

IMPACT



A Newsletter of Children's World Impact **VOL. 1 | Issue #2**

CLOSED DOORS...OPEN WINDOWS

by: Michael Hoffman

I grew up in a seemingly less complicated time. As a boy being raised in Southern Wisconsin in the 60's and early 70's, I didn't have the distractions of technological devices, cell phones, or video games. My childhood consisted of activities like driveway badminton, neighborhood hide-n-seek, my paper route, long days at the public pool, and frequent trips to the local movie theater. I was lucky enough to live just one block from the downtown shopping area, where the theater was located, and many a night I would walk to the theater to catch the show that was playing.

The very first movie I saw on the big screen was *The Sound of Music*, the 1965 Academy Award winning classic. There is a specific line from the movie that I still recall from my first viewing, and one that has impacted me each and every time I've seen the film since. During a conversation with the Mother Abbess, Maria, the main character, states, "When the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window."

There have been many times in my personal life when doors have closed, and it has been challenging, yet exciting, to wait for new "window" opportunities. Children's World Impact has also recently experienced this. A year ago in our IMPACT newsletter, we wrote about relationships and projects ending

in the country of Haiti. We alluded to the door closing there, and the anticipation of finding new areas of the world where we could have an impact. Little did we know that the "window" that would be opened would once again be in Haiti.

Much of our new impact in Haiti is due to a relationship we have developed with Brian and Jamie Rauschenberger, missionaries who have served in this country for nearly 20 years. At CWI we have always tried to work with individuals who have "boots on the ground" in the area in which we are seeking to make an impact. Their knowledge of

the local people's needs has made them the perfect liaisons. Brian and Jamie operate a guesthouse outside of Mirebalais, employing numerous Haitians, and Brian runs an independent construction company, also employing Haitians.

Inside the pages of this newsletter you will read about the impact we've been able to have in the past year. You will also read about plans for future impact. I invite you to take a few minutes to celebrate with us and encourage you to be inspired to partner with us as we seek ways to fulfill our mission in the coming year. ■



Brian and Jaime Rauschenberger with Tyson Ray, CWI founder (far right) and Mike Hoffman, CWI board member (far left)



INTO EACH LIFE by: Michael Hoffman

An evening of impact enjoyed by many

“I hope it doesn’t rain.” That was the first thought that entered my head as I awoke on the morning of Monday, August 17. There were too many hours put into organizing the event and too many golfers who were expecting a dry round of golf on the Arnold Palmer Course of Geneva National to be dampened, both literally and figuratively, by late summer thunderstorms. As the day wore on and I headed to the clubhouse for golfer registration set-up, it appeared that the weather would cooperate.

One-by-one, and in twos, threes, and fours, over 100 golfers appeared, registered, and headed down to the outdoor pavilion, where lunch was located. An occasional, “Do you think it’s going to rain?” was heard amid the chatter, as past participants and new golfers to the event intermingled and became acquainted.

As the more than 50 golf carts headed off to their first tee boxes, a collective sigh was heard from all that had helped with the planning and registration. The golf was about to begin, and although

the clouds were gathering, nothing ominous or threatening seemed apparent for the near future. So it was off to the next task at hand, preparing the Grand Ballroom of the Geneva National Clubhouse for the dinner that would follow golf.

Tables were set, centerpieces constructed, the presentation screen positioned, and lists were checked and rechecked. All was in place, ready for the almost 180 dinner guests that were expected. There was even time to take a ride around the course, greeting golfers and checking in on the well-being of all participants. Everything seemed in order, and again, it appeared that we would dodge any predicted rain.

And then it hit—the heavens opened and the rain poured down in torrents, causing golfers to make a mad rush to the clubhouse, with a mere two or three holes to finish. It was evident the weather was not going to clear, so the tournament was called, and with dampened clothes, but not dampened spirits, most golfers returned for the Victory and Vision Dinner.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the second annual *CWI Impact Award*, which is presented annually to an organization or individual who has made a significant impact in the lives of others through the investment of their time, resources, and finances. This year’s award was presented to Bob Johnson, for his service to the community as the principal of Woods School in Lake Geneva for 27 years, his service to country as a veteran of the Korean War, as well as his commitment to the projects of Children’s World Impact. It was a particular honor for Tyson Ray, founder of CWI, to present this award to Mr. Johnson, as Bob played an important role in Tyson’s life when he attended Woods School.

