



**Spirit
In
Action**

Micro Grants
Major Change

Fall & Winter Newsletter 2016

Spirit in Action

Del Anderson, Founder
Tanya Cothran, Administrator
tanya@spiritinaction.org
www.spiritinaction.org
www.facebook.com/spiritinaction

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Paying it Forward with Piglets

The success of any animal husbandry project depends on the animals staying healthy. A sickly pig is not going to benefit the woman who raises it. The Kenyan organization, Megabridge Foundation knows this well. They listed some of the reasons why they wanted to build a better, raised-platform shelter for their pigs:

1. It is easier to clean the raised houses, helping to separate droppings to be used for farm fertilizer, and reducing stench;
2. It is easy to maintain the structure;
3. The house is always dry, keeping the animals dry, helping to prevent contamination and infections.



Community members and men whose families will benefit from the program volunteered their time and talent to complete the construction project. The eight sows and two boars are settled in the new shelter. When piglets are born, Megabridge will give one to each family that has agreed to participate in the program. The women will care for the animals and then return two piglets to Megabridge, who will give those

piglets to two more women on the waiting list. **In this way the benefit will continue to ripple out, benefiting more women and their families!**

Women are now attending trainings to learn best practices for caring for the pigs. Mercy, the Project Coordinator at Megabridge sends me regular updates and is happy to report, "The grant has made a tremendous contribution to Kiangungi village. People are flocking to learn about this project, which is destined to make a huge contribution towards economic empowerment of the poor."



Wisdom from Del Anderson: I of myself can do nothing

I certainly wouldn't have desired to break my hip, but now six months later, I'm certain that I've learned a lot that I wouldn't have learned otherwise. I think it's a little easier now to understand that "I of myself can do nothing." I couldn't take the next breath without the Spirit there to keep me going.

This experience has pointed me in the direction of growth. I am not the Del I was yesterday. My focus is to come forth as a new person each day and realize that I am an expression of God and that I'm here to let God be God in me, through me, and as me. I can't eat yesterday's stale manna. Yesterday's manna is not good enough for today. It's an ever-changing world.

As we accept each challenge, each change and seek God's guidance, we open ourselves to

receive the Allness of the God consciousness, expressing and coming forth through us.

Meditation, contemplative meditation and prayer are three of God's greatest tools. The major thing is to let go, be still, listen, and focus. Let my meditation be to know that my purpose is to keep expanding my consciousness and to let God take over entirely.

"God, each day give me a focused desire that wills to will to do your will." God's Kingdom is within us. We need to let it come forth, step by step here on earth even at our most challenging times.

Life is not easy. It's a challenge. Life is not a destination. It's a process.

-Del Anderson, 2005



When I met Mary Phiri in 2014 in Manyamula, Malawi, her grocery store was thriving and they were earning enough for her husband to continue school and her daughter to attend day-care. I look forward to seeing them and their store again next year!

forward to many cups of tea and regional song and dance. As I plan and coordinate this visit I have started praying for: **Willingness - Patience - Transformation.** I am beyond willing to make the journey. I will be patient with buses and travel on dirt roads. I expect we will be transformed through connection and fellowship.

I welcome your prayers and your contributions to make this trip go smoothly. *Asante sana* (Thank you very much in Swahili.)

"Yesterday's
manna is not good
enough for today."

Kenya & Malawi, May 2017!

Plans are underway for a trip to Kenya and Malawi next summer! My last visit was in 2014 and it's time again to meet with our partners and Small Business Fund (SBF) groups, encourage them, and verify that grant projects are happening as reported.

This trip will include a Small Business Fund training session for new and potential coordinators. This additional training time will help introduce new SBF volunteers to Sharing the Gift, the SIA culture of encouragement and empowerment, and allow them to meet and exchange information with current SBF coordinators. The SBF programs thrive when we have dedicated and informed leaders and this training is laying groundwork for future success and mindful expansion.

I will visit five different project areas and I look

See your support in action! Read our weekly blog posts for success stories, photos, inspiration from Del, and more! <http://spiritinaction.org>

Small Businesses in Nairobi - Transforming Fear to Hope

Wambui Nguyo sent this dispatch from the informal settlement of Korogocho in Nairobi, Kenya, where the SIA Small Business Fund is thriving and transforming lives.

Spirit in Action teaches people the skills they need to run successful and profitable businesses such as record keeping and reinvesting profits into their businesses. Some of the group members are illiterate, and they have children who can read and write for them. I encourage them to write down everything they buy or sell on a daily basis. The first expense for each group is a notebook. With this cooperation, the groups are carrying on well.

