



REACH^{THE} CHILDREN

2011 Annual Report



Reach the Children facilitates self-reliance in communities dedicated to the well-being of underprivileged children. This mission is accomplished by mentorship through Community Empowerment Initiatives in education and enterprise.



They Deserve A Chance.

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They Deserve to Live a Long, Loving Life.

HIV/AIDS Prevention

According to a UN/AIDS report (UNAIDS World AIDS Day Report 2011), there was a decrease in the number of new HIV cases in Sub-Saharan Africa by the end of 2010, but this area was still responsible for 70% of new infections worldwide.

Reach the Children increases awareness of HIV/AIDS by teaching the Stay Alive Prevention Education Program (licensed by United Families International). This program encourages hope by teaching children how to remain disease-free through consequential thinking. It targets 9 to 14 year old children and arms them with the tools to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and helps them understand that happiness can be found in healthy, loving families.

This is accomplished through a collaborative effort with country

officials, local leaders, parents, guardians and teachers. The more rooted in the community the education is, the farther-reaching effects it can have.

The Stay Alive program is being used in many countries throughout Africa with success. Let's take a closer look at one of those countries where the Stay Alive program is being implemented: Ghana.

By the end of 2011 the Stay Alive program was taught in the Aburi Presbyterian Primary School, the Independence Avenue 1 & 2 Basic schools, the LEKMA schools, and the Dangme West District Schools in Ghana.

486 teachers, 14,346 students 700 parents, and 59 other community members participated in the program.

Students in junior high participated in discussions about HIV/AIDS and appreciated the opportunity to ask questions. False perceptions about HIV/AIDS changed as they went through the program.

One sixteen-year old young woman went through the program, and felt it had so much importance, that she began to talk about it to others. She brought 32 other girls to the program.

By the end of September alone, 8577 children were reached In Uganda, and 82 community resource people trained.

To read more about the Stay Alive program, or other countries implementing this program, please see our website at www.reachthechildren.org/ programs and click on Aids Prevention.



They Deserve an Opportunity.

Education

UNESCO, an agency of the United Nations reported that two out of three children in Africa are left out of secondary school. Fewer girls in sub-Saharan Africa will go onto secondary school than will boys of the same age and economic status.

Reach the Children provides resources and supplies to schools and communities in Africa. We believe that, with an education and life-skills, the youth today can escape the poverty of tomorrow.

In 2002, the government in Kenya mandated that all children go to a public primary school, but there were no subsidized rates for secondary schooling.

Reach the Children partnered with another organization to build a school- the Kiuani

Secondary School. Reach the Children donated materials to build the initial block, which houses the administration office and two classrooms. The school has made a difference for those who now have an opportunity to continue their schooling.

Kalekye John, a 15 years old young woman, is one of those students. Her father passed away in 2005 and her mother struggles to raise her and five other children. Kalekye is the fourth child. Her mother maintains the family through the sale of some farm produce, but that does not provide much, and her elder siblings and herself were forced to drop out of school because of lack of school fees.

With the new school and their considerably lower fees, Kalekye was able to go back to school.

Kalekye says, "I feel good about this school, the environment is conducive for learning, it is also near my home", said Kalekye. She is very grateful that Reach the Children, through their kind donors, made it possible for her to resume her schooling.

Kyalo Nthenge, a 16 year old young man, also attends the Kiuani Secondary School. Previously, he had dropped out of school. His elderly parents could not make ends meet, let alone pay the required school fees. But at Kiuani, the fees are often subsidized by Reach the Children and other humanitarian organizations, and Kyalo can now obtain a secondary education that will empower him to face the challenges of life after school.

To read more about some of our projects, go to www.rtcprojects.org.



They Deserve to Be Healthy.

Health

Thousands die each year from preventable diseases because of the lack of basic hygiene education, vaccinations, and lack of medical equipment or training.

Reach the Children provides basic medical supplies, equipment, and health education to hospitals and communities.

There are many applications. Some are very simple but effective. For instance- bathrooms and hand-washing stations in schools. More than half of all primary schools in Kenya do not have adequate water facilities and a bigger percentage lack adequate sanitation facilities, resulting in diarrhea, parasitic worms, and other water-borne and hygiene related ailments.

The World Health Organization estimates that diarrhea causes 1.5 million deaths per year; many resulting from transmis-

sion in schools.

