

# IMPACT



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

## CELEBRATING HAITI...CELEBRATING YOU!

So many of you have been touched by Haiti and its beautiful people... that amazing place that captures hearts and changes lives. Haiti may be the place where you've traveled on a mission trip, longing only to make a difference... to impact lives. It is also the place for which you've sacrificed to help build a school and a dorm for orphaned boys. It's the people for whom you generously gave of your time and resources to package food so they could eat one meal a day. Haiti created a depth of generosity which you showed by supporting a friend or relative so they could travel to this impoverished land, or by giving shoes, clothing and supplies to those in need.

**Each and every gift has been precious. Each and every gift made an impact... thanks to you.**

Haiti is a place that you don't easily forget...whether you've had the opportunity to travel there or not. You can't help but be transformed by the smiles on faces of people who, by our standards, should have no reason to smile. Whether it's through pictures or experiences, Haiti has captured your heart and has spurred you to give generously to a country that has had devastation heaped upon devastation...to a people who live only for today.

So today we celebrate the beautiful country and people of Haiti, and we celebrate you. Your generosity has enabled lives to be transformed, has provided a place for hundreds of children to receive an education, has given hope where it didn't before exist, and has given dozens of orphaned teenage boys a place to call home.

And while we celebrate all that you enabled us to accomplish, it is time for Children's World Impact to make an impact in other parts of the world. We care deeply about

your partnership with us and want to make sure that every dollar you entrust to us is spent on the mission you care so deeply about: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty for orphans and widows. We've done that well in Haiti and Africa, and now here in southern Wisconsin. As we look to the future, we are looking to duplicate those successes in other parts of the world.

**So today...celebrate with us.  
Tomorrow, we ask you to join us...  
as we embark on the next journey  
to Breaking the Cycle of Poverty. ■**



*Thanks to your generous gifts, our summer mission team delivered 120 backpacks to the orphanage filled with brand new items like a towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, underwear, socks and more.*

*"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed."* - BOOKER T WASHINGTON



## CWI RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE INVEST IN OTHERS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

*Thanks to Tyson Ray winning the 2014 Global Community Impact Award...*

It's not every day that your organization's founder wins a prestigious national award...and it's certainly not every day that your organization receives a \$20,000 donation. But in mid-September, both of those rare occurrences happened on one special evening in New York City.

Tyson Ray, founder of CWI, won the 2014 Invest in Others Global Community Impact Award, one of five categories of awards presented

on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Invest In Others Community Leadership Awards Dinner in New York City. Tyson earned the honor for his work with CWI which also received a \$20,000 donation from the Invest In Others Charitable Foundation.

Hundreds of nominations for the Community Leadership Awards are received each year and reviewed by a diverse panel of leaders in the financial services industry. Nominees were evaluated based on their level

of involvement in an organization, their personal contributions, and the impact of their efforts.

"The Invest In Others Community Leadership Awards showcases the selfless efforts of financial advisors to improve communities in the U.S. and abroad. Tyson has made a lasting impact on the lives of those in need in Haiti and Ghana through Children's World Impact. Tyson and the other advisors honored this year represent the very best of the financial services industry," said Megan McAuley, Executive Director of Invest in Others.

The Invest In Others Charitable Foundation is a charity founded with the mission of encouraging, recognizing and supporting the philanthropic and volunteer activities of financial advisors in their local communities and around the world. Tyson was nominated for the award by the Raymond James organization, the financial company with which Tyson's business, FORM Wealth, is affiliated.

