

# IMPACT



A Newsletter of Children's World Impact **VOL. 1 | Issue #8**

## THE TRADITION CONTINUES

For many of us, the holiday season is about participating in traditions. Things like baking Christmas cookies, visiting a local tree farm and cutting down the “perfect tree,” attending a Christmas Eve candlelight service or Christmas Eve Mass, and putting up those holiday decorations are all special parts of this time of year.

The CWI Food Packaging Event has also become one of those treasured events to which people look forward in the month of December. This year was no exception.

This year's event, held on December 8-10, was a partnership between CWI, Lakeland Community Church



*Children served by Family Legacy*

outside of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and Kids Around the World from Rockford, Illinois. CWI raised all the funds necessary to make this year's event possible, Lakeland Community Church recruited the volunteers and hosted the event at the church, and Kids Around the World supplied all the equipment and food items for the packaging of the meals through their OneMeal program.

Due to the pandemic, there were 2 options once again this year. Around 200 volunteers showed up for the Gather2Serv option, where teams at socially distanced tables packaged the meals. Six other groups chose the Serv@Home option, which allowed people to take the supplies

to their own location, package the meals, and return them to the church. All together, 100,000 meals were packaged, with the youth groups from the church packing 30,000 meals as a kick-start to this year's event.

The meals will be going to Zambia, Africa. Kids Around the World has a connection with the organization, Family Legacy, which serves 14,000 children, providing them with academic, spiritual, emotional, and physical support. These plant-based, high protein, and vitamin-rich meals will help feed these children and give them much needed nutrition to help them reach their highest potential. ■



*Volunteers like this family make the event possible*





## LESSONS FROM A FISH

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**There is an ancient proverb that goes something like this: *If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.***

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While the origin of this proverb is uncertain, the message behind the proverb is quite clear. Part of the mission of Children's World Impact (CWI) is to make a significant impact on the lives of the neglected. There certainly are times when giving someone "a fish" is the appropriate and necessary thing to do. However, whenever possible, we are committed to "teaching people to fish," which empowers them with the skills to provide for themselves, and in turn gain self worth and dignity.

This was the impetus behind starting the micro-loan program

for widows in the village of Ullo in Ghana, Africa, which began in 2019, and is the most recent element of the collaborative project between CWI and UWAID (Ullo Widows Association in Development). The loan program started with an initial investment of \$5,000 from CWI, and has already successfully assisted dozens and dozens of widows.

Success wouldn't be possible without a partnership with a local branch bank in Ullo. Women qualify for a loan by having a minimum amount in a bank account. In groups ranging from 6-10, women receive education in what it means to have a loan and how to go about paying back the money owed. These women commit to paying back the loans of all members in the group; if one defaults, the others are responsible for paying back the loan, including interest. The bank

gives the women a lower interest rate than is given to an individual, and they only charge for the cost of transactions. The interest money from repayment of the loans goes to UWAID, and allows for continuation and expansion of the loan program.

To give you a clear picture of how a loan of \$40-\$80 can transform the life of a widow and her children, we'd like to highlight two women who have benefitted from the micro-loan program.

### Assana

Assana was in one of the original groups to have received a loan. After successfully paying off her first loan, she was approved and received a second loan, which has also been paid in full. She is ready for her third!

She used the money to form a business selling foodstuff, particularly maize (corn), rice, and groundnuts (peanuts). She also participated in some farming in order to grow crops she could sell.

Assana (pictured with her youngest child) has 6 children, 2 of whom are married and out of the house. When asked how the loans have helped her children, she stated that she can take care of her children's health care and educational needs. "When the need arises, I can provide for my children without fear," she proudly said.

In response to Assana's involvement in the loan program, Felix Bongnea, the coordinator of the program shared, "I am personally very impressed with Assana's performance regarding the loan scheme. She has been a very serious beneficiary of the program. Due to her hard work, she has been a role model for the women who have now taken the loan business seriously."

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## DRY SEASON DESTRUCTION

In 2016, construction of a preschool, financed by CWI, was completed in Ghana, Africa. That year, 63 students from many local villages were welcomed to the facility. Every year since, the classrooms have been full and many youngsters have received their first year of formal education. Many of these are children of widows who are served by the project that CWI continues to

support in the village of Ullo.

On December 17, we received notification that part of the preschool had been damaged by fire. Northern Ghana experiences a dry season from December through March. This area of the country also has to deal with harmattan winds, due to its proximity to the Saharan Desert. These winds often cause fires used for cooking and burning of trash

to jump and spread throughout dry, grassy areas. Locals refer to these as “bush fires.”

One of these fires, abetted by the winds, spread close to the preschool, and the wooden window frames and part of the roof caught fire. The tank that supplies water from the main well was also damaged by the fire. Luckily, children were already on holiday break, and the fire was discovered by the security man and extinguished before more damage was done.

