



SOHO

SAVING ORPHANS
THROUGH HEALTHCARE
AND OUTREACH

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

REASON TO CELEBRATE

The population of Marekamp reflects the population of Eswatini with the majority under twenty or in their teens. It is a trafficking hot spot because girls learn in Primary School that the necessities of life could be acquired by giving themselves for the use of their benefactors. As a result, there is a hefty population of pregnant teens, no skills, no jobs and limited access to school because most of them lack the required ID for admission.

SOHO has been conducting clean up campaigns, clothing distribution and mentorship programs, each time, providing meals and snacks, but that did not solve the problem of consistent meals for children who go to bed with empty stomachs. Thanks to a generous sponsor, a Care Center has now been built complete with water tank and toilet, and a food program was inaugurated there with great celebration.

THE JOY OF EATING

If there is one thing that is common knowledge about Marekamp, it is that children there are almost always hungry. Those who are fortunate enough to attend the Railway Primary School walking distance away, may receive a lunch meal; for others, it is a hit and miss situation with the majority subsisting on what they or their care givers could find.

Every day, we eat meals, toss leftovers, and plan what next to prepare that would



May SOHO Missions team at Marekamp Care Pointe Feeding Center



Mentorship graduates with certificates

gratify our taste buds, but at Marekamp in Eswatini, the average child may or may not have the benefit of one good meal a day. Often, that meal is simply corn pap or rice and beans. Sometimes, it is corn meal and salt or sugar. Getting a meal with veggies, protein and all the good stuff nature has to offer, is a reason for celebration. And that is exactly what happened at Marekamp this month.

Marekamp is a location in Eswatini where human trafficking and abuse are serious problems. Many of the children are the products of rape or trafficking. Sex for food or for desirable things, is common. We now have a dedicated place where children are fed an afternoon meal five days a week, and two meals on Saturday when they enjoy programs that are filled with encouragement and inspiration. This is the time when children considered social discards, learn they are beloved children of God.

The Community, SOHO Board Members and visitors, all participated in the dedication of the SOHO Marekamp Feeding Center. Close to 300 children were fed and the crowd applauded as 26 of their children marched down the aisle to receive certificates of completion for 16 lessons in a Bible Study program that taught them about God's love, their relationship with each other and hope for the future. The group put on a special program that was received with whoops of appreciation and enthusiastic applause.

Currently, SOHO is feeding one hundred children daily and two meals on Saturday when the children get a hot breakfast and lunch. Those numbers are increasing. Many of the Marekamp children are unable to attend school because of a lack of identification or because of care givers who are too taxed with their own issues to concern themselves with a child left behind. Mentoring programs and basic Math and English literacy training are planned.

It is a prayer that this program will develop into life changing experiences for the children and that the Squatter's Camp will one day be a place where children are safe and healthy.



Dr. Muna, Executive Chairman Of SOHO ES, with Sherwin Abrams, SOHO ES GM



The Marekamp Community



The feeding program in action



Clean Water for Marekamp Feeding Program



Susan Granger feeding a child at Marekamp feeding center

LEADERSHIP TEAM VISITS ESWATINI

“ I volunteer with SOHO but this visit has changed my life and given me a new perspective of who SOHO is and what is being done in Eswatini”.

-Robyn Allen McKinnon

“ I had questions as to whether or not I should make this trip, and candidly, almost didn't. But I thank God that I did. I left Eswatini a different person and you can count on me to serve and support in any way you need me to.”

-Ricky Allen

The leadership team that visited SOHO was comprised of:

- Linda Schultz: Co-Founder of SOHO
- Robyn Allen McKinnon: CFO of SOHO USA

- Charles: Volunteer and husband of Robyn Allen McKinnon
- Dr. Shalunda Sherrod: Chair, School of Social Work, Oakwood University
- Ricky Allen: Medical IT Consultant, SOHO Volunteer and Oakwood University Al.
- Owen Troy: Missionary volunteer assisting with Logistics
- Dr. Maria Mendoza: Radiologist from Argentina
- Dr. Williams Pephrah: Sustainability Expert from Andrews University School of Business
- Susan Granger: Entrepreneur and organic gardening expert from South Africa

Highlights included participation in the Marekamp feeding program, a visit to

Hope Discovery Learning Center (HDLC) where an assessment of needs was conducted and a distribution of toys and clothing conducted. There was a visit to Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) where they learned about the crisis of gender based abuse affecting orphans and vulnerable children, and a private audience with a gang rape survivor where they were moved by the courage of a girl who dreams of mentoring girls who are rape victims since she was herself gang raped twice.

