



**Spirit  
In  
Action**

Micro Grants  
Major Change

# Spring & Summer Newsletter 2022

## Spirit in Action

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## Congratulations, Graduates!

### 14 women graduate from a SIA-funded training program

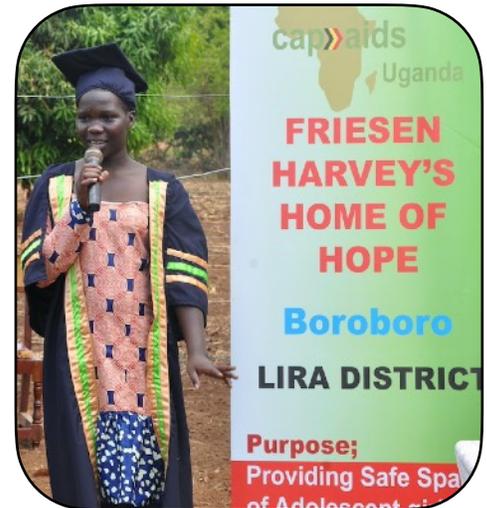
In February, fourteen young women graduated from the CAP-AIDS Home of Hope training program in northern Uganda, which was funded in part by a grant from Spirit in Action.

“The girls are so different from when I welcomed them six months ago,” reported SIA African Advisory Board Member Naomi Ayot Oyaro, who attended the graduation. “At the launch of the project the majority of the girls were timid, some of them were secluded, and the majority had very low self-esteem as survivors of various forms of violence.”

Over the course of six months, the women learned practical skills such as tailoring, poultry keeping, bakery, and craft shoemaking. In a video for the SIA anniversary celebration, graduate Dorcus Apili shared her gratitude for the emotional support from the CAP-AIDS leadership and her new friends in the program. You can watch the video on SIA homepage.

“The change from feelings of no hope to belief in oneself is a true example of the change that can happen when the work of faith is blended with action. This is truly what we mean by Spirit in Action,” said Naomi.

Each graduate was gifted with a sewing machine, scissors, and tape measure to help them start their new sewing businesses when they return home. A new group of 20 students started the program in May and we look forward to seeing their transformation.



Akello Miriam, 17 yrs old, was selected to give the graduate address. She spoke with joy and confidence to the audience. Tanya was able to attend the graduation virtually through Zoom.

Read our blog posts for success stories, photos, and inspiration!

<http://spiritinaction.org/news>

# 25 Years of Community Partnership!

## Highlights along our journey

**1973-83** – Del Anderson is president of Camps Farthest Out International; laying groundwork for Spirit in Action

**1996** – First board meeting is held; Marsha Johnson is approved as the Administrator

**1997** – Official approval from IRS

**1999** – Development of bio-intensive gardening packet

**2003** – First Small Business Fund (SBF) grants

**2004** – Funding for classrooms at Samro School in Kenya

**2005**– First website

**2005**– Group from U.S. visits Samro School

**2006** – Del turns 100 years old

**2006** – Implemented pay-it-forward initiative, called Sharing the Gift

**2007** – Marsha retires and Tanya Cothran hired

**2008** – Del dies at age 102

**2010** – Narrowed grant focus from international to Africa

**2011** – Tanya’s first trip to Africa

**2012** – 500th Small Business Fund grant

**2015** – New logo by Ballyhoo Design

**2016** – Bequest from Del’s Trust and increase in grant funding

**2017** – *Smart Risks* book published; co-edited by Tanya and featuring Spirit in Action

**2019** – Tanya travels with Kathleen King and Barbara Deal to visit grant partners in Africa

**2019** – African Advisory Board established

**2020** – Multi-year funding grants approved

**2020** – Emergency Fund setup to counter the impacts of COVID-19

**2020** – First joint virtual meeting with African and North American-based board members

**2021** – 900th Small Business Fund grant

**2022** – Expanded grant focus to Rwanda and Burundi

**2022** – Increased from an average of 5-6 grant partners per year to 25 grant partners



Watch our event celebration for inspiring impact stories and music:  
[www.spiritinaction.org/videos](http://www.spiritinaction.org/videos)

