



**Spirit  
In  
Action**

Micro Grants  
Major Change

## Fall & Winter Newsletter 2021

### **Spirit in Action**

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## **Patience and Perseverance Pay Off**

### **Sunflower oil flows in Malawi**



Canaan Gondwe with the sunflower oil press. Being able to press the oil adds value to their crops and increases profit. Collective marketing of their crops is what this farmers cooperative is all about.

Two years ago we announced a new grant for an oil press for long-time SIA Partner Manyamula COMSIP Cooperative in Malawi. A March 2019 blog post triumphantly told of the farmers cooperative's purchase of a press and filter for making sunflower oil. Turns out, that was just the beginning.

We know that projects take time, and so it wasn't a big concern when SIA Board President, Kathleen King, and I visited Malawi in mid-2019 and the press was still silent. Canaan Gondwe, the COMSIP Cooperative Director (pictured left) had discovered that the machines required a 3-phase electrical connection, which was not available

in their rural village. In 2020, Canaan and his team made many calls and visits to the Malawian electrical company (ESCOM) to push them to extend the 3-phase electricity to Manyamula. From Canada, I wrote several letters to ESCOM and even messaged the local councilor on Facebook to get their attention.

This July, the electrical poles were planted and the wires laid. Then in September, ESCOM finally connected the oil presses and the machines whirred into action!

"We managed to test the expeller and it is functioning well," reported Canaan. "Members were excited to see oil pressed from their own sunflower seeds. We will also use the by-product from the sunflowers as livestock feed." Soon the cooperative will begin pressing the three metric tons of sunflower seeds from their latest harvest.

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

<http://spiritinaction.org/news>

## Learning and Growing

### Becoming better funders

One of SIA's core values is growing and learning. For the Board of Directors and staff, this manifests in our continual review of how we can better serve and be responsive to our grant partners in Eastern Africa.

As part of our recent learning, the North American Board and the African Advisory Board discussed where SIA fits into the Equitable Grantmaking Continuum, created by NonprofitAF.com and RVCSeattle.org. The goal of the continuum framework is to help funders see where they might have unnecessary rigidity in their structure, and to help them find ways to move into relationships built on trust.

Looking at the eighteen indicators, we celebrated the ways that SIA already practices equitable grantmaking. We fund smaller, grassroots organizations, and do not require groups to have other outside sources of

funding. We also have a simple application form. This year, we are expanding our grant eligibility to francophone organizations in order to reach groups that are excluded in the many English-only grant opportunities.



A joint meeting of the North American and African Advisory Board, Oct 2021

The Equitable Grantmaking Continuum also allowed us to see where SIA's priorities differed from that of the Continuum. The framework recommends only annual check-ins with grant partners to reduce the reporting burden. However, we have found that regular check-ins, which are more friendly than formal, help us build the long-term relationship that we value so highly at SIA.

In the coming years, we will continue to explore multi-year funding, and reviewing our financial reporting forms that they provide mutual benefit to the SIA office and our grassroots partners.

## The Power of My Joy Within You

### By Del Anderson, SIA Founder, 2002

Be still, be still, be still and receive the quickening power of God's presence. Let me surrender (let go) to the stillness of Spirit; resting, waiting, released (letting go) into the deepening stillness, where the heart feels and experiences presence and joy.

In this quickening power, let me be aware of God's divine grace activity with awe, wonder, and expectancy. Thus the outer condition or negative relationship is dispelled in the light of Spirit. I will practice and exercise this being still, letting go and letting God be God in me, through me, as me.

What is this quickening power? It isn't anything I experience through thinking about

it. This quickening power is within me. It is Christ in me, awaiting to be expressed and manifested (made visible).

As I explore and expand, I uncover and discover my union in and with God, as Spirit's visible expression to bring forth the Kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven. Glory, honor, praise, and thanksgiving as I claim and receive my inheritance, that I and the Father/Mother may be one.