"I am both honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award," Tyson said. "But the financial impact of the award is what excites me the most. The \$20,000 donation CWI received will only help us make a bigger impact on the lives of orphans and widows." Tyson added, "And behind every award are many people that need to be thanked, including my wife Jenny, and the hundreds of donors and volunteers that have sacrificially partnered with us through financial support and their time. None of this would have been possible without their support." ■



Reby is a young man who has acted as an interpreter for many of CWI's mission trips to Haiti. Despite his circumstances, he radiates an indescribable joy and wears a contagious smile. At the age of 23, he has just graduated from high school, being the first person in his family to accomplish this. Reby's desire is to leave Haiti to study to be a doctor, and then return to his home to serve "his people." We're happy to report that Reby is scheduled to start attending classes at the Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago in the Dominican Republic, starting in the spring of 2015. CWI will have a major role in financing

CWI will be building this family a new home, one that has a bedroom for the parents, and a separate bedroom for the younger brothers. The sister and her child will be staying in the current home. We will be providing beds for all the

Why Reby? Why this family, given the hundreds of thousands just like this that exist in this one tiny country? CWI believes in connection. We know this young man and the strength of his spirit. We believe the ripple effect that will take place by making a significant impact on the lives of this one neglected family will far exceed what we can hope or imagine. Please join us on this journey by donating to the Haiti Impact on the CWI website. ■

# BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

by: Michael Hoffman

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty is our tagline at Children's World Impact. However, it is much more than a simple collection of five words. It is the sieve through which we pour all our possible involvements; the lense through which we view the progress of each project in which we are involved. Yet breaking a cycle is no small task. A cycle is defined as "a series of events that are regularly repeated in the same order." In the case of a destructive cycle, such as poverty, there must be a change to the actual events that are being repeated, which in turn will cause the results of the cycle to shift from negative to positive.

It is with these thoughts and desires that we undertook the widows' project in Ghana, Africa three years ago. From the very beginning of the project, we realized that the parts of the cycle that needed to be replaced were hopelessness, lack of opportunity, and economic disadvantage. Through the help of our Ghanaian contact, Brother John Bosco Bongnea, who developed the organization, Ullo Widows Association in Development



*Bosco, founder of UWAID in Ghana, Africa*



*Your generosity is making this school building a reality for numerous preschool and kindergarten children, allowing their mothers to earn money for their families*

(UWAID), we quickly realized that the women we were trying to empower were industrious, talented, and motivated. They needed opportunities where they could apply these qualities.

From the outstart it made sense to concentrate on essential and familiar aspects of Ghanaian culture and society, and to give the women opportunities to apply their existing skills and talents, as well as develop new ones which would allow them to more successfully participate in the ebb and flow of everyday life. This has been successfully accomplished with the four main components of the project: shea butter processing, clean, potable water production, dry-season gardening opportunities, and large-scale bread baking. Each

of these endeavors has given the women opportunity to enhance their economic position, which in turn provides hope for a better tomorrow.

Recognizing that education also breaks the cycle of poverty, the last component of this project has been the building of a preschool/daycare facility. While this area has a primary school, a junior secondary school, and even a secondary school, which is rare, it lacked a facility for the very young. Construction began in the fall of 2013, and should be completed by this summer. This building will serve a dual purpose-giving an early start to education as well as provide daycare for children whose widowed mothers are working at the various endeavors that provide them with financial stability.

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## HOW DO WE MEASURE ITS SUCCESS?

First, success is measured by the impact it's having on individual widows; women like Dohoro, who is raising three children and expressed an interest in shea butter production during my second visit to Ghana, when construction of the processing plant was first underway. When I returned in 2013, I was able to witness this same woman, along with many others, using the new, mechanized equipment for the very first time. We measure success by women like Mary who expressed an interest in baking bread back in 2010, which she would sell along the road, right beside her "famous" boiled ground nuts (peanuts). How exciting it was to have the opportunity to see Mary's bread for sale as I passed her house on my way to the project during my most recent visit, and to sample the bread, realizing that the cycle of poverty is indeed being broken.



*Mary, now baking and selling bread*

The project's success is also being measured by its demand. The desire for large quantities of the bagged, potable water for cultural events such as weddings and funerals has been so high that UWAID requested a truck for the transportation of water. Recognizing this need, CWI financed the purchase of this vehicle.

