

I CARE Post



Spring 2013

Visit to Igoma: March 2013

This past March I was joined by Justin Kerswill, the newly elected Chair of the Stouffville Igoma Partnership, and Susan Kerswill, one of our generous I CARE sponsors, on a two week visit to Igoma. As this was my second trip to Tanzania, I was eager to see the progress the children in our program have made over the past two years.

After two long days of travel, our team arrived in Igoma and received a warm greeting from a number of familiar faces. Over the 14 days spent in the country, there were numerous memorable moments. The following are some of the highlights from the trip.

- Visits to the homes of over 25 I CARE children
- Visiting local schools which I CARE children attend
- Meetings with the local staff to share updates and discuss improvements to the program
- Hosting the I CARE Family Day where each of the 120 children in our program along with their families gathered at the Hillfront Hotel to celebrate together as a community
- Visit to the Watoto Wa Africa Orphanage
- Assessing the availability of clean drinking water throughout the village of Igoma

Below left: A new wheelchair presented to an I CARE child during the Family Day celebration.



Above right: Visiting a local public school. This class had 160 pupils.



Above: I CARE children perform a dance during the family day gathering.

Visit to the Watoto Wa Africa Orphanage



On Wednesday, March 13th, our travel team visited the Watoto Wa Africa Orphanage, which is located on the outskirts of Igoma. Home to 100 children, the orphanage first came to SIP's attention when a team of medical professionals from the Stouffville area visited it in the Fall of 2012.



Above left: Children at the orphanage
Above right: Hanging a new mosquito net

Many years ago, Josephat and his wife Rosemary began taking in the children of former co-workers who had died of Aids. Over time, as the number of children in their care increased, they decided to officially create an orphanage. Within the last two years, they moved from the city of Arusha to the Mwanza Region and settled in

Igoma. The orphanage receives support from a British organization which covers the cost of food each month.

However, there are still many challenges facing the home. When asked what the most urgent needs were, Josephat noted the lack of quality mosquito nets. Thanks to a generous donation by the Bach to Blues Choir in Stouffville, we delivered new mosquito nets for each of the children and staff members. We hope this is the start of a long term relationship between SIP and Watoto Wa Africa and that we can continue to provide support in the future.



Above: Cooking a large pot of beans for lunch.

For additional information about the Bach to Blues Chorus, please visit www.bachtoblues.com. If you would like to learn more about the orphanage, please visit www.watotowafrica.org.

New Website Content

New photos have been added from the recent trip to Igoma. This includes visits to local schools, additional photos from the orphanage as well as images captured during the 2013 I CARE Family Day gathering. Visit www.sipartnership.org, click on I CARE in the top right hand corner and then photos and videos.

Staff Update

In early February, one of our Field Workers, Magdelina Joseph, gave birth to a baby boy named Benedict, child number six for the family. Both mother and son are doing well. In order to care for her growing family, Magdalena will be stepping aside from her I CARE work at this time.

Grace, another one of our Field Workers, is on the mend after surviving a horrific car accident in early January. After 10 days in hospital, Grace is continuing her recovery at home. After visiting with her, I can happily report that she is doing well and is excited about rejoining I CARE in the coming months.

This coming July, our Family Services Director in Igoma, Marcelina, will be getting married. Marcelina and her new husband plan to remain in the Igoma area. On behalf of the entire I CARE family, I would like to extend congratulations to her on this wonderful occasion.

Closer to home, I am pleased to welcome Dyana Wilkinson to the I CARE team here in Stouffville. As a new member of the SIP Board of Directors, Dyana has volunteered to help out with the I CARE program moving forward. Having lived in East Africa, Dyana brings a wealth of knowledge to our program.



Post Profile

The fifth in our series of staff profiles features Monica Masanja, another one of our dedicated I CARE field workers (second from the right in the picture on the left). She has prepared the following message. I hope you enjoy getting to know her.

Greetings.

I joined ICARE in the year 2010 as a field worker. Ever since I have seen lives changed. Children who joined the program when they were young are now grownups with a better view for the future. Having been fed, clothed, educated, sheltered, and provided with medical treatment under the I CARE program. Some have undergone specialized training before leaving the program such as tailoring. Recently, new wheelchairs were delivered to several disabled children in our program.

Much thanks to the sponsors who have given their continued support to the needy Igoma children. Let us all join hands in prayer to keep I CARE alive for many more years. Thank you.

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