Another significant part of the evening was the auctioning of 20 hand-woven rugs made by Haitian women. Tyson and I brought these rugs back with us from our June trip to Haiti, and it was a joy seeing them sold, knowing that women with no other means of income, were able to support themselves and their children because of these rugs.

As the last guest left, and I loaded my car for the drive home, weary and thankful from the day’s events, I was reminded of the words of the famous American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow—“Into each life some rain must fall.” What a day it was; rain and all! ■



Bob Johnson, CWI Impact Award Recipient

According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) there were over 1,060,000 public charities that existed in the United States in 2015. That means there is a tremendous amount of choice each of us has when it comes to giving. So, how does one choose, given the inordinate number of institutions that vie for our money? Allow me to suggest some ways in which you can filter through the choices, and hopefully come to the conclusion that Children's World Impact is worthy to become your charity of choice.

Does the Charity Match Your Interests and Life Priorities?

I have a confession to make. I've never been a pet lover. I grew up with pets, but as an adult, I have never had, and in all likelihood, will never have a pet in my home. I have nothing against animals or those who adore them, they just aren't for me. Donating lots of money to an animal shelter or a charity whose emphasis is on pets simply doesn't match my priorities or interests in life.

The fact that you are receiving this newsletter tells me that you are somewhat familiar with CWI and are interested in what we do. It's probable that you've been involved in one of our events or donated to one of our projects. If you aren't very familiar with who we are and what we do, then I encourage you to check out our website. We want you to be comfortable with and informed about our initiatives. Be sure that your interests and priorities match ours.

Does the Charity Live Out its Mission?

It's one thing for an organization to have a mission statement. Most, if not all, have one. It's an entirely different

thing for an organization to actually live out its mission. An organization can have a mission of "creating a luxury driving experience," however if the cars they produce are failing to perform and constantly in need of repair, the company is clearly falling short of its mission.

The mission of CWI is "to care for widows and orphans in their distress and to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected." Through our local food packaging events, we have provided over 1,000,000 meals to hungry children and families around the world and in our own backyard. Our 18 international projects have impacted over 8,000 individuals, providing educational facilities for children who would otherwise not have a school to attend, improved living arrangements for orphans and single mothers raising children, and created income opportunities for widows. Our numerous medical mission trips to Haiti have provided health care to thousands in this impoverished country.

Our mission is our guiding light. It is the filter through which we make all decisions. It is our instruction book for spending the money with which you entrust us. Be assured that when you give money to CWI, it is being spent to fulfill our mission.

Does the Charity Spend Its Money Wisely?

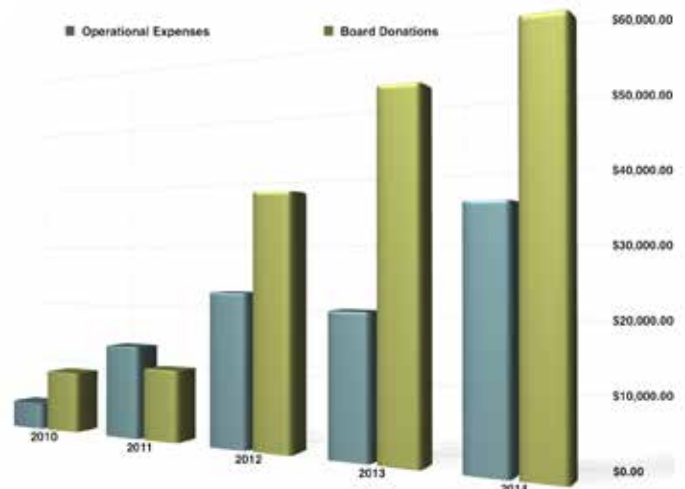
Let's face it—spending money unwisely is never a good idea, particularly when the money is given to you by someone else with a specific intent. All non-profit organizations have

overhead costs. Unlike most non-profits, CWI is an organization that is run totally by volunteers. Thus, we have no salaries to pay or insurance costs related to salaries. All other overhead and administrative costs are covered by our founders and the board of directors. This makes us extremely unique in the world of non-profit organizations, and we are extremely proud of this. We live by this promise:

Children's World Impact operates with all its administrative expenses underwritten. This assures donors that 100% of their giving goes directly to the projects specified.