Apart from business meetings, there was time for them to connect with the children and to learn about the culture. They left inspired, committed to making the vision of social change for children who are considered 'the least of these,' a reality.



Visiting leadership team greets community members



Toys from the visiting team



HDLC Children receiving toys from the team



Dr Shalunda Sherrod and Ricky Allen lend loving support to Phindile, a rape survivor, and her son, Lindo



Leadership team visiting Amazing Grace Church in Johannesburg. Left to right Robyn Allen McKinnon, Dr Maria Mendoza, Cynthia Prime, rear, Dr Shalunda Sherrod, Dr Nene Molefi, Ricky Allen, and Owen Troy II

HOME, SWEET HOMES FOR CHILDREN.

First, there was the dream of finding a suitable location where orphaned children at greatest risk could be housed and reared so that they could become productive citizens instead of victims of abuse and human trafficking. Lentsaba Farm was the miraculous answer to that prayer. Each step of the way, there has been Providential provision. A wonderful team of architecture students from Andrews University created a Master Plan. A second group has finalized the design of the first houses.

Each home has two bedrooms capable of housing four children on bunk beds comfortably and quarters for a Caregiver or House Aunty.

Children who have never known comfort or even a sanitary home environment, will indeed have a home sweet home at Lentsaba Children's Village.

Thanks to a generous donation from Greater Works Church in Indianapolis, construction of the first homes is scheduled to be completed before the rains come in November.

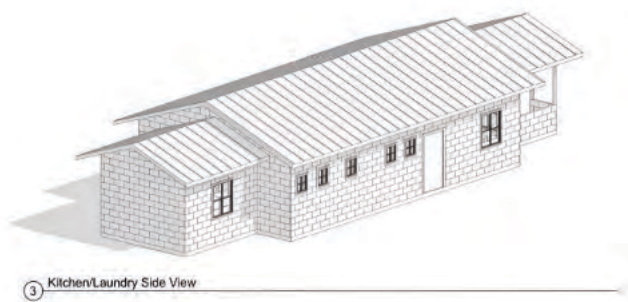
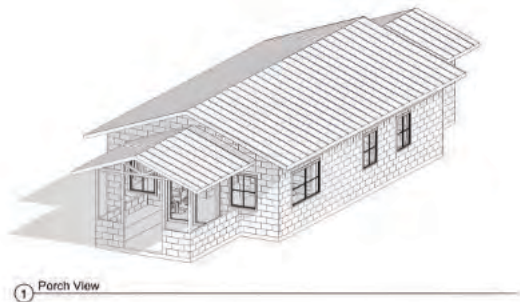


Exterior rendering of children's home



Interior rendering of children's room

Architectural renderings of children's home



NEW NAME, SAME VISION

INTSABA means, 'Mountain' in Siswati. It is the name by which we have identified our mountain farm since its acquisition. However, in the process of applying for licenses to sell products like honey, macadamia nuts and other items from the farm, the Swazi attorney addressing our needs indicated that there were

other businesses with the word Intsaba incorporated in their names and therefore advised against using that name as our brand.

This presented a challenge of potentially having to recreate the logo and all associated marketing

materials. Fortunately, one of our staff members came up with an exciting solution. INTSABA means MOUNTAIN but LENTSABA means THE MOUNTAIN, a name that distinguishes the farm from all others. We thanked God for this simple but dynamic solution.

PROGRESS REPORT AT LENTSABA

This Summer has seen a flurry of activity at Lentsaba Farm. With Dr Carey Carscallen, COO and his wife Dorothy on site, much of the necessary infrastructure has begun to fall into place. A large water source was needed to serve the expanding population of the farm. Then there was urgently needed housing for workers and staff who trudged over the mountain and back daily, losing both time and energy. There were tractors to repair, macadamia nut trees to be planted and more. In each instance of need, God has been providing.



