

I CARE Post



Spring 2018

A Fresh Start to the School Year

Unlike public schools here in Canada, children attending public schools in Tanzania are required to purchase school uniforms. As you can imagine, this is a financial challenge for many families. Fortunately, I CARE sponsorship is able to step in and help in many cases by purchasing a new school shirt or pair of shoes when the need arises.



As the new school year began this past January, we learned that a large number of the I CARE children would require new uniforms (examples on right). Unfortunately, with the sponsorship funds having already been used to purchase other important supplies such as food or cooking oils, there were numerous children who simply did not have the money left over to purchase a new uniform. Thanks to the generosity of one family here in Stouffville, we were able to send a group of these children together to be fitted for new school uniforms.



Above - Children showing off their new outfits.

Below - I CARE children and staff happy with their new looks.



Introducing the I CARE Staff

It has been several years since we last introduced our dedicated and hardworking Tanzania based staff to sponsors. Many of our staff have been with I CARE for over 10 years and continue to do a wonderful job serving the families in our program. They have a deep desire to help those in need within their community and we are truly honored to have them working with us. Two of our longest serving staff members are Marcelina Magwamu (below right) and Moses Hosea (below left).



Moses is married and has 2 children named Joy (14) and Sharon (8). He works in network marketing to earn a living. Since 2005 he has worked with the I CARE Program and currently serves as the Tanzania Program Director. Moses has heart for those less fortunate in his community and truly enjoys helping wherever he can. He is a gifted administrator who has managed many I CARE projects over the years. Moses also serves as a member of the pastoral team at Jesus Restoration Centre.

Marcelina began working with the I CARE program in 2008. A teacher by profession, she is married with one son. She loves the children of Igoma and relishes the opportunity to see the I CARE children rise above their difficult situations. She truly believes that I CARE is a stepping stone to a better life.

News and Notes from Igoma

Mpelwa Chambi has been an I CARE sponsor child for several years. Like all children in our program, sponsorship has allowed her to stay in school and focus on her education. Unfortunately, Mpelwa has found it challenging to excel in her studies. As a result, she has explored other opportunities beyond a traditional education to support herself for the future. She has long been known for her artistic flair and recently decided to open a hairdressing salon and clothing store (pictures on right). As our Family Services Director Marcelina explained, she has laid a wonderful foundation for her future. We would like to wish her nothing but the best as she moves forward.



Tabia Hemedi, pictured on left, has lived a challenging life. Sadly, her father left the family soon after she was born and moved to another region of the country. Without his support, the family was in a dire situation. However, within a short period following his departure, their lives changed forever when I CARE identified them as a family in need of

support. Tabia's mother has also begun earning a little bit of income by selling snacks (roasted ground nuts) to school kids as they travel to and from school. This additional bit of income along with I CARE sponsorship ensures the family can meet their basic needs. Thanks to her sponsors, Tabia's future is much brighter.



Letter from the Directors Desk

As a charitable organization, the Stouffville Igoma Partnership works tirelessly to ensure every single dollar donated by one of our kind and generous supporters is put to the best use possible.

How do we ensure that the \$30 monthly sponsorship fee goes directly to Igoma? Perhaps most importantly, how do we ensure every dollar that arrives in Igoma is managed well?

To begin, when a wire transfer is sent each quarter, the full \$30 per month per child is sent to Tanzania. Any administrative costs, such as the cost of sending the wire itself, is covered as part of the broader Stouffville Igoma Partnership administrative fees.

Once the funds arrive in Igoma, we begin by paying any medical fees the I CARE children have incurred at the Urafiki Health Center. This means that some quarters a particular child may have spent less or more funds on medical costs than others. However, by treating all 115 I CARE children as a group, we are ensuring a consistent level of care for all.

Secondly, once the medical bills are addressed, we ensure that our local staff receive their compensation. We are entirely dependent on having a group of hard working and dedicated local staff so it is important that we retain this individuals and

ensure they are compensated fairly. Once the medical fees and staff wages are paid, the remaining funds are divided equally amongst our I CARE children. Most months, this means families receive between \$21 and \$23 of the \$30 sponsorship fee. I CARE families do not receive any money directly but rather write a list of goods they need in consultation with our staff.

The following pictures and descriptions detail how this process works.

Below left: An I CARE child's mother arrives with the list of goods her family needs for the coming months.

Below right: I CARE Field Work Mary reviews the list and confirms the price for each item to ensure the sponsorship funds will cover them.



Below left: The shop keeper measuring out the amount of flour requested by the I CARE family.

Below right: The pile of goods which will help the family through the next three months.



Below left: An I CARE child's mother returning home by motorcycle with her goods.

Above right: Families waiting to meet with a Field Worker to finalize their own list of goods for the coming quarter.



If you have any questions about this process or the program in general, I would love to hear from you. Thank you for your kind and generous support.

Asante

Marcus



Have you ever considered volunteering with the Stouffville Igoma Partnership? 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.

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