

I CARE Post



Fall 2017

August 2017 Trip to Igoma

The following account of the August visit to Igoma has been prepared by Justin Kerswill, Chair of the Stouffville Igoma Partnership.



Above: I CARE families and local staff visiting with the team from Canada.

A team of five people left Toronto for Igoma Tanzania on August 6th. As chair for the Stouffville Igoma Partnership, this was my sixth visit to Tanzania so I was excited to see familiar faces and old friends. Once we arrived, I was thrilled at everyone's positive attitude and

eagerness to work and explore the community. Although we had developed a detailed itinerary prior to our departure, I look back on this trip fondly due to the new unexpected connections and relationships we formed. We were fortunate to be joined on the trip by the mayor of Stouffville Justin Altmann. As a result of his presence, we were presented with the opportunity to meet the mayor of Mwanza, James Mbiri (pictured below). Mwanza is a large city of over two million people close by to Igoma. Having the opportunity to meet a significant public figure such as mayor Mbiri and expand our network of contacts in and around Igoma are always positive. Together we shared meals, visited his home and, most importantly, shared ideas for ways to increase prosperity for the people of Tanzania in the future.



One of the major jobs completed during the trip was the opening of a library at Mandela Primary in partnership with another Canadian

charity called Elephant Thoughts (ET). SIP previously worked with ET to build a rain water catch system at Mandela (pictured below).



Last year, ET shipped a container to Igoma full of books and shelving along with some medical equipment which SIP sent to the Urafiki Clinic. The travel team along with several local I CARE staff members unpacked the container, categorized all the books into genres, assembled the shelving and then filled them with all the books! It was a huge undertaking but everyone worked tirelessly alongside of several students from the school to complete the work in one day.

We look forward to following up with the teachers at Mandela primary soon.



Above Left – the travel team hard at work organizing the books for Mandela Primary’s library.

Above Right – Grateful students showing off their new resources.

While Kaitlin Richardson, a SIP board member, and I attended meetings with local staff to discuss SIP's programming, others from the travel team took the opportunity to deliver mosquito nets to homes throughout the community, visit several I CARE families and assist with cleaning and farming at a local orphanage. One of the travel team members is a retired nurse so she took the opportunity to examine some of the children and made recommendations for additional treatments at the Urafiki Clinic. The team also replaced every mosquito net at the orphanage during the visit.



Above Right – Kaitlin meeting some local students.

Above Left – Playing games with children at a local orphanage.

Though there were no big building projects this time around, this was a very successful trip. Relationships were formed and in some cases deepened and strengthened. A new Memorandum of Understanding between SIP in Canada and our partners in Igoma which further strengthens our accountability structures.



People often wonder if relief work truly makes a difference. Without a doubt, as members of the travel team will attest, SIP is making a world of difference to the people of Igoma! Thank you to the entire team and to all our donors for continuing to join hands and create hope!

Justin Kerswill

In His Own Words: Baraka's Story



Greetings Sponsors,

My name is Baraka Amon I am born of a very poor family, my life was not even promising and I didn't think that I can be a person in my family who will be a great hope to them. Due to

this poverty condition in our family my father lost hope and committed suicide. This condition made our family to live in frustration and many stressful moments. I started taking care of my sibling while working hard on my school. I continued with school with a determination in my life that I will pursue my education, thank God I passed all of my primary and my secondary education. Since we received this I CARE support our stress was lost and now we celebrate the love Canadians have shown to our lives.

I am in high school now in my first year, I thank my sponsor and his family for the extra financial support to take me to this high school because my mother is not able to pay my school fees. I am proud of you people from Canada for you have made my life have hope and I really appreciate the support.



I believe I will be great in my life and will support my family and the community as well.

Thank you sponsors.

Reflections On My First Trip to Igoma



Before, during and after my trip to Igoma, I have spent a lot of time contemplating and reflecting on my expectations and my experiences traveling to Africa for the first time. The cliché thing to hear is that this experience was really eye-opening and life changing and I must say it is entirely true. While I did see poverty in Igoma, the things that stand out in my mind as I look back on my time there is the welcoming spirit, hospitality and faith that I felt from everyone I met. I had the opportunity to visit with a number of

the I Care families and was continuously shown a warm welcome and extraordinary generosity.

I also saw that sponsorship money doesn't come close to covering every need or challenge a family may face, it certainly allows them some room to breathe and, most importantly, let their children focus on school knowing that basic living costs are being supported. It allows kids to continue being kids. There were several discussions about how the families could build off the sponsorship support to develop other streams of income which would further help improve family situations. It was very encouraging to hear that the sponsorship is often thought of as a stepping stone towards an even brighter future.

Kaitlin Richardson

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING WITH SIP?
WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR TEAM.
CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE.

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.

Post Profile

I CARE is fortunate to have a group of dedicated local staff who ensure our program runs smoothly on the ground in Igoma. The group of staff who visit regularly with the children in our program and report back with photos and updates are known as field workers. Yasinta Leonard is our newest field worker and has been in the role for over a year. As part of her work, she has been assigned a group of approximately 25

children who she visits with several times a month. During these visits, Yasinta gathers information on their current needs and speaks with the families to understand how things are coming along. She will also coordinate the writing of letters to sponsors and any other communications that are needed. I hope you enjoy getting to know her.

*"My name is Yasinta and I am a tailor. I joined I CARE over 1 year ago and I have learned a great deal since. I am very pleased with all the new experiences as they are both exciting and challenging. I now know what it really is like to be in need and I have empathy to the less privileged. I have seen changes in lives of some families because of the support and I feel proud to be part of the process.
My message to the I CARE family in Canada - God bless you all for doing such a wonderful job. Have a long life full of God's grace and may your children and grandchildren prosper in Jesus' name. Amen."*

Yasinta

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