It is our desire to repair the damage suffered by this building as quickly as possible. Classes are scheduled to resume in early January of 2022, and we’d like the students to be able to return to a facility as quickly as possible that is “as good as new.” We can’t do this without the generosity of our faithful donors. Please consider giving today to this worthy cause! Donate online at [www.cwi.org/donate](http://www.cwi.org/donate). Be sure to choose the Ghana fund when making your donation. ■

## SUCCESS, DESPITE HARDSHIP

**2021 has been a tricky year for most of us. The challenges of the pandemic have been a reminder that life is indeed a journey with many unforeseen twists and turns.**

While we’ve dealt with our own personal situations, it has sometimes been difficult to remember that this virus has affected the entire world. That is certainly true for our project that supports widows in Ghana, Africa.

The project in Ghana provides

widows the opportunity to engage in endeavors that help them raise money to support themselves and their dependent children. This is accomplished mainly through shea butter production, bread baking, bagging and selling of potable water, farming, and a micro-loan program. Two of these elements, bread baking and potable water, were shut down by the Ghanaian government for the first half of the year, due to the pandemic. We’re happy to report that those bans have been lifted, and all aspects of the project are once again in full swing.

Despite the hardships incurred by the shutdowns, the project has continued to be financially profitable. The income taken in by use of the facilities has exceeded the funds needed for supplies and repairs, thus providing a positive cash reserve in the project’s account. This indeed is great news!

Another aspect of the project is the preschool whose construction CWI financed, which is located near the main production facility for shea butter, bread baking, and potable water. Like many of the schools in

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Pastor Yves and Samathe Prophete at the construction site of their new home

In 2020, CWI committed to raising the funds to build a home for Pastor Yves Prophete, a man of God with whom we've had a longterm relationship and commitment. Yves is the Executive Director of Global Vision Citadelle Ministries (GVCM) in Haiti. GVCM has a network of 70 churches throughout rural Haiti, educates over 7,000 students in 24 Christian schools, and manages All God's Children Orphanage, a facility that houses over 130 children. Throughout the years, CWI has performed many medical missions and relationship building trips, always under the guidance of Pastor Yves and GVCM.

While Yves has been serving in Haiti, his wife, Samathe, has lived in the U.S. working as a nurse. Spending long periods of time away from each other, they've both made tremendous sacrifices to serve where they have been called. It has long been their dream to one day land together in a home of their own, not living in one room at the orphanage or in the basement of someone else's home. It looks like that dream is about to come true! The servant leadership of this couple continues to be evident even through the construction of this home, for this building will serve not only as their residence, but as a place for mission teams to reside as they travel to serve the needs of the Haitian people—two floors, two purposes.

Despite the impediments of increased costs, closed borders due to COVID, the assassination of the Haitian president on July 7, and a major earthquake that struck Haiti in August, the construction has carried on during 2021. It has been such a blessing to receive the progress photos, many of which we share with you on these pages. If it's true that "a picture is worth a thousand words," then we believe you will find this construction timeline speaks volumes! ■



December 2020-Construction begins.



February 2021-First floor walls are completed.



March 2021-Preparations for second floor continue.



April 2021-Second floor walls are underway. Large cistern is installed.





June-2021-Second floor walls and roof structure complete.



June-2021-Beautiful views evident from the upper floor.

"I have gone through many trials, getting many lands stolen from me and forgotten by many friends who promised to help me raise funds to build a house. I was always busy raising money for something else, but I found it very difficult to be successful in doing it for me. I also always trusted that the Lord would prove His faithfulness to us someday."

— Yves



October 2021-Stuccoing of outside walls underway.



December 2021-Windows are installed. Outside walls nearing completion.



December 2021-Work continues on inside finishes.



## SUCCESS, DESPITE HARDSHIP continued from page 03

the U.S., students were not allowed to attend school beginning in March of 2020. In January of 2021, the school was allowed to open by the government, and we received a request for funds to purchase PPE, including buckets to hold water for hand washing, liquid soap, hand sanitizer, paper toweling, and face masks. Due to the giving of a donor, we were able to supply these items for the school, and ease the fears of the parents of the children who attend the preschool.

Once again we were reminded how lucky we are to have simple things at our disposal, like running water and soap. We were also reminded of how blessed we are to continue supporting the women and children in this remote part of northern Ghana. ■



## IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GOLF by Mike Hoffman

**As a past board member of CWI, I know how important the annual golf outing is for the organization. It is a major event that raises funds for the organization to continue its amazing work both locally and globally.**

While I no longer serve on the board, I continue to be involved in CWI, and was happy to be able to help out with this year's golf outing.

Weather plays an important role in any outdoor event. Although the forecast on August 9 was for rain, I remember starting my 50 minute drive to Geneva National Golf Club and thinking, "So far-so good. For now, there is no rain." Unfortunately, that didn't last long, for as I got on highway 11, heading into Delavan, the rain began. While it wasn't a deluge, it was a good steady rain, but the clouds were not too ominous or threatening.