Let, let, let in the stillness. Be, be, be and let this universal cosmic wisdom and energy of Love awaken this quickening power within. Come forth and participate with God as co-creator.

# Financial Empowerment for Women

## SIA Grants for Women's Groups in Kenya and Uganda

**Kenya:** Last month, Spirit in Action African Advisory Board Member Wambui Nguyo (wearing a hat in the photo below) flew from Nairobi up to the Samburu National Reserve. This dry, hot and windy area is home to SIA Partner Namayana Women's Group. The women used their SIA grant to build a jewelry and souvenir shop. Here is Wambui's report from the field:

The Namayana Women's Curio Shop, run by a group of about 30 women, is located on a popular tourist safari route. Because the shop is close to their village, the women do not have to travel far to make and sell curios. When a group of tourists passes by, the women carry the goods to the road and sell to them while also performing a traditional welcome dance.

This shop allows the women to have income that is all their own, not under the control of their husbands. Together, they have opened a bank account, with three signatories to ensure that the funds are safe.

The women use some of the income as a collective savings fund, which they use to help members when they are facing particular challenges. The shop is also used as a meeting place, a place for them to air their grievances, and a place for them to share happy moments.

Sales have been slow during the pandemic, but now the women are starting to see tourists back in Samburu.



**Uganda:** “What makes Kakuuto Development Initiative (KADI) exceptional is that their savings and loaning association is for the elderly,” Naomi Ayot told the SIA Board. Even though the elderly might seem like a risky group to lend to, KADI sees their program making a big impact.

Currently, this SIA Partner has two savings groups for the elderly, a group for the disabled, and a group for youth, each with 24 members. A grant from SIA and Amistad International helped form the foundation of their loan funds.

The KADI groups meet every Saturday, and at each session members are asked to contribute \$0.50 - \$2.50 per person in savings. Then people can take loans of up to double the value of their savings.

“When you hear the jokes that they make together and the way they talk, you hear that this savings association is also a support group for the elderly, which makes it very unique,” continued Naomi. “This is in contrast to the government programs where people have to wait long lines to get a small handout of money.”

The group has supported the elderly members to start self-initiated income generating activities such as rearing pigs, goats, and rabbits.



Mrs. Kikere contributes to the savings with profits from her okra beverage sales. She enjoys meeting with her friends in the savings club.

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

## 25 years of Spirit in Action!

### Online Celebration in March

In **March 2022**, we will host an online celebration on the theme of **“Grace upon Grace.”** We will honor where SIA has been, recognize where we are today, and share our hopes for the future.

Plus, we will take you on a **video tour** of SIA Partner organizations, guided by our African Advisory Board.

**Event details will be posted** on our website and social media and sent to our email list.

**If you have any stories you want to share** about Del Anderson or the early days of SIA, email [tanya@spiritinaction.org](mailto:tanya@spiritinaction.org) or call 831-706-2742.

*“God speaks to you, to me, to Spirit in Action: By My grace, you have the privilege to be used as My yeast, My salt, to be My quickening Spirit manifested now.” ~ Del Anderson*



SIA Founder, Del Anderson, at his desk in 2007. In this photo, Del was 101 years old. He lived from 1906 to 2008 and started SIA when he was 90 years old!

## Vaccines in Africa

While almost 1/3 of the world has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, vaccines are still not widely available in Eastern Africa.

We continue to pray for more vaccine equity and for governments and companies to share this valuable resource with the rest of the world.

When vaccines are available, SIA Partners are setting the example by getting vaccinated, and encouraging others to do so for the benefit of personal and community health.

