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**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 rover 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-Sahara 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©3 non-profit organization. All U.S. donations are tax deductible. Visit: [www.bridgingthegapafrica.com](http://www.bridgingthegapafrica.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](http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/cnn.heroes/archive10/harmon.parker.html).