

I CARE Post



Fall 2015

Distribution of Mosquito Nets

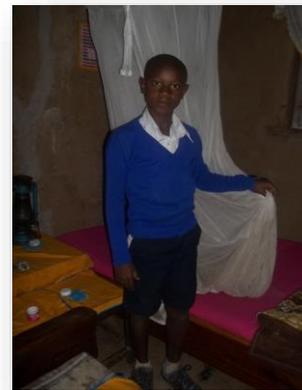
Of the many different supports I CARE delivers to sponsored children every year, the distribution of mosquito nets is perhaps one that gets overlooked. We often talk about the fresh food families receive each month and the medical care they receive at the Urafiki Health Clinic.



However, when it comes to protecting a child from malaria, a disease which touched the lives of 200 million worldwide and killed over 500,000 people in 2013, the simple act of sleeping under a mosquito net each night makes a world of difference. Sadly, according to the World Health Organization, Sub-Saharan Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria

burden. In 2015, the region was home to 89% of malaria cases and 91% of malaria deaths.

Each net I CARE provides helps protect several members of a family as in many cases, 3 or 4 family members will sleep under a single net.



Above and left: Photos of I CARE children after new mosquito nets are hung in their homes.

The Urafiki Health Clinic in Igoma receives several thousand patients each year for treatment of malaria. Thankfully, if diagnosed early, many people can recover thanks to advancements in treatment.



Sponsor Question - I just received my new child information card. Why did my sponsor child change from last year?

This is a common question which comes up each year. As the new child information cards are enclosed with this newsletter, some of you may wonder why you don't recognize the child on the card.

The I CARE program only provides aid to children living in the village of Igoma in northern Tanzania. Our local staff live and work within Igoma and are therefore only able to support children who live within the village borders. As a result, a child is immediately removed from the program if they no longer reside in the village.

There are also a number of reasons why a child may be removed from the program even though they continue to live in Igoma. The I CARE program guidelines stipulate that a child will remain sponsored to the age of 19 as long as they remain a full-time student. Over the past several years, several children have dropped out of school and have therefore lost their sponsorship.

Regardless of the reason, once a child is removed from the program, sponsors are automatically matched with the next child on our waiting list.

If you have any questions about the new child you have been matched with, please let us know.

Tax Receipt Reminder



Once the New Year arrives, we often start pulling together information for the completion of our taxes. With that in mind, we have reproduced the following article about tax receipts which appeared in the Spring 2015 edition of the newsletter.

As a registered Canadian Charity, the Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP), the organization which I CARE is part of, has the ability to provide tax receipts to sponsors. In order to remain in good standing, it is imperative that we abide by the rules set out by the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) for charitable organizations.

The Tax Act requires registered charities to have control over donated funds so that all funds are utilized within the context of the charity's established programs. Externally restricted funding support, for example funds which a sponsor wishes to send directly to their sponsor child for their benefit only, and for which the charity has no discretion for how the funds are utilized, is not tax deductible. Consequently, no tax receipt can be issued.

Thank you to all our sponsors for your continued generosity and support. Please let us know if you have any questions.



The Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP) continues to actively seek out partners with whom we can work collaboratively to support the people of Igoma. By joining forces with others, our impact can be even greater.

During the October 2015 trip to Tanzania, SIP partnered with Organics 4 Orphans (O4O) to deliver training in organic farming to 20 local farmers in Igoma. O4O works to address poverty by helping African communities move from food reliance towards self-sufficiency. They do this by equipping small-scale farmers with the knowledge and skills required to farm organically. Thanks to this information, farmers are able to grow more productively. Consequently, they are then asked to help support some of the most vulnerable members of their communities, orphans.

O4O believes in building sustainability from the ground up with a four pronged approach.

Organic Growing

- Abandoned or neglected soils are brought back to life through several organic techniques that can be easily learned.

Nutritional Training

- Teaching focuses on the nutrient density of every local food in the area. Green leaf crops are shown to have as much as 90 times the values of white rice.

Disease Prevention

- The healing power of over 50 plants are examined to combat tropical diseases. Classes on hygiene and clean water systems stop disease before they start.

Income Generation

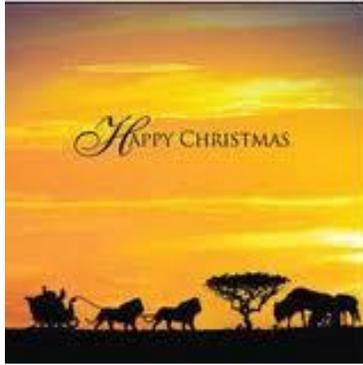
- When food can be used to prevent and treat diseases then surplus freshly grown organic crops have greater value to create income.



Above: Local farmers receiving training from O4O

It is our hope that the knowledge these individuals received will be shared with others around the village and beyond, helping to further alleviate poverty in the area. For more information about Organics 4 Orphans, please visit www.organics4orphans.org.

Christmas Letters to Igoma



If you wish to send a Christmas card or letter to your sponsor child, please mail them to the following address. I CARE's local staff will deliver your messages and translate them for the children as necessary.

I CARE
c/o Merceline Magwamu
P.O Box 8071, Mwanza-Igoma
Tanzania, East Africa

You can also send an email message if you prefer. Please email us at icaretanzania@yahoo.ca and write "Christmas Message to Igoma" in the subject line.

Letter from the Director's Desk

In the Fall of 2010, I was asked by the Stouffville Igoma Partnership whether I would be interested in becoming the Program Director for I CARE. Interestingly enough, I had been looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity in Stouffville when SIP reached out to me. After meeting with I CARE's founders and learning more about the program, I jumped at the chance to be part of an organization which makes a tremendous difference in the lives of children each month.

After thousands of emails and telephone conversations with sponsors along with 2 unforgettable trips to Igoma, I believe it is time to pass the torch to someone new. Like all volunteer run organizations, I CARE needs individuals with fresh ideas and energy to join our team. Therefore in 2016, we will actively seek a new Program Director to guide the program forward over the coming years. While it is my intention to step back from my current role, I will continue to be involved and will assist the new program leadership as best I can.

If you or anyone you know is interested in this wonderful opportunity, please contact me or Justin Kerswill, Chair of the Stouffville Igoma Partnership, at the number or email noted below.

As 2015 comes to a close, I would like to once again thank each of you, our dedicated and loyal sponsors, for your continued support. I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season and New Year.

Asante

Marcus

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