

## THE VILLAGE NEWS

New Beginnings Children's Village Newsletter- Edition No. 4



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Dear sponsors and supporters

Once again, it's my privilege and honor to share with you what has been happening at NBCV so that together we can rejoice. As we come to the close of 2011, I can proudly say it has been busy, exciting and full of God's surprising blessings. The kids have excelled in their studies and are ready for new grades in 2012. NBCV is currently home to 18 children, 10 boys and 8 girls, but soon we will welcome more into our family. Words and figures can never express the difference you are making in these lives. You have not grown weary in your generosity even when finances have been hard to come by. The kids and staff join me in saying thank you for bringing the light and the warmth when it was cold and dark.

The NBCV family wishes you all a peace-filled and joyous Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, born to die for our sins so we can have peace with God and eternal life.

God bless you

Kenny and the NBCV family

#### **WHAT'S GRINDING IN THE CORNER? THE MILLS ARE HERE!**

More than great news! The grain grinding and crushing has begun! GDG had agreed with our proposal that a grinding service would be a good long-term sustainability project. Now thanks to our generous Aussie donors we have been blessed with food processing mills and equipment worth thousands of dollars - this is a gift of a life time. What was a hope a few months ago is now reality. The 3 pieces of precious corn and peanut processing equipment are installed and business has begun.



The hammer mill machinery is very expensive but very worthwhile. This is the first major income generating project for NBCV. The equipment is used like this. The hammer mill grinds corn seed into fine meal locally known as mealie- meal from which our main dish nshima is prepared. The maize de – huller processes or peels off the corn grain to make a grit product known as sampo or cleaned broken pieces of maize suitable for a breakfast cereal. The de huller also processes the corn seed into semi

broken particles in readiness for further processing in the hammer mill to make a super refined brand of mealie meal known as super meal. The peanut crusher grinds nuts for use as a nutritious ingredient in our vegetable dishes/porridge.

This project will generate income from the user fees. The community we live in is comprised mainly of peasant farmers who grow maize for food. When their crop is dry and harvested (April-July), it is taken for grinding at local mills. The corn milling service is cardinal for many households here and there are not many mills nearby. Our central location in the community will afford close proximity for many families that need hammer mill services at affordable rates.

Apart from providing a grinding service, the mill will also sell the by-products such as maize bran and the sweepings to poultry and livestock owners. We also hope to start making chicken feed for our poultry.

The day the equipment arrived will forever be memorable in the life of NBCV; it is a turning point toward self sustainability. Even more, we shall forever treasure in our hearts the hands that gave abundantly and provided the goose that will lay golden eggs for all the days to come.

#### **INFRASET'S GOLDEN HANDSHAKE**

A local construction company called Infraset partnered with us to erect a brick shed to house the mill processing equipment. Infraset has built this \$4,000 shed at no charge to us! This kind gesture was borne out of their corporate social responsibility toward the community in which they work, and they identified our children's home as a flagship for their community project support programs. Prior to sponsoring this building, Infraset's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wayne Rumble paid the children's home a courtesy call to find out more about us and he was very impressed with our vision and mission, the way the children looked, the clean surroundings, and our own sustainability efforts in the vegetable and egg production unit. We are much honored to have been chosen by Infraset as a community project worth supporting and partnering with.



## **COUNTING AND SMILING - THE MICRO LOANS PROJECT TAKES OFF**

What started as an idea in a few Australian hearts is now a reality - the MICRO LOANS PROJECT (MLP). To help alleviate poverty in our own community, a revolving loan fund provides affordable credit to women engaged in or trying to start small scale businesses. Why women? They bear the main brunt of poverty, raising children using the barest resources; many are widows, single parents and grandparents.

The MLP is directed by Siizio, one of our board members with a banking and economics background. He is assisted by 4 other volunteer team members. Loans are group based, so the credit is made to a group of 5 women. These clusters, or 'solidarity groups' mean group members provide counter guarantee.

In May we disbursed loans to 5 groups or 25 women entrepreneurs. Individuals borrowed approximately \$80 each and all these loans have now been fully repaid. The next round of loans is in progress. In addition to providing credit, the MLP provides ongoing business and literacy lessons for the loan clients.

The loan recipients say they have been able to make additional money to provide food for their families and meet other basic household needs. The only alternative they had before was to borrow from local money lenders who demand payment with 100% interest over 30 days.

## **NEW BIRDS AND MORE EGGS IN THE HEN HOUSE**

The hen house is a very useful and fruitful project, feeding the Children's home and providing some income through egg sales. Another benefit from the hens is the manure, which Never our gardener uses to fertilise our vegetables and fruit seedlings.

The major challenge has been slim profits due to expensive layer feed, but Never discovered that adding 50kg maize bran (very cheap) to 50kg chicken feed increases volume without compromising the quantity or quality of the eggs produced, and increases profit. He is still refining the process. We'll soon use our own bran from our corn grinding business.

