

THE ICARE Post



SPRING 2011

Message from the Director's Desk

The New Year brought with it some exciting changes to the program when I CARE officially became part of the Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP), a humanitarian organization which provides healthcare and educational opportunities to the people of Igoma. As part of this transition, I assumed the role of Program Director, a position I feel very fortunate and honored to be occupying. During the first four months of the year I have been busy familiarizing myself with the intricacies of the program and speaking with sponsors at every opportunity. I also had the privilege of visiting Igoma and seeing firsthand the incredible impact I CARE is making in the community.

During the transition I have relied heavily on the guidance and knowledge of the previous Directors who have provided invaluable insight and assistance for which I am truly grateful. The current strength of the program is a testament to their hard work and dedication to the children of Igoma.

It is my hope that under SIP's leadership, the program will continue to thrive. I look forward to working with each of you in the months ahead to continue delivering life changing support to children in need. If you have any suggestions for the program, I would love to hear from you.



Asante sana (thank you in Swahili)

Marcus Gordon
Program Director

2011 Trip to Igoma

In late January I had the pleasure of visiting Igoma as part of a 10 person work team made up of members from SIP and the broader Stouffville community.

Highlights of the journey included a visit to a local orphanage, the unloading of a 40 foot shipping container full of medical supplies and equipment, the distribution of mosquito nets to homes throughout the community and a 2 day visit to the Serengeti.



Left: I CARE sponsors visiting with their sponsor child during the trip.

The trip also provided team members with the opportunity to visit many of the I CARE children and their families. Using the local I CARE staff as translators, team members had the chance to visit and speak with families in their homes to better understand some of the challenges they face.

As Director, the trip provided me with an opportunity to meet with our local staff to discuss the program. Lead by our Family Service Director, Marcelina and Chief Financial Officer, Moses, I CARE has assembled a truly remarkable team of caring and dedicated local staff who support and guide the families in our program.

Below: I CARE families picking up bags of rice/maze and other supplies for the coming month.



Below left: Distributing mosquito nets throughout the community. Blow right: Visiting a local orphanage.



Below: A visit to a local school.



Receive I CARE Information via Email

100% of sponsorship funds for the I CARE program go directly to the Igoma community. As a result, any administrative costs such as printing and mailing fees are covered through other means. In an effort to keep these costs to a minimum, I CARE would like to provide sponsors with the option of receiving all updates and information from the program electronically via email. This approach would benefit sponsors by allowing them to receive photographs, newsletters and updated child information cards directly to their inbox as soon as they are available. This method would also reduce some the administrative costs I CARE currently faces. If you would like to receive updates electronically, please send an email to icaretanzania@yahoo.ca indicating so.

For those sponsors who would prefer to receive hard copy materials through regular mail or through your EastRidge mail box, I CARE will continue to do so.



Post Profile

I have asked Marcelina Jacob (pictured on the left), I CARE's Family Services Director, to write the inaugural Post Profile, a new feature in which one of our staff in Tanzania will share some information about themselves and their thoughts on the program. Marcelina is the main point of contact for all issues related to the I CARE children and is invaluable to the overall success of the program. Enjoy!

I am thirty three years of age and work as a primary school teacher teaching English and Science. I am single mother of a boy aged five and a half, his name is Jacob. I live in two rented rooms within Igoma. I joined I CARE in the year 2008 when my name was mentioned to Rod Anderson (Founder and then Program Director of I CARE) by Glenna Cumin who is a Canadian missionary in Tanzania. I have worked with Field Workers to serve the needy families of Igoma to date. I love serving people because it is serving God. {James 1:27}

I CARE has been very useful to the sponsored children and their families providing them with food, shelter to those who need it, clothing, mosquito nets, furniture, school fees and medical care.

Several families have managed to rise from the levels they formally had to a new and better level where they can provide for themselves. There are orphans who have specifically benefited from the program as I CARE becomes the parent. Community outreach program has done a lot of good for example illiterate parents have been taught to read, write and do basic calculations. We hope to achieve much more.

Igoma people will be eternally grateful to I CARE. Long live I CARE, God bless I CARE.

New I CARE Logo

As part of the transition to SIP, I CARE is looking to develop a fresh new look. So we are reaching out to our sponsors for ideas in developing a new I CARE logo. If you have an interesting idea or creative design, please email it to icaretanzania@yahoo.ca. If you would prefer, you can also mail your suggestions to us. We'd love to hear from you! The new logo will be featured in the Fall 2011 edition of the I CARE Post.

Mark your Calendar:

Canada Day Strawberry Festival in Stouffville

As part of the Canada Day weekend celebrations, SIP along with many other local businesses and organizations, sets up a tent on Main Street, Stouffville, and shares information about the various programs we support in Igoma. It is an excellent way for the organization to get out in the community and raise awareness. We would love to see you there!

October 21, 2011 Stouffville Igoma Partnership Dinner & Auction

This annual event is a fun-filled evening designed to raise money to support the various SIP programs in Igoma. I CARE will be well represented at this year's event. If you would like more information about the event or how to buy tickets, please let me know.

Fall Edition of the I CARE Post (October/November 2011)

Do you have any questions about the program or your sponsor child? Is there a topic you would like to see included in a future I CARE newsletter?

If so, please contact us using one of the following methods.

Mailing address:

I CARE
c/o Stouffville Igoma Partnership
P.O Box 104, Station Main
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 7Z4

Phone number: 416-346-5133

Email address: icaretanzania@yahoo.ca

Letters to your sponsor child can be mailed directly to the following address and I CARE staff will make sure it arrives safely (and translated into Swahili).

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

Interested in learning about the Stouffville Igoma Partnership? Check out www.sippartnership.org for more information.

Do you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a child through I CARE? If so, please direct them to the Child Aid link on the Stouffville Igoma Partnership website for more information.