Men shoveling soil for planting



Produce from Lentsaba distributed to orphans in the community



Building of the Rondavel

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY DONATES NEW WELL

Finding a new water source is always challenging. An expert walks the land and uses his instruments to determine where best to drill a well but there is always the chance that the site could produce less water than anticipated. In the case of the site selected by the

water surveyor at Lentsaba, water gushed early in the process and a generous source was confirmed.

Walla Walla University Engineering Students visited the site during an earlier visit and committed to funding

the well. They have raised over \$10,000 to cover the cost of the well drilling, solar panels, a pump, security housing and a fence to protect this precious resource. Upon completion, a plaque will be installed in recognition of this generous contribution.



Farm Supervisor, Sean Hayter with the well drilling team.



Well Drilling

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

TIRED DONKEYS

The road uphill from the macadamia nut orchard at Lentsaba Farm is steep. The tractor that hauls cement to the site where a room for the orchard manager is being built, is sixteen years old and worn. The Toyota SUV that has done double duty as service vehicle and transportation, is incapable of keeping up. So donkeys are being used while we wait to find a 4 by 4 truck. We are praying for a Toyota LC79 4.2 Diesel SC. This will make a huge difference in our work efficiency.



Donkeys hauling cement because we have no four wheel truck



Toyota LC79 4.2 Diesel SC, needed for hauling

BUILDING EQUIPMENT

Spades and shovels are digging holes for construction, or block making or almost any kind of facility development at the farm. The slow, laborious pace can be replaced by an efficient backhoe. A JCB 3DX. According to Dr Carey Carscallen, COO, the development process would move so much more rapidly and cost efficiently.



Building equipment. JCB 3DX backhoe

MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITIES

FARM MANAGER OPENING

Saving Orphans through Healthcare and Outreach in ESwatini, Africa is seeking a mission-minded Farm Manager. The ideal applicant for this position would meet the following qualifications:

1) Have prior experience operating a successful market garden operation including planning, growing and marketing produce.

2) Have a knowledge of horticultural practices including plant nutrition, insect and disease control measures, and post harvest care.

3) Have prior experience directing a group of workers.

Housing accommodations for a couple and transportation will be provided in addition to a stipend.

If you are interested, contact Dr Tom Chittick at : tomc@andrews.edu.

VOLUNTEER BUILDERS NEEDED

Workers doing construction or providing services at the farm have to walk miles over a mountain to get to work. This is exhausting. They have to return home with the same laborious effort shortening their time availability and decreasing the strength needed for

the tasks at the farm. A former sheep farming service structure on the farm is to be converted into 12 housing units where workers can sleep during the week and return to their families on the weekend. The existing structure has a galvanized roof and broken concrete floor. It needs to have walls erected and toilets and shower stalls put in. A volunteer building team is needed for this job.

If you are interested in a two week Builders Mission Trip between September and October, please contact: Cynthia Prime : cprime2000@gmail.com or call 317-753-5000. Thank you!!

SOHO LIFE IN PICTURES



Feeding program



Installing a hanging beehive



Sharing produce from the farm with HDLC



May Mission's Leadership Team at opening of Feeding Center



Toys for kids!



Working on the tractor



A brisk hike up the mountain

COME JOIN US! There Are Many Ways You Can Help

Building Fund: *Prices of materials have increased since Covid.*

Shelter for up to 8 children: \$45,000 per house, \$15,000 partial

Cafeteria and kitchen: \$30,000

Skills center: \$10,500

Shipping container training and work space: \$10,000

Clinic from a 20 ft shipping container: \$5,000

Current operating fund: \$20,000

We are understaffed. Assistance with operational costs is needed.

Assist us with managing the costs of running all of SOHO's programs.

Food fund: \$30 per month

We feed over 100 children per day!

Child Sponsorship: \$38 per month

School fees, meals, and school transportation

___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$300 ___\$500 ___\$1,000

___Monthly ___One time

Your contributions are tax deductible. For more information:

email: kris@savingorphans.com | phone: (317) 779-0001

mail: SOHO, P.O. Box 78156, Indianapolis, IN 46278



*Together, we can change
the future for the children.*

SOHO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the states of Indiana and Washington.



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Growing Hope • Changing the Future

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