Do our priorities match yours? Do our projects and initiatives coincide with what you deem important in life? Do you believe in our mission and want to help us live it out on a daily basis? Do you like how we spend the money that is entrusted to us to make an impact? If so, then I would encourage you to make CWI your charity of choice. Consider donating on a monthly or quarterly basis by visiting our website or contacting our office. We'd love to have you be a regular member of our impact team! ■

Board Donations Cover Expenses





IN HIS OWN WORDS

Reby Bruneau is a young Haitian man who is being sponsored by CWI as he pursues his dream of becoming a medical doctor. Currently studying in the Dominican Republic, Reby is in his first semester of classes. Having acted as an interpreter for many of CWI's past medical missions, we were well acquainted with his work ethic and his tenacity in fulfilling his pursuits. How better to get to know this remarkable young man, than to read about his life in "his own words."*

Question: What was it like growing up in Haiti?

Answer: When I was growing up in Haiti life wasn't easy for me. When I started private primary school, I didn't live close to the school. My parents didn't have enough money to pay for me to be transported to school, so I had to walk. I walked on foot three hours to school every day and three hours back home. When I was about 12 years old my parents bought a bicycle for me and then I could ride it to school. When I finished with primary school and it was time for secondary school, my parents rented a very small room in Mirebalais where I lived all by myself, because it was close to the public school. I cooked for myself, washed my clothes for myself, and did everything by myself. I would wake up at 4:00 in the morning to study, and when it was 6:00, I went to work. Then I came home, fixed some

breakfast, prepared my uniform, and attended classes in the afternoon. Every Saturday I would visit my family.

Question: What motivated you to continue with school and graduate?

Answer: I saw where I came from and I had in my mind a goal to go further. I wanted to succeed. Because I was the oldest child in my family of five, it was important for me to set an example. I knew that "education is the key that can open any door." I saw people that were successful and I knew they had gone to school and took their schooling seriously. They were able to take care of their families, buy a house, and purchase things like a car. I wanted to be successful like those people. That is why I took my schooling seriously. I wanted to be a good man and a good example for my family.

Question: What influenced your decision to become a doctor?

Answer: I love people. When I went to the hospital and I saw how doctors were taking care of people who are sick, I started understanding that this would be a good profession for me. After I learned English and started working as a translator with my American friends who came to Haiti to help people, like the mission trips that CWI performed, I knew that medicine would be a perfect profession for me. I want to help people who are suffering and sick.

Question: Why did you decide to leave Haiti to study medicine?

Answer: I wanted a diploma from another country, one that wasn't from Haiti. In Haiti everybody recognizes that a diploma from another country makes you more important and you are more likely to be hired. There is respect for people who travel to another country to study. Without parents who can economically support their children or people who have

connections to the government, it is nearly impossible to get into a state university in Haiti. Many private colleges and universities in Haiti are not recognized, and thus getting hired with a degree from such a university is almost impossible. If I had the opportunity to study at a state university in Haiti, I would gladly study in Haiti.

Question: What are your plans for the future?

Answer: First, I would love to have my own medical clinic where I could care for sick people. With this clinic I would be able to work with my American brothers and sisters who would like to come down and help my people in Haiti. I also hope to marry someday and have a family.

Question: At CWI we aim to "break the cycle of poverty." How has CWI helped you "break the cycle of poverty" in your life?

Answer: CWI has built a beautiful home for my family. As a firstborn son, it is my responsibility to make sure my parents have a home. I don't have this responsibility on my shoulders any longer. I have three little brothers, Wesley, Stanley, and Bouby, who would have no opportunity to go to school like me, because my parents would not be able to afford to send all three of them to school. CWI is sponsoring my brothers to go to school.

As a doctor, my family will be different from the family of my mother and father. I will be able to pay for the education of my children. I will be able to build a house. I will be able to work in order to have money to meet my needs. I will have a new life, a happy life, thanks to CWI who works to break the cycle of poverty. ■

**All of these questions were answered during weekly Skype® conversations, and were recorded with Reby's approval and permission.*



THE JOURNEY'S END *A project in review*

There is a famous quote that comes from ancient Chinese philosophy: *The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.* It's been almost five years since CWI began its journey of creating a viable, sustainable project to support widows and their dependent children in the small, rural village of Ghana, Africa. With the project complete, we are ready to step away and look back with gratitude to our donors for all that has been able to be accomplished.