Before our first group of 36 layers became fully spent (stopped laying) we bought 50 new pullets so we could continue to have eggs to eat and sell. Unfortunately the 'old' hens attacked the 'new' pullets, so we created a wire barrier in the hen house to separate the old and new. Problem fixed. Meat from ex-layers is very popular and the demand is high, so we recently sold the spent hens, using the money to buy more pullets to keep the cycle going.



Our hen house recently received a boost from our local Barclays bank, who called by with a gift of 23 pullets and bags of feed. It is a blessing to get this support from a local business. The staff even stayed for a game of volley ball with the children. The hen project is steadily growing - another NBCV nest egg.

## Some highlights from 2011

We have much to thank God our team, GDG, and all supporters for in 2011.

Our 18 children are all happy and healthy, and along with their carers are a loving, blended family. Your financial support and prayers have opened the door to a new life for these children.

The children are progressing very well at school, and some have even topped their class. With more than 50 pupils in a class this is a big achievement.

Musonda survived a brush with death or permanent disability. Donated funds enabled him to have neurosurgery to remove a large mass from his spine. He is now 100% recovered.

Several of the kids had bouts of malaria and mumps, but none were permanently disabled.

Our carers and staff are dedicated and hard working – we have a great team. Regina (right, with Charity & Kenny) is back at work after 6 months sickness with TB. We thank God for her recovery and for restoring her to the NBCV family.



The vegetable garden is flourishing and continues to supply more than 98% of our vegetable needs when it's gardening season. Only a few vegetables are sold to the public; however these cash sales help to sustain the seed bank and the purchase of pesticides. We use sustainable permaculture methods, with dropping foliage used as green manure alongside the chicken manure.

Charity spends much time interacting with the children in her various roles (teacher, aunty, supervisor on external activities, administration) and they benefit enormously from her care and expertise, especially in the area of psycho-social counseling. Charity is an excellent role model. Some months ago she took the children hiking up a nearby hill - a breathtaking walk in more ways than one, but the view was lovely. At the top they made a BBQ lunch, played games, sang praise songs to God and rested.



### Container of blessings ... gifts from afar.

Supporters in Australia combined with Chris Shadbolt (of *To the Nations Ministries*) to send us many gifts via a container from Australia. From our hearts we say thank you very much for these blessings. Now we have tools, a mower, whipper snipper, sheet metal, kitchen and household items and much more. And for the children there was an abundance of art and craft items, books, toys, hand-made quilts, clothing and even bicycles. We are not spoiling the children – these precious gifts will be given to them over time. To each and every one who gave – thank you for your generous hearts of giving.



## HOME IMPROVEMENTS – thank you GDG donors, you make these possible

The tiny shower bases in both the boys and girls bathrooms have been enlarged. Now there won't be water splashed all over the floor which was a safety risk. Plumbing diversions and repairs were also done to allow the shower waste to be absorbed into a larger soak away area.



We now have shelves in the food store-room. Previously there was no shelving; everything was on the floor. Now it's all neat and organised, and easier for stock control. And new shelves in the office (none before) allow books and other items to come out of boxes and off the floor.

Donations allowed us to buy truckloads of fine gravel to fill the low lying areas of the yard where water collected and promoted mosquito breeding. We hope the improved yard will reduce mosquitoes and reduce malaria for us and our neighbourhood. Below left you see how it used to be - the kids had to wade through it to get to school.



**New stoves!** Thanks to a recent Melbourne fundraiser, we have replaced our overworked and failing stoves with new stoves with heavy-duty solid plates. The coils on the old stoves kept burning out due to the heavy food pots (feeding many mouths each day).

Thank you to GDG and all our supporters. You really are making a difference and *'changing lives so that other lives can be changed'*.

Kenny

If you would like to help support the children, the staff, the hen house or any of our other development activities at Project J555 New Beginnings Children's Village, please click on this link & be taken directly to the GDG Australian secure online credit card page. Thank you!!

[https://www.globaldevelopment.org.au/donations.php?for=J555 New Beginnings](https://www.globaldevelopment.org.au/donations.php?for=J555%20New%20Beginnings)

New Beginnings Christian Church is proud to be a partner for Project J555 New Beginnings Children's Village with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian Government approved Non Government Organisation carrying out quality humanitarian projects with approved partners and providing aid to relieve poverty and provide long term solutions. Global Development Group takes responsibility of the project according to AusAID rules, providing a governance role and assisting in the areas of planning, monitoring, evaluating and auditing to ensure the projects are carried out to AusAID requirements. Tax deductible receipts for donations to this approved aid and development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J555. No evangelistic activities are a part of or funded by the GDG development project. For more information please visit [www.globaldevelopment.org.au](http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au)