## Listening is Love in Action

By Del Anderson, SIA Founder

In the past, I have not recognized and acknowledged my own need to learn and practice God’s gift of listening. Since reading an article by Morton T. Kelsey, **I am beginning to take responsibility and to be aware of my need to practice learning to really listen to people.**

Morton Kelsey says, “Unless we listen to human beings, we do not know what they are. So we treat them as what we think they are, rather than what they really are. In such cases we project either positive or negative elements of ourselves upon other human beings and try to force them into the pattern of what we think they ought to be. This may be a kind of

communication with ourselves, but it is certainly no communication with the other person, and no basis for real relationship.”

Listening is knowing where the speaker is presently, and gives us the privilege to “see” and inwardly know how God created them and us, and the great possibilities God has formed in them and us.

**Listening is love in action.** It is one level of prayer. Listening assists me to penetrate through my human ego and “hear the Spirit of God which dwells in the heart of every person.” Real listening is a religious experience. It is awesome; one method of worship.

# Financial Empowerment for Women

## SIA Grants supporting women in Kenya

### Small Business Fund Success for Evelyne

Evelyne Nyangure (pictured below) is a widow and a mother of five children. She lives in the informal settlement of Korogocho around Nairobi, Kenya. Before she received the SIA Small Business Fund grant, she was a housekeeper and sold vegetables in the evening. When her child with a disability needed more care, she was not able to keep up with the housekeeping job. The money from selling vegetables wasn't enough for her to provide for her family's basic needs.

From the \$250 grant she received from SIA, Evelyne was able to add more varied products to her shop. She also bought basins and buckets to make her produce more attractive. Six months later, the business is doing great, and the stall is full of different varieties of vegetables and fruits, which are in high demand in her area.

Evelyne has joined a saving group, something she never imagined she would be able to do. Savings groups are social clubs where women save and take turns borrowing small loans from the collected savings. With her profit, she has been able to keep her children in school all term. They also now eat a full three meals per day.



When Dorcas Okoti, SIA Small Business Fund Coordinator, visited the family, Evelyne expressed her gratitude. "SIA has been a blessing to my family and me; SIA came through for me when we were displaced, and now to help my business, I am so thankful to them."



### Counting Your Savings

In April, fifty women gathered in Turbo, Kenya, and broke pots together.

Each woman

brought the clay pots that held her savings from the year. Prizes were awarded for the best savers!

This is part of the Mother's Support Program at the Visionary Women's Centre (VWC), funded by Spirit in Action. Many of the women have never saved money before, and so the pot-breaking ceremony is a big celebration, with songs and dance to honor their accomplishment.

Most of the women are saving for high school fees for their children, which can be between \$150-\$250 per child per term. Elementary education is free, but the parents must provide the child's uniform.

"Everyone came away feeling inspired and connected," reports Benter Obonyo, VWC Director. "This is an opportunity for community-building among all of our VWC members."

The Mother's Support Program also helps women build solid chicken coops and gives them ten chickens each. The income from the chickens gives the women some financial independence and is a foundation for the savings. VWC now has 150 group members, with each member supporting around seven extended family members. This means that over 1,050 community members benefit directly from project.

It's easy to give monthly to SIA online! Set up your recurring donation now at <http://spiritinaction.org/donate>

SIA is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable foundation. Tax ID# 93-1207351

We appreciate your prayers, comments, questions, and tax-deductible contributions.

## Now Open: Ubuntu Cyber Cafe

**The Challenge:** You are a teacher and need to make a copy of your workbook and print 50 copies for your students. OR: You are applying for a job and need to print your resume. Most teachers in the Githurai area don't have a computer at home, not to mention a high-powered printer.

**The Solution:** Ubuntu Cyber Cafe!

Ubuntu Community-Based Organization on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya, is now open for all your printing and photocopying needs. A SIA grant helped purchase a commercial photocopier and ten desktop computers.



Lilian Wanjira, Director of Ubuntu, told me more about the need they are filling: "This is a photocopier machine that does everything in bulk. Teachers in the neighborhood schools come for bulk photocopying, and with the new education system, the parents do a lot of printing and photocopying. You will find over ten people in need of photocopying services in a day. We also bought a binding machine, laminating machine, and paper cutter because of the clients' demands."

