipping on your order.

Your purchase helps women a world away raise themselves out of poverty. For more great summer styles check out our [webstore!](#)



Let's be Friends!

When you "Like Us" on **Facebook** or "Follow Us" on **Twitter**, you'll start hearing about all sorts of great things. You'll get bios on the members of BeadforLife, including stories of their lives; updates on how they're lives are improving and information on how your support is making a difference in their lives.

Not only that, but we want you to engage with us. Tell us what you think of the work we're doing and what you want more of.

So please show your support by **liking BeadforLife on Facebook** and **following us on Twitter** and become part of our poverty eradication project.



Sidonia, 65, sits shoeless on the dry, dusty ground rubbing her hands together and begins to tell us her story. "My husband was killed by the rebels (of the Lord's Resistance Army) in 2002. I felt confused after my husband's death. I have 7 children and 13 grandchildren to support, and before BeadforLife came to buy my nuts I sold local brew (beer) and rode it by bike to men working in the bush," Sidonia says. "I'm getting older and I'm low on energy."

"Now I get up early everyday to collect the nuts, I move from tree-to-tree until I have 2 basins full of nuts, and then I rest. Life is easier now."



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