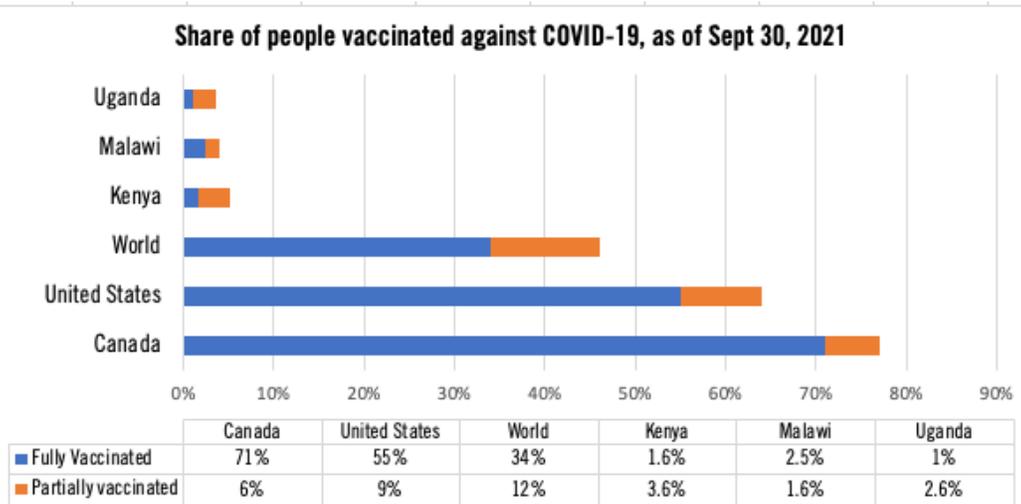


chart data from <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

**Thank you to Dennis Johnson** for his piano recital benefiting Spirit in Action!

You can still watch the amazing performance on YouTube through: [www.spiritinaction.org/piano-2021](http://www.spiritinaction.org/piano-2021)



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

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

# “Impelled to Serve”

## Universal Love Alliance on the front-line of the pandemic

*What would you do if you needed to go to the doctor’s office but you didn’t have a car and public transportation was shut down? In Uganda, the answer is to call the friendly people at Universal Love Alliance (ULA). SIA supports ULA’s administrative costs. Rather than fund a specific program, we help pay the salaries and office expenses. What does this mean in terms of community impact?*

*This report from ULA Director, Samson Turinawe, shows just how much impact ULA has on LGBTIQ people, women, and people living with HIV/AIDS.*

In June, the Ugandan government re-imposed restrictions to try to stop a third wave of COVID infections. With the closing of public transport, the movement of people beyond walking distance became a challenge. People who were already in marginalized groups found themselves in a dire situation.

COVID patients were refused transport and facing discrimination at checkpoints. **People living with HIV/AIDS also could not get transport to go to health centers for their HIV treatment** and to test their viral load. Moreover, most HIV-positive people prefer to go to health centers far from where they live, to remain anonymous and avoid stigma and discrimination.

Through ULA’s connections with the Ugandan police and the local government authorities, **we were able to secure a movement permit for the ULA van.** With such a permit, ULA can provide transportation services to marginalized people. Given this blessing, we feel impelled to serve.

In addition to those living with HIV/AIDS or COVID, we also helped transport pregnant women and the elderly. Since we have the van, we also transported oxygen to health centers in rural areas and on the outskirts of Kampala, where it might not reach otherwise.

### Counseling Support

ULA’s dream is to have Uganda, and Africa in general, free from discrimination based on religion, race, marital and health status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. As such, **we provide counseling support over the phone to LGBTIQ people** and people living with HIV/AIDS. During the pandemic, we have had an increase in demand for this support.

While in lockdown, the Parliament of Uganda silently passed a Sexual Offenses Bill. This bill re-emphasized the persecution of LGBTIQ people in Uganda. Already many LGBTIQ people have been kicked out of their family homes and change locations often out of fear for their lives. To help them get through this period, ULA has helped some LGBTIQ people pay rental accommodation bills.

With the beginning of the first lockdown, domestic violence increased in Uganda. **ULA is working to prevent domestic violence through counseling**

**and education.** We help men who are abusing their wives by aiming to change their mindset from an abusive one to a loving and caring one. Then, separately, ULA also engages the victims to heal and restore their dignity.