The cyber cafe's income helps fund Ubuntu's small business loan fund to local women entrepreneurs, many of who are widows or single parents.



**Above:** Ubuntu's photocopier can handle big print jobs and is the only one like it in the neighborhood. **Left:** The dedicated women behind the formation of Ubuntu. Lilian Wanjira (left) with Cecilia Nyiva.

## The Ripple Impact of the War

The war in Ukraine, combined with drought conditions in the Horn of Africa, is contributing to rapidly increasing costs for daily goods in Eastern Africa.

During a recent Zoom meeting with SIA grant partners, many mentioned how rising costs of transportation, flour, petrol, and fertilizer are severely impacting the working poor. In the past year, the cost of a gallon of cooking oil has risen over 40%, according to Kenya's national statistics office. The International Monetary Fund found that Africans spend nearly half their household income on food.

SIA Emergency Fund Grants help our partner organizations respond to immediate hunger among their members. In the long term, SIA helps communities create more food security. But in the short term, we are hearing of the great need for food assistance. Your support can make a difference today.

There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless.' There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard.

- Arundhati Roy, "Ordinary Person's Guide To Empire"

## SIA Grants are Supporting...



### Youth

Students, Young women, Teen mothers



### Women

Elderly, HIV+, Mothers



### Business Development

Micro-loans, Savings, Soapmaking



### Animal Husbandry

Chickens, Goats, Pigs



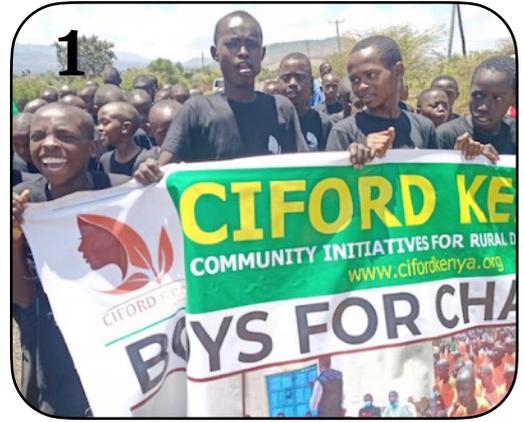
### Agriculture

Farms, Training, Gardens

See a full list of our grants and amazing partners: [www.spiritinaction.org/current-grant-partners](http://www.spiritinaction.org/current-grant-partners)

# SIA Partners in Action

## Community Impact



**1. “Boys for Change” in Kenya:** 55 boys attended CIFORD Kenya’s workshop entitled “Boys for Change.” This sexual education workshop ran alongside workshops for 94 girls. SIA is funding CIFORD’s work to end female genital cutting and instead promote alternative rights of passage for girls.

**2. Fresh Baked Goods in Kenya:** Ten students are enrolled in bakery classes with Kiserem Epilepsy Foundation in Mwhiko, Kenya. A SIA grant



helped purchase a big mixer, oven trays, and other baking supplies. They make sweet cakes every Tuesday and Thursday to help raise funds for their mental health and epilepsy awareness programs. Ovens are rare in the area so the baked goods are in high demand. Kiserem’s oven is wood-powered.

**3. Rabbits for Orphans in Burundi:** A SIA grant to APDEI will help them start a rabbit rearing program in Burundi. 100 families headed by widows or orphans will receive rabbits and materials to build a hutch. As the rabbits multiply they will be able to sell them in the

market. By helping these families increase their income, APDEI is also promoting the education of vulnerable children. APDEI president Bernard Nsabimana is pictured with the rabbit hutch.

**4. Value Added to Crops in Malawi:** The soybean crop is flourishing in the fields of members of the Manyamula COMSIP Cooperative. This year’s harvest will be processed in the cooperative’s own oil press, adding value to the crop and providing a source of local oil to the community. A SIA grant helped purchase the oil press. In his report to the Board, the new Manyamula COMSIP Director Winkley Mahowe wrote, “It is a cool day with beautiful cloudy skies.



