



**Spirit  
In  
Action**

Micro Grants  
Major Change

## Spring & Summer Newsletter 2017

### Spirit in Action

Del Anderson, Founder

Tanya Cothran, Administrator

[tanya@spiritinaction.org](mailto:tanya@spiritinaction.org)

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

[www.facebook.com/spiritinaction](https://www.facebook.com/spiritinaction)

### Board of Directors

Tish Bayer, President

Barbara Farley, Vice President

Margaret Arner, Treasurer

Diane Bush

John Bayer

Barbara Deal

Diana Halpeny

Kathleen King

Terry Silverthorn

Wendy Silverthorn

### Advisory Board

Dana Belmonte

Boyd Cothran

Howard Granat

Brent Hample

Mike Hegeman

### Volunteer Angels

Sarah Bronstad

Donna Thomas

Suzanne Weinert

"Giving is not just an act of being kind - it can also be viewed as taking a **proactive stance to promote and protect your values.**"

— Laresha Franks,  
Community Coalition

### Collective Farming in Uganda

One Small Business Fund grant of \$150 can lease just under one acre of red, rich earth in central Uganda. But, if the cohort of five new Small Business Fund groups in Tekwaro Village all pooled their grants, they can lease a good-sized plot of 4.5 acres!

Okori Simon, one of the farmers, told me about the process, "We together planned and visited the land as a team and meet the clan leaders and elders who agreed to lease us the land for cultivation. Working the same piece of land avoids fragmented cultivation by each other, and **promotes teamwork and collective production, and hopefully collective market search and sale.**" In other words, it's easier when they do it together.

The five Ugandan families decided to cultivate soybeans, and began by ploughing the land twice. Spirit in Action Small Business Fund local coordinator, Naomi Ayot, helped them purchase 90 pounds of quality seeds from a company in Kampala, 200 miles and many hours away. She also arranged for a seed representative to provide some training to the group members.

Just last month, the improved seeds were planted and the group members are expecting to harvest around 4,000 lbs of soybeans this July! Ultimately, the group is hoping to be able to purchase their own land, so that they do not need to pay rents each year. They also are working on linking up with a larger market to receive better prices for their crops. All of this, they are doing together!

**Pictured Above:** Group members plant the soybeans in the newly ploughed fields. **Pictured Left:** Sarah Okull, one of the group members.



## New book featuring Spirit in Action!

We are so excited to announce the publication of **SMART RISKS: How Small Grants Are Helping to Solve Some of the World's Biggest Problems** by Practical Action Publishing, in June!

This book, which I have been co-editing with Jennifer Lentfer, of Thousand Currents, contains essays by 22 authors from 20 organizations. The book explores how grantmaking that is focused on grassroots wisdom and close connections can make a lasting impact in the Global South.

I contributed three essays about Spirit in Action's work. Our holistic focus and flexible funding model sets us apart from large non-profits that cannot make the time to connect on a personal level with their grant partners. I, and the other authors of this book, believe that investing in effective grassroots groups is a "smart risk."

For more information, including how to order the book, visit: [www.smartrisks.org](http://www.smartrisks.org)



Small grants + Grassroots wisdom =  
Innovation + Big impact

## Welcoming New Board Members Wendy & Terry Silverthorn!

The SIA Board is pleased to welcome long-time supporters, Wendy and Terry Silverthorn, to join their ranks. They are both dedicated to service, and to building their prayer lives.

Wendy worked as a Marriage and Family Therapist for the past 20 years. Her work included early intervention with traumatized, abused, and attachment disordered children; couples therapy; and individual therapy with all ages. After retiring from his career as a pilot, Terry had more time to be involved in the community. He first drove a school bus and then a bus to help the people of the homeless community get to the shelters available during the cold winter months.

I asked Wendy what she likes about SIA and what excites her about joining the Board:

**"I love that SIA empowers people to help themselves.** Through educational, emotional, and financial support, SIA provides opportunities for individuals and communities to learn new skills and develop small sustainable businesses that allow them to support themselves and their families. I love that these small businesses are encouraged to share, passing similar opportunities on to others in their community. The ripple effect has such potential to change lives.

"We have followed and supported the work of SIA since its beginning. It is such an honor to join the SIA Board and have the opportunity to work more closely with this caring organization. **After attending my first Board Meeting, I feel so excited to realize the unlimited potential of SIA's work** to change and save lives . . . one step at a time, one grant at a time, one act of love at a time!