The good news is that this can be significantly reduced by hand washing after every visit to the toilet.

The Ngomano Primary School in Kenya had hand-washing stations, but they were in state of disrepair. Reach the Children members repaired the existing faucets, installed three more, and assisted in educating and training the children to wash their hands regularly and after using the facilities.

The Head Teacher stated that illness at the school declined after the training, installation and repair of the hand-washing stations.

To read more about Reach the Children and our Health-related projects, please go to www.reachthechildren.com/

programs, and then click on Health.



They Deserve to Be Able to Provide for Their Families.

Micro-Enterprise

Families and children living in poverty have no access to funds for education, training, or business opportunities. Traditional bank loans are unavailable to those without collateral or job experience.

Reach the Children promotes the concept of teaching a man how to fish and letting him feed himself rather than giving him fish for only today! Reach the Children wants to provide opportunities for people to care for themselves, thus small loans are made available and affordable to qualified individuals.

Micro-enterprise is one of the ways that poverty can be eliminated or at least reduced to a certain level in third world countries. Individuals can engage in small businesses that can help them in making money for their families needs.

Cyrus Kanyogu is a resident of Nairobi slums who has benefited from the Micro-loans that RTC has been offering.

Cyrus lived with his poor mother in the slums of Nairobi. For some time he sought to improve himself financially. He showed the enthusiasm to develop and excel, but lacked capital. He was a prime candidate to receive one of RTC's micro-loans and finally get the chance to really improve his situation and that of his family.

Cyrus approached RTC with the intention of getting a loan to purchase a grinding machine. With the machine he has been able to generate a more regular income and continues to expand his business opportunities in the community.

Cyrus is one of many that has benefitted from a micro-enter-

prise loan. Most of the individuals who have been successful in starting and maintaining a business from such loans had both monetary assistance and vocational training or skills of some sort. Generally, providing capital to skilled individuals gives them power and the ability to increase their earning potential; hence attaining more income.

This situation provides better living standards where they can afford decent housing, access to good health care and better education for themselves and their children.



They Deserve a Bright Future.

Orphan Care

There are over 17 million children in South Africa that are orphaned, and that face hunger, violence, and abuse. In order to break the circle of poverty, these children need protection, care, food, and an education. With approximately half of the population in South Africa under the age of 18, there are many children to care for.

The Little Bees orphanage in the Huruma slums of Nairobi cares for children in a family-based setting. They recognize that the children need an education to realize their full potential in life, to gain the knowledge and skills they will need for the future. It is hard to study with an empty stomach, hard to focus on learning when hungry. By being assured of having food, more children attend school on a regular basis and this allows their teachers to monitor their education progress more eas-

ily. The younger children are taught in local language which is 'Kiswahili' and they are introduced to English gradually as they grow and progress in knowledge. The quality of education improves because the children are always happy and their hunger is satisfied when in school.

The teachers at the Little Bee's center are working extremely hard since they understand that these children cannot afford extra tuition classes. This may be the only chance they will ever have to get an education and have a chance at a better life.

For the Little Bees orphanage, a self-sustainable answer to providing food and a good education to the children came in the form of a Posho Mill. The Little Bees have a modern Posho Mill that is able to process sifted maize meal. They procure

maize by donation, members' contribution and some supplies from nearby farming areas. In addition, people bring their own maize and pay to have it milled.

Having a modern mill also means that Little Bees have an opportunity to brand its products. They have a great potential to expand the business by adding value to the maize, branding the product and packaging it for small niche markets in the slums. These are prospects that Little Bees can pursue to increase its sources of income.

Thanks to the Posho Mill, the children at the Little Bees orphanage have food and money for other needs, such as clothes, medical care, and an education.



They Deserve Food & Clean Water.

Water & Agriculture

When malnourished, a child's heart shrinks, literally, because of lack of water and nutrients. In acute hunger, even other vital organs including the liver and the kidney begin to break down. The immune system is consequently weakened and the child becomes more vulnerable to opportunistic infections like tuberculosis and malaria among others. Some of which could be fatal.

In order to assist communities and families in providing self-sustainable sources of food and clean water, Reach the Children is helping create numerous new wells in Africa. Irrigation -- especially drip irrigation -- has the potential of solving many of Africa's water and agriculture problems. Additionally, Reach the Children's farm management experts coach farmers on irrigation, cash cropping and marketing.