So far there are 33 groups in Korogocho! **One could say that this is just a drop in the ocean, but on the contrary, this is quite something for us. So many families have lost fear and shame. They can raise their**



New small business leaders in Nairobi! (L to R) Kezziah, Nelly, Rebecca, Mutinda, Josephine, and Phoebe. Mutinda used to collect garbage for recycling. With the Small Business Fund grant he has started selling shoes and is able to support his family.

heads high because they are able to afford at least two meals in a day and even take their children to school. The groups also meet together, providing an avenue for them to

pray, share advice, and support one another. With a reliable income, most group leaders are free from the worry of meeting their families' most basic needs.

Life in the informal settlement is different from life in the countryside. Here, people

live in rented houses and share small rooms with the whole family. Due to large amounts of waste generated and left haphazardly, there are environmental risks associated with rearing animals.

Therefore, none of the groups keep livestock or farm. **This has made us think of a different way of Sharing the Gift.** We have met with all 33 groups and they have agreed to each give some cash to support one or two more groups to start a business.

Welcoming Barbara Deal to the SIA Board!

Where do you live? In the Northernmost California Redwoods.

What was your profession? I worked for various church and parachurch organizations in pastoral, counseling, youth, and music ministries before serving as Coordinator, with husband Bob, of CFO International for 15 years. Following that, I started a literary agency, specializing in Body-Mind-Spirit genres.

What do you like about SIA? It thrills me that SIA works in partnership with people, trusting their abilities, gifts, and knowledge of local needs. Providing start-up funds and training to start businesses gives people the tools they need to become food secure, improve their housing, and pay their children's school fees.

What excites you most about SIA? The ripple effect can lift whole families from poverty to security, and spread to villages and communities. One of the great strengths of SIA's process is that people share what they learn and help others start their own small businesses.



The SIA Board at our retreat meeting in July. Barbara is in the back row, third from left.

New & Ongoing Grants

New grants are awarded every six months at SIA Board Meetings (*= new grants)



Community Initiatives for Rural Development (CIFORD) Kenya, (Girls & Boys Empowerment) Empowerment and health workshops for 65 boys and 65 girls, including anti-FGM training and an alternative rite of passage. (See pg. 5)

***Lubengoa Women Development Association (LUWODEA), Uganda (Training & Economic Development)** Purchasing improved tools for making fuel briquettes from recycled raw materials. Training 160 families to produce their own briquettes in order to reduce smoke and deforestation, and earn income.

Manyamula Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP) Cooperative, Malawi (Training Centre for the cooperative) Funding for construction of a building to be used as an office, meeting hall, guest house, and restaurant. (See pg. 7)

***Megabridge Foundation, Kenya (Piggery & Economic Development)** Funding to build a pig house and buy 10 sows and 2 boar pigs for breeding. Piglets will be shared with 70 women in Meru. (See front page)

Samro Grade School, Kenya (Education) Tuition and board for three students and tuition for four additional students. Desks for classrooms and sanitary towels for students.

***EMNET Junior Achievements, Malawi (Business Training for Youth)** Engaging local mentors to train 250 high school youth to be entrepreneurs.



***SIA Small Business Fund** Funding for 30 new businesses in Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda in July, 2016.

Read success stories and see photos:

www.spiritinaction.org/news



Top Left: One of the Small Business Fund leaders in Uganda. Many of the female business leaders are widows as a result of the many years of war there.

Above: SIA Small Business Fund Coordinator Naomi Ayot conducts a training with leaders from five new small business groups in Uganda. Record-keeping and reinvestment are important parts of the training sessions.

Bottom Left: A local woman trains a group of women in Uganda to produce, use, and sell these highly efficient fuel briquettes. These women are already earning more income by selling the briquettes that they don't use themselves.

Training Boys to be Allies in Kenya

CIFORD holds week-long health and anti-FGM workshop

This seminar was different. Boys and girls sat in the classroom, listening to the presentations about puberty, reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS together. Spirit in Action grants have supported girls' empowerment seminars and an alternative rite of passage in the past. However, this seminar was the first to include high schoolers of both genders.

The co-ed seminar came at the request of the parents and the youth in Meru, Kenya. The girls felt strongly that the boys also needed to learn about sexuality and the fight against genital cutting. **"The participants were happy and said they are going to be change agents in the community to fight against female circumcision,"** reported one of the facilitators.



The 80 trainees received shirts proclaiming:
"The future depends on us. We are the change."

abuse. There was time for focus group discussion and questions from the youth. "It was a learning experience, and since it was the first of its kind, we had to consult a lot," said Margaret Ikiara, Director of the grassroots organization CIFORD Kenya.

Many parents expressed gratitude for the workshops because the facilitators were able to effectively discuss these difficult topics with their children. Kambura, a mother of one of the girls said, **"My daughter is very happy. She has learned a lot that she will share with her friends at school."**

"Helping one person might not change the whole world. But it could change the world for one person." - unknown

Gratitude from Margaret, Director of CIFORD:

"On behalf of our community and the benefiting boys and girls, and on behalf of CIFORD, I wish to thank the SIA donors and the SIA board for approving this exciting program. Thank you for being there for us and giving encouraging words."