Step 1: Construction of the main building where shea butter production will take place begins in 2011. With completion of this structure, machinery is purchased for both shea butter and grain grinding, which is housed in the building.

Step 2: A well is dug in the spring of 2012. This provides necessary water for the shea butter production and also opens the door for expansion of the project to include dry season farming for widows, as well as development of a potable, bagged water business in which the women can participate.

Step 3: The main structure is

enlarged in 2013, with separate areas designated for bagged water production and future bread baking. A Koyo pure water filtering and processing machine is purchased, and water production begins. The acquisition of an industrial baking oven allows individual widows to learn the craft of bread baking.

Step 4: Fencing of the land behind the main structure allows women to participate in dry season gardening. Women can grow produce for consumption and sale at local markets. An industrial sized mixer and bread kneader are purchased, with the goal of large scale bread production in the future.

Step 5: A truck is purchased, which allows for large scale water sales and delivery for cultural events such as weddings and funerals, thus increasing profits from the water production.



Step 6: Construction of a preschool/daycare facility begins in 2014 and is completed in 2015. With two large classrooms, a kitchen building and cooking yard, bathroom facilities, and a small office building, this is a

state of the art facility for youngsters to receive a daily hot meal and get a head start to their education.

Step 7: A new transformer and generator are purchased to accommodate the need for consistent energy flow to the project.

2015 INCOME REPORT

Month	Income	Expense	Net
January	480.00	220.00	260.00
February	540.00	530.00	10.00
March	520.00	420.00	100.00
April	700.00	510.00	190.00
May	860.00	160.00	700.00
June	610.00	505.00	105.00
July	420.00	190.00	230.00
August	500.00	560.00	60.00
September	550.00	480.00	70.00
October	460.00	540.00	80.00
TOTAL	5,640.00	4,115.00	1,525.00

Measured in GHC (New Ghana cedi), the monetary system of Ghana.

Final Step: Stepping away, the last step in any journey such as this, is often the most difficult. For five years CWI has been invested in the lives of the women and children served by this project. While we will continue to stay in touch and receive updates on the project, the future of this endeavor is now in the hands of the people of Ullo. With evidence that sustainability has been achieved, proven by the income report for 2015, we step away with confidence, believing that we've impacted the cycle of poverty in this area of the world and have fulfilled our mission in Ghana, Africa-to care for widows and orphans in their distress. ■



Sister Aline, at her former home

TWO WOMEN – ONE MISSION

Providing safe and secure housing

Women in Haiti, like much of the developing world, are one of the most at-risk subgroups of people that exist in these countries. With little education and few job skills, many women find it difficult to procure employment, and even with a low paying job, supporting themselves and their children is near impossible. Still others find themselves relying on the promises of men, who often produce children, and then leave. Part of our mission at CWI is “to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected.” Sister Aline, as she is known, and Sentamen are two women who fit this profile. Although their backgrounds are quite different, their need is the same—a safe and secure dwelling.

Sister Aline

All she **wanted** was a new door; just a door. When Brian and Jamie Rauschenberger introduced us to Sister Aline, as she is known by

her friends, to discuss our desire to provide a more stable residence for her, she shared that she had been praying and fasting for a new door, one that would provide more safety and security. When we made the trek to see her existing home, it was clear that what she **needed** was far more than just a door. With crumbling walls, a leaking roof, and a foundation that was being washed away by existing rain flow patterns, it was evident that major reconstruction was in order.

Although in bad repair, Sister Aline’s home was hers, built on property for which she had saved and borrowed in order to own. This is rare for single women in the country of Haiti. As a widowed mother of four children, two of whom are still in secondary school, Aline works hard to support herself and her children. However, earning only 80 Haitian gourds a day (about

WOMEN IN HAITI

- 43% of Haitian households are headed by women.
- 85% of households headed by women earn, on average, \$38 a month.
- Only 30% of university students in Haiti are women.



\$1.50) doesn’t provide a lot of extra funds for home repairs.