I was still hopeful as I sat outside on the covered clubhouse patio. I was chatting with some CWI friends, and we were sharing our hopes that things would settle down and that we'd still be able to have the

event. AND THEN IT STARTED; rain like I haven't seen in quite some time; rain that quickly caused the putting green to start flooding; rain so heavy that I couldn't see Lake Como, which borders hole 17 on the Palmer Course, which is usually clearly visible from the clubhouse patio.

As brave and hopeful golfers gathered, the rain continued to persist and it became evident that the event would have to be called off. When the announcement was finally made, there was disappointment for sure; disappointment from those who had traveled, many from quite some distance, to play a round of golf with friends and colleagues, and disappointment from those who had put so much time and effort into planning a quality event.

As I drove home that morning with the rain continuing, I was struck by this thought—"It's not about the golf." Yes, it's a golf outing. Yes, people come to golf. Yes, it's great to hear the conversations about the longest putt and the awesome drives. However, at its heart, this

event has always been about the generosity of corporate sponsors and individuals who care enough to participate and help impact the lives of marginalized people around the world. That was still accomplished this year as it has been every year CWI has had a golf outing, and for that we are extremely grateful. ■

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS

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## LESSONS FROM A FISH

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### Ncho

Ncho is the mother of 5 children, although one of her children lives with a relative. Ncho used the money from the loan to create a business where she acquires goods commonly used in households and then resells them at market for a profit.

When asked how the loan improved her life, she stated that it has made her self-sufficient and allows her to cater to the health care and educational needs of her children.

According to the coordinator, Felix, Ncho is accumulating seed money to enable her to engage in “serious entrepreneurial work” without fears. She is appealing to the loan committee to raise the current maximum from GHS 500 (about \$80 American) to GHS 1000. It is exciting to see her advocacy for trying to increase her business, which in turn helps her provide for herself and her children.

It is incredibly rewarding to see how CWI's initial investment, thanks to donors like you, has improved the lives of so many women and their dependent children. We look forward to sharing success stories with you as we continue to “teach these women to fish” and pursue ways in which to help more widows in this area of Ghana, Africa. ■



Ncho with 4 of her 5 children



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## 2021 IMPACT PROJECT - SCHOOL EXPANSION

**Our mission at CWI has always been to help break the cycle of poverty. We have found that education and employment are two empowering avenues for those stuck in the cycle.**

When you can learn, education can open the doors for your future. When you have dignified employment, you can provide for yourself and your family. In 2021 we were presented with an opportunity to come alongside another non-profit in Colorado, Every Life, Inc, that has built long-lasting relationships in the town of Malindi in Kenya, Africa. They have been working alongside local Kenyans for almost two decades helping to break the cycle of poverty through nursery school support, job creation programs, student sponsorships, and much more.

Working with Every Life, Inc, we were able to help support a large

capital improvement project for a school expansion at Ariana's Goodwill Academy, a school that supports children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to receive an education.

**We were able to raise funds through the golf event to provide the following:**

- Sanitation Facilities
- Teacher's Housing
- 4 Additional Classrooms
- Educational Supplies

A majority of the work was completed by local tradesmen in the community, providing much needed jobs as the local community in Malindi was deeply impacted by COVID. We were so grateful to come alongside Every Life, Inc and help make an IMPACT for generations to come for the hundreds of students who will now be able to attend school at Ariana's Goodwill Academy! ■





## IMPACTED FOR LIFE by Kevin Paluch, CWI Board Member

**Like yesterday, I can remember my wife and daughter returning from Haiti in July of 2013 with big smiles, blessed hearts, and now a passion to give back to those who have been neglected.**

My daughter has never forgotten the most valuable week of her life. Her Mission in life has become to help the underserved. Jordan graduated from UW Madison and is currently studying to become a medical doctor, technically a Doctor of Osteopath. "Dad," she says, "it's simple. I need to use my talents to make a difference." Isn't that what we all want?

That mission trip through CWI directed her path to her destiny, serving the underserved. While I couldn't serve on that trip there's so much each one of us can offer. Just follow the Triple TTT methodology to make a difference. Offer up your time, talent, or treasure. Serve when you can serve, get active in your community, and donate when you can. There is no better gift than receiving the blessings of the Triple

T's. Cars rust, aging never stops, and the roads in Wisconsin always need repair, yet the blessings of the heart last until eternity, and then it gets even better. My ask when you read this is to offer up one of your gifts. Please join us this holiday season to IMPACT some lives.

I'm proud to be back on the CWI board. Blessings in the new year!  
Kevin

### CWI IN 2022

We are looking forward to the following in the coming year:

- Completion of the home for Pastor Yves and Samathe Prophete
- A possible project in Uganda, Africa to support widows
- CWI Annual Golf Outing-Monday, August 1



*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.

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Tyson Ray  
Jenny Ray  
Kim Cochenour  
Kevin Paluch

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