Breezes of God’s grace are felt in all directions. Hence fear and panic vanishes.”



**5. Local Honey in Kenya:** Eight widows living with HIV/AIDS in Makueni County, Kenya were trained on bee farming and received start-up kits. All the hives have bees and they have started making honey! This SIA-funded project helped the community organization get recognized by the county government, which has pledged more resources to fight the spread of HIV/AIDS.



# Thank you to our generous supporters!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from Sept 21, 2021 - May 3, 2022.

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John & Sandy Peirce  
**Honoring Samuel & Rhoda Teimuge**  
David & Glennis Dunn  
Mark Williams



Pray for Kenya! Pray for Peace!  
Kenyan elections are Aug. 9th

# Updates from Uganda

## Agribusiness for Rural Development



A KADI-U member plants pineapple suckers on her farm. Women do most of the planting and weeding on farms in Uganda.

Rural community organizations like Kakuuto Development Initiative (KADI-Uganda) are training members to expand their farms beyond subsistence farming into agribusiness. By having many members plant a similar variety of crops, they can collectively market and sell the harvests at higher profits.

KADI-U received 20,000 pineapple suckers this planting season from a local partner, Dr. Francis Ndamaje. Now that the rains are here, fifteen farmers have started planting the pineapples intercropped between rows of soybeans.

The pineapples will take 18 months to grow, and when they are ready for harvest, there is a ready market both locally and in the capital city of Uganda.

support youth, elderly women, and disabled community members. A recent SIA Grant added \$320 to each of three savings groups.

KADI-U also runs several savings and loans groups, which

KADI-U is Sharing the Gift (SIA's pay-it-forward initiative) with a project codenamed "Send a Pig." The organization bought three pigs with the profit from their soybean sales and gave them to three farmers. The farmers will rear the pig, and when it produces piglets, the farmer will keep two of the piglets and give the rest back to KADI-U to be shared with others who want to participate in the program. This process will continue until Send a Pig is a sustainable income source for the organization.

### Fun Fact: Telling Time in Uganda



Uganda sits right on the equator where year-round the sun rises at 6:00am and sets at 6:00pm. This is reflected in the way that you tell time in Uganda, Ethiopia, and several other Swahili-speaking countries.

The 12-hour clock runs from dawn to dusk, and from dusk to dawn. So sunrise is called "12 in the morning" in local Lugandan time. Noon is "6 in the afternoon," and 6:00pm (when it is starting to get dark) is called "12 in the evening"!

### Yes! I want to support justice in the world with a gift to Spirit in Action.

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Please send my donation receipt by email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$25                      \_\_\_\_ \$100

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I would like to receive periodic emails from SIA \_\_\_\_\_

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Spirit in Action \* PO Box 3384 \* Santa Cruz CA 95063

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[www.spiritinaction.org/donate](http://www.spiritinaction.org/donate)

## Down on Teri Farm Farming inspiration from Kenya

New things are always happening down on Teri Farm in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya. Samuel and Rhoda Teimuge continue to develop their full ecosystem farm to be a model for sustainable agriculture in the area.

“I have learned that it takes a lot of hard work and determination to achieve all that I have proposed to do,” says the farmer-extraordinaire Samuel Teimuge. “Because the soil is very fertile, weeds grow very fast and so we engage laborers every week to help with the weeding.”

With recent support through Spirit in Action, the Teimuges purchased an electric mower to keep down the grasses surrounding



Timothy Teimuge cuts the grasses surrounding Teri Farm. Rats and snakes hide in the grasses, so cutting it help keeps the farm and the plants safe.

the farm. SIA support also helped expand the drip irrigation system to the mango trees and bought a solar power inverter to bring electricity to this remote valley.

“The work has encouraged my community to come together and form a self-help group. It will be 25 members with almost equal split between men and women. They are in the process of registering as a self-help group.”

As a way of Sharing the Gift, the Teimuges have shared the first 24 seedlings from their banana plants with their immediate farm neighbor.



### SPRING & SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

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See Spirit in Action! Watch video clips from  
SIA Grant Partners: [www.spiritinaction.org/videos](http://www.spiritinaction.org/videos)