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

## Entrepreneurs in Nairobi: “We feel resurrected”

The men and women who receive SIA Small Business Fund grants in the informal settlements around Nairobi are living in rough conditions. They and their families are living without running water or adequate toilet facilities. Also, structures are made of tin pieces and are packed together very closely.

Yet, with the chance to start her own business and to provide for her family, one of the new Small Business Fund entrepreneurs said that she feels ‘resurrected’ and ‘like other people’ now.

Here are some of the success stories from other SIA grant recipients in Nairobi:

- Kezziah, selling vegetables: Her profit was more than predicted! She is able to pay school fees for all her children. She is especially proud that she can pay for her daughter to attend high school.

- Nelly, making soaps: She was making five liters of soap

at a time, and repacking it in smaller quantities to sell. Now, she makes 60 liters and has a much better market. Three people have benefitted from this business and she is able to take her son to a better school. She can also afford medical care.



Improving life in the informal settlement (L to R): Dorcas (who helps with record-keeping), Kezziah, Mutinda, Phoebe and Josephine (local mentor).

Even if only 1/2 or 1/4 or 1/8 of the people who got small business grants were as successful as these examples, we would be highly successful at SIA. I am so proud of our coordinators and colleagues in Africa!  
-- Maggie Arner, SIA Board Member

- Rebecca, cooking chapatti: She is now her own boss, leaving her old workplace where she also cooked chapatti. Initially, she was selling a few packets per day, but now she can sell in bundles (a big packet of twelve chapatti). She was also able to repair holes in the roof of her house.

- Phoebe, selling fabric: She is so proud to be able to send her son to a boarding school out of Nairobi County! Five people benefitted from the business, but the best thing that ever happened to her is sending her son to boarding school just like ‘other people’!

So far, SIA has supported 33 businesses in the Korogocho slum in Nairobi.

## Wisdom from Del: Letting go and letting God

Letting go and letting God be “God in us, through us, and as us,” is a process, not a destination.

Spirit affirms, I am an expression of God.

The answer to all my needs is to realize my complete dependency upon God and my complete wholeness in God.

This requires letting go of the bodily consciousness of a child, learning to walk, talk and function as an adult human. In doing so I

needed to learn that I had the power of choice and control of my bodily expression.

**Therefore, I am now learning that life is a process, not a destination,** and that God’s process is letting go and letting the Spirit express itself through me..

This is a daily process of a period of silence and stillness in which I listen in prayer. It is a disciplined practice and a daily focus - a desire to understand God’s will for my life.

For more inspiration from Del, SIA Founder, visit: [spiritinaction.org/del](http://spiritinaction.org/del)

## New & Ongoing Grants

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



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

Thank you to **Joshua Brooks** for running a half-marathon to raise funds for five new Small Business Fund grants!

**\*Caretakers Orphans Education Centre, Kenya (Training & Economic Development)** Skills training workshops and supplies for 50 women to learn bead-working and carpet-making.

**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)

**\*Matungu Community Development Charity, Kenya (Economic Development)** Formation of a table-banking cooperative with low-interest loans for small-scale farmers.

**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.

**\*Namaiyana Women Group, Kenya (Economic Development)** Construction of a roadside shop for the artisans to be able to sell their jewelry to tourists.

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

**\*Universal Love Ministries, Uganda (Human Rights)** Seven workshops for high school students about LGBT awareness, tolerance and rights. Formation of “inclusivity clubs” to continue the work after the workshops.

**\*SIA Small Business Fund** Funding for 20 new businesses in Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda in April, 2017.

Read success stories and see photos:  
[www.spiritinaction.org/news](http://www.spiritinaction.org/news)



Top Left: Samburu artisans in front of their nearly-complete curio shop near Samburu National Park in Kenya. They will be able to sell to the many tourists who come for safari there.

Above Right: SIA Small Business Fund Business leader Samsa used her grant to plant maize and sunflowers on her farm in Uganda. She is able to pay for school fees for four of her children with money from the crops!

Bottom Left: One of the pigs raised by the Megabridge Foundation piggery project!

## “Keeping Girls Safe in School”

### A new way to help Malawian girls stay in school

Mary G. (pictured below) is 16 years old and is in 8th grade at Chiskembe Primary School in northern Malawi. Both of Mary’s parents died when she was nine years old and she now lives with her grandma. She works with her grandma to sell charcoal and maize (corn) bran to earn money for their basic needs.

During the rainy season, they are not able to carry out their charcoal burning activities, and so the business struggles.

Traditionally, it is a taboo in Malawi for parents to discuss menstrual hygiene with their daughters. This meant that Mary grew up without any information about how to deal with her period when it came.