Recognizing her determination and hard working nature, and realizing that without help, in all likelihood, she would soon be without a home, CWI committed to major reconstruction of the existing building. Thanks to funds raised at this year’s Victory and Vision Dinner and Golf Outing, construction was able to begin this fall.

When work began in September, it was clear that saving any part of the existing home would not be in Aline’s best interest, so a total tear down took place. From start to finish, the home took less than two months to build. Modest by American standards, at less than 650 square feet with a small living and dining area, two bedrooms, a kitchen, and bathroom, the home radiates “newness” with its bright

blue roof. More importantly, it was an answer to prayer. Sister Aline got her new door; it just happens to be in a brand new home!

Sentamen

Like Sister Aline, Sentamen is a woman in need of safe housing. Their stories, however, are quite disparate. Sentamen is a young mother of five children by five different men, the last of whom beat her and turned her out on the street after the birth of their child. Seeking to provide for her children, in desperation she sought to give them to an orphanage, where she knew they would receive better care than she could provide. With no room for more children, the orphanage instead put Sentamen on their food program so that her children would be fed.

Still needing assistance, Sentamen went to Jamie Rauschenberger, an American missionary, where, with downcast eyes, she begged for more food and money for her family. Jamie provided some food, but more importantly, she gave Sentamen the opportunity to learn a marketable skill. Jamie promised her that if she returned, she would teach Sentamen how to make rugs, and would provide \$20 American for each quality rug she produced. Shortly thereafter,

Sentamen returned for her first lesson in rug making, and by day three, Jamie noticed a change in her countenance, as she interacted with the other rug makers and even sang as she was weaving.

When asked how learning to make rugs has helped her, she expressed that the skill has changed her life, allowing her to feed her children, pay her rent, and keep her school-aged children in school. When asked about her desire for her children, she stated that she wanted them to receive a good education and to have a safe home in which they could live.

Sentamen is working hard to change her life. She has learned from her past mistakes and is seeking to make better decisions for her own life and those of her children. She is currently attending a local church and is connecting with others in the congregation. Recognizing her steps toward a more promising future, CWI has helped Sentamen obtain a birth certificate and a national ID card. For the first time in her life, she has a legally recognized identity. This has allowed CWI to purchase land in Sentamen's name. Thanks to your donations, this forgotten, neglected young mother is now a land owner!



Construction began in November on a very modest home for Sentamen and her children. Your year end donation will help us complete this building project. With your support, this mother will be able to provide a home for her children. ■



Sentamen, with her rugs

DONATE TODAY!

Your year end donation will help provide a home for this woman and her five children.



PRETTY IN PINK

It's difficult to imagine, when building a house 2,000 miles away in the developing world with a budget of \$15,000, what the finished product will look like. It's even more difficult to picture, when the first progress photo you receive is literally a pile of rocks. But finished it is, and the end product is "pretty in pink."

CWI's first home project began earlier this year. Thanks to Brian Rauschenberger and his independent construction company, the building of this house employed numerous Haitian men; men who would otherwise be unemployed. In June, Tyson Ray, founder, and Mike Hoffman, board member, were able to travel to Haiti to see the home, meet the builders, dedicate the house, and hand it over to the Bruneau family. Seeing the previous

dwelling of the family, Tyson and Mike knew this new building would be a blessing to the family.

Inside, there is a lovely ceramic tile floor in the main living area and bathroom, as well as polished concrete floors in the three bedrooms and covered outdoor kitchen area. The home is complete with running water in the kitchen and bathroom, which has a flush toilet, sink, and shower stall. Not part of the original budget, Brian included, at his own expense, a solar electrical system so the family won't have to rely on candles for light. CWI also furnished a bed and mattress for each family member, as well as a dining set and sofa. Tyson and Mike transported sheets, towels, dinnerware, and other household goods, which were gifted to the family during the June trip. What started out as a house is now a home!

In October, the final touches were put on the home—a fresh coat of paint inside and out. It was essential to let the plaster dry before painting the building. "Why pink?" you may be asking. This was the color of choice by the female head of the home. Fitting in with the Caribbean culture, we hope you agree, that this house is certainly "pretty in pink." ■



Members of the Bruneau family



Breaking the cycle of poverty!

OUR MISSION

At Children's World Impact we commit to looking after orphans and widows in their distress, and to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected.

OUR VISION

Children's World Impact seeks to break the cycle of poverty through care and community development.

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