Finally, financial sustainability is a means by which we measure the success of this project. Profits from the sale of water and bread production, along with the small fees women pay to use the processing



*Dohoro, now producing shea butter*

equipment, are kept in a local bank account. This account has already been used for minor repairs, the redesign of the logo for the water, as well as needed supplies for increased production of both bread and water. The project is sustaining itself, a goal that was always part of the master design.

At CWI we celebrate with you, our donors, for the important work that has been done in this part of the world, for a group of individuals who are so easily kept in the shadows. We celebrate the ways in which you have partnered with us in truly breaking the cycle of poverty for these women and their children. ■

## OPPORTUNITIES GIVE HOPE

*Thanks to you, many widows in Ulla are now able to provide a sustainable income for their families by processing shea nuts into butter, baking bread and growing vegetables to sell at market.*



## YOU MADE AN IMPACT!

Over 850 volunteers flooded the Geneva Ridge for the 2014 CWI Food Packaging Event on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6. This was, by far, the biggest turnout we have had over the 5 year history of hosting this event. The energy was electric as we packed 150,000 meals that will be sent to Liberia, Africa, a country that has been greatly affected by ebola. Another 20,000 bags of rice and pasta were packaged that will stay right here in Walworth County and be distributed throughout the many local food pantries.

This event couldn't take place without the time and energy donated by the volunteers. It would also be impossible without the financial support of many. We thank our generous corporate sponsors as well as the hundreds of individuals who donated to make this event possible.

## GOLF OUTING & BENEFIT DINNER

*Make plans now to join us NEXT YEAR for our Annual Golf Outing & Benefit Dinner on Monday, Aug. 17th, 2015 at Geneva National Golf Club.*



"Loving the child, redeeming the parent"

## BRINGING CARE TO FAMILIES IN CRISIS IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

### WHY IS SFFC NEEDED IN WISCONSIN?

- In Wisconsin, a child is abused or neglected every two hours.
- Only 1 in 5 calls to welfare emergency hotlines nationwide qualify for state intervention. That means 4 out of 5 families in crisis aren't getting the help they need.
- Over 12,000 youth experience homelessness in Wisconsin each year. In 2014, 372 children in Rock & Walworth Counties were homeless.

*"...in poverty, one crisis averted usually means another is on the horizon."*

For quite some time CWI has had the desire to have a local impact that fits our mission. The common usage of the word "orphan" in the developed world is a child who has lost both parents to death or permanent abandonment. However, this is not the definition used by a great portion of the world. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) an orphan is any child who has lost only one parent. A maternal orphan is a child who has lost a mother, while a paternal orphan is one who has lost a father. This definition makes perfect sense when you consider the financial and emotional stress a single-parent home can face.

While CWI doesn't claim to have the power or desire to change America's definition of an orphan, we want to acknowledge the reality that many single-parent homes in our own country and in our own communities encounter many of these same challenges. Given the fact that 20 million children in the U.S. live in single-parent homes, with 15 million of those being raised in a home without a father, CWI believes we have found a way to implement our mission in our own backyard.

### INTRODUCING...

**SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN (SFFC);** a multi-site volunteer movement that gives support to families in distress. The SFFC Mission: SFFC hosts vulnerable children

and creates extended, family-like supports for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers motivated by compassion to keep children safe and ultimately together with their parents.

Children's World Impact recently brought SFFC to southern Wisconsin and formed a strategic partnership. We are now seeking host families and support volunteers for a variety of roles. We are also actively placing children into Safe Families across southern Wisconsin (Rock, Walworth & Kenosha Counties). If you would like to learn more about SFFC and how you can become involved, please contact Nicole Zorn, Director of SFFC at [nicole@childrensworldimpact.org](mailto:nicole@childrensworldimpact.org) or call her at 262-686-3081. ■





## IT REALLY DOES TAKE A VILLAGE...

*After just ten weeks of implementing SFFC in southern Wisconsin, families are already experiencing the gift of unconditional love.*

Families living in poverty, even those who *do* have jobs, often find themselves living from crisis to crisis...never fully recovering from the last one and therefore never getting the opportunity to get their heads above water. The Andersons (name changed for privacy) know exactly how this feels. Having recently lost their home while also being responsible for their teen daughter and her child, brought them to a place of desperation and feeling like they had nowhere to turn.

