

I CARE Post



Spring 2014

Manase's Story

In previous editions of the newsletter, we have highlighted some of the generous support which sponsors provide to their I CARE child beyond the \$30 monthly fee. You may remember the story of a sponsor assisting their I CARE child's family in building a new home. Many others have sent funds in order to purchase bicycles, sewing machines and, more recently, a new wooden leg for the father of one of the children in our program. In this edition of the I CARE Post, I would like to share Manase's story.

17 year old Manase lives with his mother Lucy along with sisters Loyce, Rose and Aunt Anna and her son Samson. Over a number of years, his sponsor learned about Manase's strong academic performance and his dream of one day becoming an engineer. We also learned from local I CARE staff that although his marks were strong and he was regularly achieving grades in the top 10 percent of his class, Manase was attending an overcrowded local public school where the quality of education wasn't particularly high.

Thanks to his sponsor, he was transferred to a private school where the quality of teaching and the overall curriculum was much stronger.



*Above Left: Arriving at Kassa Charity School with local ICARE staff.
Above Right: Meeting Manase in the Head Masters office.*

Over the past two years, Manase has attended the Kasa Charity School in Igoma. As a result of his hard work, in February 2014 Manase successfully passed his form four national exams focused on physics, chemistry and biology. He is now determining which school he will attend for forms six and seven before heading off to university.

Manase's dream of becoming an engineer is closer to becoming a reality thanks to his sponsor in Stouffville.

Strengthening our team: Joseph Katowa joins I CARE

As many of you know, 2013 saw a dramatic shift in our program staffing structure in Igoma as we have decided to replace the 5 part-time field workers with 2 full-time workers and 1 Medical Field Worker (part-time role). These three positions will join Marcelina Jacob, I CARE's Family Services Director, and Tanzania Based Program Director, Moses Hosea, as our new team in Igoma. This change in structure will allow the local staff to share a number of different tasks more equitably including the translation of letters from your I CARE child to you, tutoring support as well as general administrative duties which previously fell solely on the shoulders of Marcelina and Moses.

In this edition of the I CARE Post, we would like to introduce Joseph Katowa (pictured below), the first of our new full-time field workers. I hope you enjoy getting to know him.

My name is Joseph Katowa. I am thirty years old, living in Igoma. I am a teacher by profession. I have recently joined I CARE as a full time field worker. I enjoy working with kids and I want to give my time to serving these less privileged children and their families. I'm lucky to get this chance as I would like to see lives changed. I pray that I CARE grows to include other areas apart from Igoma.



As for our outgoing field workers, they are very supportive of this change in approach. Each of them remain employed in other jobs and were very pleased to have had the opportunity to supplement their incomes with I CARE over the past number of years. We wish them all the best in the years to come.



Above: Outgoing field workers Monica and Magdalene.

Below: Grace, Mary and Violet. Mary, who is wearing the blue and yellow dress below, will remain with I CARE as our new medical field worker.



In order to maximize the impact of the humanitarian aid delivered by the Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP) in Igoma, we are always on the lookout for other organizations with whom we can join forces. Our hope is that by working in tandem with other like-minded groups, the projects we initiate in the community can be built upon and grown.

Beginning in 2013, SIP took its first steps in delivering clean water to the people of Igoma by initiating the construction of our first rain catchment system at a local school.



Above: Examples of rain catchment systems in place at the Urafiki Health Clinic and a local school

As guests at the 9th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction learned this past October, SIP has now formalized a relationship with Elephant Thoughts (ET), a Collingwood, Ontario, based aid organization which is also working in Igoma. ET has committed to implementing a Sustainable Schools system at each school in which SIP installs a rain catchment system.

The following description of the Sustainable Schools program is from the Elephant Thoughts website.

Here are some ways that we help schools become sustainable:

Sustainable agriculture

We are setting up low water farming programs on school property. Villagers can participate alongside students, and will be paid in food. The harvest will also feed school children, with any surplus being sold to the community for extra school revenue.

Computer lab

Rather than simply building a computer lab, we will send local people to a computer school, provided that they teach computers for free to students and keep the lab up and running. They can then make money after hours by using the lab as an Internet café.

Water sourcing

Water capture systems on school premises help make schools the focal point for water. We help set up a local water committee to oversee ongoing operations.

Animal husbandry

Schoolchildren take care of animals, usually chickens, at the school. One of the next steps would see offspring being given to local community members, with the proviso that the firstborn offspring of the next generation of chickens is given to another community member, and that husbandry techniques are passed down. Once a hierarchy of chicken recipients is established, the system becomes self-policing.

Sewing program

We teach women to sew. In return, they will teach schoolchildren for free and maintain equipment. In the evenings, they can use sewing equipment for profit. We find that, dollar for dollar, the Sustainable Schools Model is the best catalyst for change that we can create. The program is now up and running in six schools in Tanzania, each of which has between 500 and 2000 students.

This exciting new partnership is important to I CARE as it will greatly improve the educational experience of many children in our program. The first school to receive a rain catchment system through SIP is Bukaga Primary. Once construction is complete, the school will have a supply of clean water to last throughout the year. Until now, the students of Bukaga had no access to clean water.

Below: The current water supply available to the staff and students of Bukaga Primary School. This polluted pond was a 10-12 minute walk from the school.



Once the work at Bukaga is complete, SIP will turn attention to Nyere Primary School. Here are some general facts about the school and the work Elephant Thoughts is already undertaking:

- Student population of over 930 children
- Approximately 17 teachers on staff
- The school has only 5 classrooms. As a result, students either attended a morning or afternoon session.
- There is 1 book for every 10 students who attend the school.

For more information on the work being done by our friends at Elephant Thoughts, please visit them at the following website.

www.elephantthoughts.com



Above: Students at Nyere Primary school gathering for a forum. In the near future, this school will be transformed into a community hub thanks to Elephant Thoughts.

I CARE Contact Information:

Mailing address:

I CARE

c/o Stouffville Igoma Partnership

P.O Box 104, Station Main

Stouffville, Ontario

L4A 7Z4

Phone number: 905-642-1791

Email address: icaretanzania@yahoo.ca

Web address: www.sipartnership.org