#### Services Provided in June + July



**510** trips to/from hospital



**77** deliveries of emergency supplies



**9** rent stipends to LGBTIQ people



**659** moments of counseling support



Sharon (center), ULA Program Director, distributes food to LGBTIQ members out of the back of the ULA van.

## SIA Partners in Action

### Community Impact

**1. Ubuntu: “I am because you are”** - Each evening Lilian Wanjira makes her rounds to visit the business-women who are part of Ubuntu Community Organization near Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the women are bravely taking control of their lives by starting a business and Lilian shares words of encouragement with them as she visits. Lilian (right) is pictured with Jane Wanjiku in Jane's tomato stall.



**2. “Health is Wealth”** - Dennis Kurgat (African Advisory Board member in Kenya) helps planting pixie orange trees at Samuel Teimuge’s Teri Farm. “Health is wealth” is the motto that Dennis uses when he trains farmers on crop diversification and sustainable agriculture.

**3. SIA Partners Help Each Other** - It’s not always possible for our SIA African Advisory Board to reach the rural parts of their country, especially when COVID-related lockdowns are in place. This summer, one SIA Partner, CAP-AIDS, reached out to share food with 30 SIA households in a neighboring district, focusing on the elderly and the sick. We are so grateful for this generous Sharing the Gift within the SIA family!



**4. Listening Circle** - Empowering Communities as Actors for Transforming Society (e-CATS) is hosting a series of Listening Circles for vulnerable families in informal settlements in Kenya. They teach about “listening from the heart” with the focus on creating a safe space for each person to share about the tough challenges they are facing.

**5. Sharing the Gift** - New Small Business Fund groups are meeting again in Nairobi. Wambui Nguyo reports, “I’ve been volunteering with SIA since 2013 as part of the Small Business Fund program in Nairobi's informal settlements. I've worked with over 60 families whose lives have been significantly improved.

“One aspect of SIA's grants that stands out is the Sharing The Gift initiative, which asks beneficiaries to spread the love.

Sharing the Gift

encourages SIA micro-grant recipients to pass the gift on to someone else. **Sharing the Gift not only helps more people in the community start successful businesses, but it also strengthens community bonds by showing concern for one another's well-being.”**



# Thank you to our generous supporters!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from June 1 to September 20, 2021.

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

## Imagining New Futures After Vocational Training

**“The girls are all thinking business now,”** says Harriet Nayiga of the group she is training through Midwife-Led Community Transformation (MILCOT) in Uganda. The new skills and the support from MILCOT are helping the adolescent girls, who are school drop-outs, reimagine their futures.

In the 12-week vocational training funded with a SIA grant, twenty young women are learning how to cook and do manicures. In one session, they baked a marble cake with icing. They saved the cake and surprised one of the participants with a baby shower!

MILCOT is a grassroots organization run by nurses, social workers, and



Vivian Nagawa shows off the shillings she earned from selling her doughnuts. She dropped out of school before she finished 7th grade. “I have seen how my fellow young girls suffer when they get pregnant. I fear getting pregnant at an early age. The skills I am getting from MILCOT are going to help me start a business so that I am able to get money and take care of myself.”

midwives. In addition to providing vocational skills, they also provide emotional support and sexual health information to the young women.

One of the participants, Resty, is excited to start a manicure/pedicure home-based business. She is physically disabled and the home business will allow her to work without requiring a lot of movement. “I feel so happy because at MILCOT we are all the same,” says Resty. “I have never been discriminated at MILCOT like I have been treated in some other places. **I never thought that someone would consider teaching me these important skills.** When I start my business, I will be able to buy sleeping pads and care for my children.”



### FALL & WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Tanya Cothran, Executive Director

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Wondering what to get that person on your holiday list who already has everything? Donate to SIA and share the joy!

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