Eighty participants (35 boys and 45 girls) attended the week-long seminar held during the August school holidays. The facilitators were local women, who are experienced in health education. In addition to covering the health problems and danger of female circumcision, the sessions also discussed the effects of texting and social media, career and talent development, and drug and substance

Each participant left with a shirt that says, "The future depends on us. We are the change." Together they will bring the message to friends and family, and be visible in the community as standing up for girls' rights.

The participants had a great suggestion for future seminars: How about including a talent contest? Let's make this fun, in addition to informative and empowering!

Thank you to our generous supporters!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from April 5 to October 10, 2016.

Anonymous (x4)
 Ian & Denby Adamson
 Karen Ande & Jeff Johnson
 Arden Anderson
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GIFTS HONORING OTHERS

Honoring Del Anderson

Diana Halpenny
 Gloria Lomax
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Honoring Janice Baldwin & Gloria Knapstad

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In Memory of Bob Deal

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Thank you to **Dennis Johnson** for three wonderful piano concerts benefitting Spirit in Action.

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Honoring the lives and legacies of **Warren Terry** and **Hannelore Sangmaster**, members of the SIA Dreamer's Circle and monthly donors.

Our Mission: SPIRIT IN ACTION is a network of committed people world-wide who are serving God by empowering others. SIA is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable foundation. We appreciate your prayers, comments, questions, and tax-deductible contributions. **80¢ of every dollar donated to SIA supports programs in Africa!** Tax ID# 93-1207351

The Manyamula Cooperative has a new home!

The Manyamula Saving and Loans COMSIP Cooperative which started in 2010 with 41 members is thriving and transforming life in the rural village! After a year of hard work, issues with contractors, and many volunteer hours from members, the cooperative's training centre and meeting hall



compound is complete (pictured right)!



They are moved into the new office (pictured left) and have already begun renting out the meeting hall to other groups, bringing in money for the loan fund and to sustain their ongoing operations. Thank you for your support which has made this building possible. I look forward to seeing it for myself next May!

SIA Friends Reflect on Del's Vision

"We continue to appreciate the vision of SIA: creating a body-mind-spirit difference in the total well-being of individual as each experiences a greater strength within oneself, in relationships, in community, in global connections.

Spirit in Action continues to live out the dream of our founder Del Anderson: to offer encouragement and support to others as each co-creates with God in daily life, being role models. **In Del's words, "we transform God's dream for us into a working, living reality."** — *Anonymous supporter*

"I am sure that **Del in heaven is rejoicing over how his vision for Spirit in Action is being fulfilled.** Glenn Clark in *Fishers of Men* stressed how ministries focused on individuals was the Jesus way. Save one man or woman in body, mind and spirit, and that person will do the same, and growth happens in geometric progression. That's what you have been doing with comprehensive support of people's material and spiritual wholeness."

— *George Furniss, SIA supporter; he met Del in 1949 when he joined Del's Boy Scout Troop*



Del and Lucile Anderson, with founding Board Member Jim Thomas

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___ \$35 ___ \$150

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I would like my gift to remain anonymous. _____

I make my gift in honor / memory of: _____

I would like to join the **DREAMER'S CIRCLE** by pledging a monthly/quarterly gift of \$ _____

Please mail your contribution to:
Spirit in Action
PO Box 3384
Santa Cruz CA 95063

Spirit in Action: 20 years of partnership and empowerment

1996 February – First Board meeting; Marsha Johnson approved as the Administrative Coordinator

1997 – Building purchased in Philippines for Rose Zafra's school

1999 – Development of SIA's bio-intensive gardening packet

2003 October – Small Business Fund (SBF) program begins

2004 – SIA funds the construction of 4 new classrooms at Samro School in Kenya

2005 – SIA's first website (designed by Karl Johnson)

2005 Summer – Marsha and Dennis Johnson visit SIA friends in Kenya and India



A young Del Anderson in a Japanese ad for mentholatum. He was 89 years old when he founded Spirit in Action in 1996.

2005 November – 100th SBF grant sent

2006 July – Del turns 100!

2006 – Sharing the Gift is implemented

2007 September – Marsha retires and Tanya becomes SIA Administrator

2007 September – First blog post

2010 – Malawi Manyamula COMSIP Cooperative funded

2011 – Tanya's first trip to Africa (Malawi and Kenya)

2012 July – 500th SBF grant sent

2014 – Tanya's second trip to Africa (Malawi, Kenya, and Uganda)

2015 – new logo and website



FALL & WINTER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Tanya Cothran, Executive Administrator
PO Box 3384
Santa Cruz, CA 95063

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