That's when Safe Families for Children stepped in. A Safe Family welcomed Denise and her baby into their home and cared for them until her parents were able to secure a place for all of them to live. Too often in poverty, one crisis averted usually means another is on the horizon. Fortunately, the Safe Family maintained a relationship with

Denise and her family, even after she and baby went back home to live because it wasn't long after that the Andersons found themselves reaching out for help once again.

This time, the Anderson's car broke down...their only car. As you can imagine, not having a car affects every aspect of your life, including your ability to get to work. The Andersons had jobs but were barely making ends meet each month. Not knowing how they would pay for the repairs but with no other choice, they brought their car to a local repair shop. With no one else to turn to, they then called the Safe Family that had cared for their daughter and grandchild. "Safe Families doesn't help pay for car repairs," they were told, "but out of curiosity...where was your car repaired and how much is the bill?"

*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

- Desmond Tutu

Out of all the auto mechanics to whom the Andersons could have taken their car, they just happened to take it to one that also happens to be a SFFC supporter. We made a phone call, explained the Anderson's situation, and the mechanic agreed to let the family pick up their vehicle without paying for the repairs. The Andersons had never experienced this level of kindness before and are so grateful for the compassion shown to them that they are now making small, but regular payments to the mechanic.

There are dozens of ways you can get involved with Safe Families for Children...dozens of ways you can make a difference in the lives of families in crisis. Contact us today and let us know how you can help. ■

## FACTS ABOUT SFFC:

- SFFC provides a temporary home for children whose families are in crisis.
- Placing parents maintain full custody of their children.
- Volunteer families are screened before children are placed in their homes.
- SFFC is available to children ages birth-18, including parenting teens.
- SFFC is committed to reuniting parents with their children as soon as possible.

## NICOLE ZORN, SFFC DIRECTOR:

Nicole Zorn joins CWI as the Safe Families for Children Director with a wealth of beneficial experience. Being raised in Walworth County, she is no stranger to the area and its needs. Nicole has a degree from UW-Madison, as well as a nursing degree from UW-Oshkosh. She used her nursing degree while working with at-risk families as a public health nurse. Specialization in this type of nursing made her acutely aware of the needs of the poor as well as those suffering with health issues, mental illness, and addictions. Nicole developed a teen parent program which she helps to coordinate at a local alternative high school. She also volunteers as a nurse at Open Arms Free Clinic in Elkhorn, WI. Nicole's passion is to serve as an advocate for the underprivileged, which makes her the perfect person for her role as director of Safe Families. Nicole and her husband, Aaron, an 8th grade math teacher at Lake Geneva Middle School, have 6 children, and they are also currently hosting a Safe Families child. Needless to say, she is a busy woman! We are thrilled to have her as part of the CWI family. ■



## OTHER THAN BEING A HOST FAMILY... HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

There are dozens of ways you can help with Safe Families for Children. **Resource Friends** (friends, neighbors and family) can donate diapers, clothes, formula, toys and other needed items to a family hosting a child. **Family Friends** provide transportation so children can visit their parents during the separation. Family Friends can also provide parent mentoring, babysitting, and other supportive services to families. In addition, you could choose to be a **Family Coach**, providing support to host families and placing parents, while being a liaison for them. We encourage you to get involved today. In the words of Anne Frank, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." ■

### CONTACT US AT:

Nicole Zorn, Director of SFFC  
262-686-3081  
nicole@childrensworldimpact.org

### SFFC DESIRED OUTCOMES:

- *Prevention of child maltreatment*
- *Deflection of families at risk of entering the child welfare system*
- *Stabilization of families at times of crisis*



*Breaking the cycle of poverty!*

### 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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