**“The only advice I got from my grandmother about how to take care of myself during menstruation was that I should always stay away from boys during that time. This made me to miss classes during my menstruation time.”**



Mary did not have regular access to cotton pads or other cloth to use during her period, and skipping class during this week of the month led to her having to repeat classes several times.

This is all changing through a program with the Malawian grassroots organization, Hope for Relief. Through their “Keeping Girls Safe in School” project, Mary received four reusable pads and guidance about how to use and wash them from women in the community.



One of the tailors distributes cloth feminine pads to girls. They have sewed and distributed 1890 pads!

Mary is just one of 630 girls who have received free pads, with a total of 1890 pads distributed overall! Hope for Malawi has also hosted a series of awareness meetings, talking to community members (parents) about a girl’s right to education, and the proper channels to address cases of early marriages and sexual assault.

“Be humble for you are made of earth.  
Be noble for you are made of stars.”  
- Serbian Proverb

Mary has promised to never miss class due to menstruation and to work hard to complete her primary school education this year! Already, she has not missed a single class in the past two months.

# Thank you to our generous supporters!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from October 10, 2016 to April 3, 2017.

Anonymous (x4)  
 Ian & Denby Adamson  
 Moni & Jerry Alter  
 Arden Anderson  
 Linda Andrew-Marshall  
 Margaret Arner & Larry Falk  
 Frances Arner-Costello  
 Tom & Susan Bayha  
 Linda Bennett  
 Phyllis Blume  
 Nancy Bradley  
 Diane Bush  
 Peter and Tara Campbell  
 Zoe Carlson  
 Carmichael Presbyterian  
 Church  
 Richard & Roberta Corson  
 Boyd & Tanya Cothran  
 Woody & Susan Covington  
 Dan Damon & Eileen Johnson  
 Sylvia De Almeida  
 Mary Doughty  
 James Dunn & Pamela Ryan  
 Eletah Elash  
 Kathleen Elliott  
 Jerry Elmer  
 Tim & Barbara Farley  
 Marion Franck & Bob Lew  
 George Furniss & Sandy Larson  
 Dave & Sheryl Gattey  
 Aileen Gillem  
 Charlie Grassl  
 Jeff & Jenny Grell  
 Diana Halpenny  
 Brent & Monica Hample  
 Rob Hanford  
 Sharon Hansen  
 David & Rebecca Harrison  
 Diane Harrold  
 Roy Lizama & Wendy Holloway  
 Barry & Patricia Hopkins  
 Reuben & Dee Jessop  
 Regina Jimenez  
 Andrea & Erik Johannessen  
 Danielle Jones  
 Marilyn Kendrick  
 Kathleen King  
 Moussa Konare  
 Karen Kotoske  
 Pat Leake

Jennifer Lentfer  
 Marjorie Lucero  
 James & Margaret Lynch  
 Linda & Vincent Maloney  
 Dianne & Pete McCluer  
 Jennifer Metz Foster  
 Anne Milkie  
 Gena & Jason Mitchell  
 Art Molho  
 Margie Moran  
 Erik & Kirsten Nielsen  
 Mark Nuebel  
 Mary Jo Pesano & Gary  
 Burbridge  
 Pete & Marian Petersen  
 Virginia Pinkerton  
 Jerry & Lucy Rickard  
 Roger & Ann Royal  
 Paul Schaffer  
 Dickson & Steven  
 Schwarzback  
 Kristalyn Shefveld  
 Sylvia & Glenn Sperry  
 Doug Stadler  
 Burns & Lorraine  
 Stanfield  
 Chris Stewart  
 Seung & Jung Tae  
 Jodi Terry  
 David & Lynne Thomas  
 Peter & Donna Thomas  
 Pamela & John Toevs  
 Bruce & Norene Treudt  
 United Methodist Women -  
 First United Methodist  
 at West Chicago  
 at Point Richmond, CA  
 Donna Vu  
 Tom & Lee Weikert  
 Dick & Barb Wolgamott  
 Mel & Janet Wright  
 Melvin Wuest  
 David & Connie Zelinsky



## DREAMERS CIRCLE

### Monthly SIA Contributors

Tim & Kathleen Arner - **Honoring Del Anderson**  
 John & Tish Bayer  
 Jan Burnett  
 Barbara Deal - **In Memory of Bob Deal**  
 Mac & Marilyn Dunham  
 David Hodges  
 Dennis & Marsha Johnson  
 Sig & Beth Knapstad  
 Ray & Marcia Larsen  
 Illa Reynolds  
 Ed & Pilar Ruddell  
 Wendy & Terry Silverthorn  
 Teresa Smith - **Honoring Chuck Smith**  
 Becky Sutherland  
 Barbara Terry  
 Warren & Ilene Teeters  
 RuthAnn Wessman

