

I CARE POST



Spring 2017

A Life Changed By Sponsorship

We recently contacted a former I CARE child to see how her life is today. The following is a letter we received in response. As you will see, sponsorship made a tremendous difference in the life of this young woman and her entire family.

Dear I CARE:

I thank God for His goodness, and for the I CARE Program, my writing cannot be enough to express the joy that is in me for the support that I CARE provided for me and family during the time when I was in the program.

Thank you Canada for what you did for me, my family was very poor and I didn't know that my life could change, as you supported me in I CARE I started seeing myself that I can be somebody.

I am currently working at Geita district at GPH Industries Ltd (engineering firm) as an Environmental Officer. I am very grateful that I CARE has taken me to this far.

I am a mother of two children named Gloria and Believe. I am now enjoying life because someone somewhere sacrificed his life and money for me and my family. Send my greetings to I CARE Canada and to my former sponsors.

May God bless I CARE for the great work that you do and I send my greetings to all of IGOMA I CARE STAFF, I love you all and miss you a lot.

Yours truly,

Paulina B



Above left: Paulina hard at work.

Above right: Paulina's two young children.

News and Notes from Igoma



We would like to share exciting academic news about two children in our program. Baraka Amon (above right) and Almas Kudra (above left) recently passed their form four examinations. They will now move on to join form five this coming July. We wish them all the best as they continue on with their studies!

We would also like to congratulate a former I CARE child on her new employment. Margaret Nkagilwa, picture below, is now working at the Urafiki Health Centre as a receptionist. She recently completed her form four education as well as a secretary course.



Letter from the Director's Desk

As the calendar turned to 2017, I CARE experienced a significant increase in the number of sponsored children. Starting in January, 110 children were being supported, an increase of 11 from the end of 2016! As excited as we are about the growth of the program, it also reminds us that there are always more children needing support.

During my visits to Tanzania, we would often have individuals approach us as we walked around the village to ask if their children could become sponsored. I also recall several occasions when a single mother or father would visit our hotel and ask for a few moments of our time to talk about their dire situations. Even though every story they told was different, each one was heartbreakingly similar.

I hope 2017 continues to be a year of growth for I CARE, one that sees many more children in Igoma receive medical care, fresh food and other basic necessities each and every month thanks to sponsorship. If you know of any friends, neighbours or relatives who would be interested in supporting a child in need, please tell them about I CARE and how they can change the life of a boy or girl in Stouffville's partnered community.

Thank you to all our sponsors, both new and old, for joining us on this incredible journey.

Marcus



Tutoring Program for Primary Aged Children

This past January, I CARE began a tutoring program to assist sponsored children achieve greater academic success.

Although we currently focus the tutoring for primary aged children, we hope to extend the program to secondary school students in the future. The following letter from our Family Services Director, Marcelina Jacob provides details on the program.

Dear Sponsors,

The building for the tutoring program is located at Mnadani which is near the middle of Igoma.

We registered forty four children when we started the program. This was done after a meeting with the parents. After some time the children from very far away started to find it cumbersome to attend hence they attend less often.

The ages of children who attend range from six to around fifteen. When we came up with the idea our intention was to have tutoring for all school going children.

However, we couldn't afford to pay secondary school teachers. We remained with primary children although there are three form ones who come to study English.

Classes are usually held after school. The subjects that most children have problems with are Mathematics, English and Science. These are the subjects taught.

The children who started attending tuition from lower classes are the ones who will benefit the most. This is because we are able to lay a good foundation for them and they are showing the best progress. There are other children too showing improvement like the ones in grade six, we believe they will do very well next year in their national exams.

Most children in grade four are showing very slight improvement, otherwise those in grades five, three and two are very encouraging.

There are two teachers presently, myself and Mr Masese. We are very happy with the program so far. We believe the children will benefit greatly from it.

Marcelina

The following photos capture the children during a recent tutoring session.



VOLUNTEER



Have you ever considered volunteering with the Stouffville Igoma Partnership? Do you know of a high school student needing to complete volunteer hours? If so, there are presently a number of exciting opportunities available with ICARE including:

- Assisting at upcoming fundraising events
- Media relations lead
- Assist with the operation of the I CARE Program

If you are interested in learning more, we encourage you to join us at a monthly board meeting. Please contact us for details.

Upcoming Fundraising Events:

7th Annual Euchre Tournament – Please join us on May 26th, 2017 at the Legion in Stouffville (150 Mostar Street). There will be door prizes, a 50/50 draw and some excellent euchre competition! For more information, please contact Sue Kerswill at 905-640-3513.



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