One project started with a group of people in Western Kenya. The objective of the group was to help people from the community grow onions, harvest in good time, and have a market ready for the onions without having to use middlemen "brokers". The farmers were required to have .25 acre of land and to provide the necessary labor and pesticides. The group agreed to use the project as a business opportunity to obtain income to enable them to invest in other projects. The project would eventually help many people improve their living standards in terms of being able to afford medical care, food security, paying school fees, putting up better houses and purchasing land to assist them in expanding their farms.

RTC and Manas Investing hosted a workshop on the

onion project, where farmers gained knowledge on the growing and management of the crop from the time of planting until harvesting. Seventy farmers benefitted from the project by receiving 300 grams of onion seeds and 12 kg of fertilizer.

The crop will earn each farmer a minimum of 30,000.00 Kenya shillings equivalent to 365 US dollars. This money will help families, many of which normally depend on less than a dollar a day, to be able to meet some basic needs such as food, clothing, health care, and an education for their children.

To read more about some of our projects, go to www.rtcprojects.org.



They Deserve the Tools to Work Together & Solve Their Own Problems

Community Empowerment

There are dire problems facing the African people, but many communities are unable to respond to their members' needs because of a lack of resources and knowledge.

With facilitation, tools, and techniques from Reach the Children, African community members can discuss, evaluate, and solve their own problems using a holistic approach, often involving all five focus areas. The communities' solutions are effective and sustainable. Reach the Children encourages this approach and lends support when needed.

Nicholas is a 33 year old man in the western part of Kenya He is married and he and his wife have three children. He earns his daily bread from a "boda boda" business which is a common name for motor-cycle transport business. He is a member of a self-help group called SHIEBU,

under Reach the Children Organization. He received 5 chickens passed to him by David Abuti , another member of the same community who received assistance earlier, as part of the "pay it forward" micro-farming initiative by RTC.

Nicholas revealed that since he received the five chickens he has been able to pile together manure that has helped him have a vegetable garden that serves the family. This is a great improvement to their health and it means that he saves money because he does not have to buy vegetables at the market so much. Eggs laid by his chickens are used as food and also sold to his neighbors. Other eggs are allowed to hatch into more chicks to increase the population of his chicken farm.

His project has made his family a happy one. "My wife no lon-

ger goes to the market to buy vegetables", says Nicholas. She goes to the vegetable garden behind their house and plucks vegetables enough for their family. The garden has enabled the family to save money for other needs. His mother also relies on the same garden for her vegetables.

In the future he thinks of expanding the vegetable garden so that he can have a sufficient supply to sell vegetables to the community. He also wants to sell some of the chickens to buy a cow that will provide milk for the family and more manure to improve the crop production on his farm, thus helping to eradicate the poverty that has so long been a part of his life.

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Holistic Answers Make a Difference!

Holistic

The problems in Africa are complex. One solution will not fix all the problems facing Africans children, their parents, and communities. Focusing on health alone, or Micro-Enterprise alone can and will help, but since the problems are overlapping, the solutions must also.

When children are hungry, they have a hard time listening and paying attention in school. When there are poor sanitary conditions, the health of the children is in peril. With dire economic situations facing their families, many children are pulled out of school to work. Without adequate clean water, children are forced to miss school hours in order to retrieve water from great distances for their family's use. Without a way to sustain their families financially, the health, education and future of the children are at risk.

With a community that works together and helps members start small business that will enhance or stabilize family funds, parents are able to provide an education and healthcare for their children. With agricultural education and coaching, families can provide more nutritious meals, more regularly, and the children are healthier. With wells, clean potable water and good sanitation, the children are healthier. When children are healthy, they can be more attentive in school, learn skills and increase in knowledge that will help them provide for their future families. With HIV/AIDS Prevention programs, children will grow up knowing how to have a long and happy life AIDS free, which will lead to less fatalities and more whole families that consist of both parents working to provide a better life for their children.

AIDS Prevention, Education, Health, Micro-Enterprise, Orphan Care, Water & Agriculture, Community Empowerment Initiatives- these all work together, holistically, to solve the complex problems facing the underprivileged children, parents, families, and communities in Africa today.



We Deserve A Chance.