## GIFTS HONORING OTHERS

### Honoring Del Anderson

B.J. Boone

Jim Mahoney

### Honoring Del & Bebe Anderson

Pauline Fillmore

### Honoring Del & Lucile Anderson

Lynn Hamilton Jones

### Honoring Margaret Arner

Catherine Martin

### Honoring John & Tish Bayer

Laurel & Mark Plumb

Jack & Arlene Schaupp

### Honoring Dana Belmonte

Mike Hegeman

### Honoring Joshua Brooks

Zak Bilbeisi

Susan & Brett Bloomquist

John Doleac

JA Fitzpatrick

Lessa Herbig

### In Memory of Bob Deal

Beverly Romney

## More thank yous!

### Honoring Dave & Sheryl Gattey

Jim Hopkins

### Honoring Rainer Growitz

Helen Dannelly

### Honoring Diana Halpenny

Charlene & Henry Morita

### Honoring Mike Hegeman

Deborah Bronson

Shelly Core

Eric Hunter

Rachel Larsen

John Sinclair

Paula Strano

### Honoring Marsha & Dennis Johnson

Anonymous

Karen Ande & Jeff Johnson

Linda Groobin

Doug & Bonnie Haner

Tom & Sue Rickert

Carol Schifferling

Ric & Sue Shafer

### Honoring Harriet Kidd & sons

Pattie James

### Honoring Gloria Knapstad

Bill & Tari French

Jack & Arlene Schaupp

### Honoring family, and loved ones passed

Millie Millar

### In Memory of Mary Virginia Parrish, and Honoring Dick Morgan

Charly Morgan

### Honoring Katharine Powell

Marjorie Laflin

### Honoring Jim Thomas

Bob & Louise Beggs

Bill & Tari French

Barbara Thomas

## Manyamula COMSIP Named Best Cooperative



Congratulations to our long-time partner, Manyamula COMSIP Cooperative in Malawi! There are over 4,000 other COMSIP savings and loans cooperatives in Malawi, and the Manyamula chapter was recognized as the best performing cooperative in 2016! The cooperative currently has 180 members and lends over \$3,000 to their members each year. They also have 98.5 % repayment!

Their motto is, "Together we grow." Together they encourage economic development in their own community. Cooperative leader, Canaan Gondwe, shares, "**Yes, we have gone this far because of SIA's unrelenting moral and financial support.**"

The story of the formation of this cooperative is told in my essay in the book, "Smart Risks: How small grants are helping to solve some of the world's biggest problems." (See pg. 2 for more info!)

**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

### Yes! I want to support families in Africa with a gift to Spirit in Action.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ \$20                      \_\_\_ \$ 100

\_\_\_ \$35                      \_\_\_ \$150

\_\_\_ \$50                      \_\_\_ other

**Donate online!**

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

I would like to receive weekly blog posts. \_\_\_\_

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

## Visas secured and bags packed!

It's almost time! I'm getting ready for song and dance, bumpy roads, starry night skies, meals of maize and chicken, and lots of chai tea. In just a few weeks, on May 23rd, I will land in Malawi, for a three-week trip to visit SIA partners.

The days will be filled with visiting Small Business Fund groups, meeting grassroots leaders, and evaluating our programs. I welcome your prayers for a smooth and inspiring trip for all!

Follow along on our Facebook and Instagram pages as I share photos and stories of the people we meet!



Tanya with Small Business Fund Coordinator and Trainer, Dennis Kiprop, his wife, Nancy, and son, Timo, in Eldoret, Kenya.

### Part 1: Malawi:

- Manyamula Savings and Loans Group Cooperative
- Small Business Fund groups
- Youth entrepreneurs in Blantyre
- Conference and training for SIA Small Business Fund Coordinators

### Part 2: Kenya

- Teimuge's Samro School
- Small Business Fund groups in Nairobi and Eldoret
- CIFORD Kenya
- Megabridge Foundation

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/spiritinaction](http://www.facebook.com/spiritinaction)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/spiritinactionintl](http://www.instagram.com/spiritinactionintl)



### SPRING & SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

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

Follow me on my trip to Kenya and Malawi! We'll be posting on our Facebook and Instagram pages!