



Spirit
In
Action

Micro Grants
Major Change

Fall & Winter Newsletter 2019

Spirit in Action

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“Allow us, Lord, to see faith not only as a personal relationship with you, but also as the fuel we use to combat systems of oppression, privilege, and injustice in this world.”

– Sojourners Magazine

Notorious Ruth: Women of Change

by Gloria Teimuge and Tanya Cothran



The Women of Change are a group of 1,500 women from the Rift Valley region of Kenya. They used to be alcohol brewers. The Chang'aa and busaa alcohol they made are illegal in Kenya because of their high and non-standardized volume of alcohol. This means the women often had run-ins with law enforcement.

From their stories and testimonies, it is clear that these women lived lives of restlessness and fright. They did not have peace or order. Their children did not go to school. Or if they did go to school, didn't have time to study or food to eat.

At the Ukweli Training Center the women are trained by Samuel Teimuge and Dennis Kiprop on gardening, poultry keeping, livestock rearing and baking. They receive spiritual guidance and leadership skills as well, and some have become pastors and village elders. Their families have witnessed this journey of transformation and are in awe.

In June, Barbara Deal and Tanya visited several Women of Change who have also received Small Business Fund grants. Ruth (pictured above) used to be a notorious brewer in her neighborhood. **Now, she is “notorious for Jesus,” she says with a laugh.** She is also notorious for her breads and baked goods. She used her SIA grant to buy a charcoal oven for baking.

“I thank God that now we are using lotion!” Ruth told us. “When you are poor, you use the same oil for cooking and lotion.” Being able to buy body lotion is a simple luxury that Ruth now enjoys. Her kids also now all go to school and they sleep through the night, rather than be interrupted by drunks and police raids.



Grace, another Women of Change leader, earns \$25 each day from her neighborhood kiosk and also is raising sheep, goats, rabbits, and fish.

New SIA Mission Statement!

Our Mission: Spirit in Action seeks to fulfill God's promise for abundant life for all the world by supporting people in following their dreams of building a self-sufficient, sustainable future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Our Approach: Our holistic approach includes providing micro grants and funding for larger projects, listening, and building relationships with our partners. We recognize that our partners know best what they need and can create the change they envision.

The SIA Board of Directors is pleased to share with you our new guiding mission statement. This statement recognizes and centers the needs and knowledge of our partners in Africa. Creating this mission statement was a collaborative task with them. Naomi Ayot, SIA local coordinator in Uganda, sums SIA up in the short phrase, "Social and economic justice, not charity, with God in the center." Canaan Gondwe contributed language to the statement and talks passionately about how SIA builds self-sufficiency in his part of rural Malawi.

At our conference in Kenya in June the SIA team in Africa gave the mission their approval. They appreciate our practice of listening to the community for answers, unlike other charity groups and agencies that drive into the community and dump a well-intentioned project on the local residents. Dennis Kiprop of Kenya reminded us of the proverb, "Whatever you do for me, without me, you do against me."

Let us know what you think of the new statement!



Spirit in Action African advisors meet in Kenya, June.
Left to Right: Dorcas Okoti (Kenya), Canaan Gondwe (Malawi), Wambui Nguyo (Kenya), Samuel Teimuge (Kenya), Tanya Cothran, Barbara Deal, Dennis Kiprop (Kenya), Naomi Ayot (Uganda)

What a glorious privilege to be alive in such an age

By Del Anderson, 1999

Dear Ones,

What a glorious privilege to be alive in such an age, and for such a God-purpose, to be the expressers and manifestors of God here and now.

Through our daily living, loving, caring, sharing and serving, we are privileged to participate with our Creator in bringing forth God's kingdom already within us.

As we rise, shine and give God glory, we are expressions and manifestations of the All-Presence and Activity of God. Thus, "Christ in us, the hope of glory," here and now.

What an all-loving, all-present, always available God, in us, with us and through us!

What a gracious God and what a time to be alive and spend time in the secret place of the most high where we commune with our Creator and learn and experience that each of us is loved.

As we share God's love through Spirit in Action, we do not encourage dependency by doing for people or groups, but we serve and work with them.

We value your prayers, ideas and your partnership as you are guided.

SIA is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable foundation. Tax ID# 93-1207351
We appreciate your prayers, comments, questions, and tax-deductible contributions.

Five Weeks of Seeing Spirit in Action! Kenya, Malawi, Uganda. May- June 2019

1. (Malawi) I first met MacDonald, Small Business Fund farmer, in 2011. Since then he's invested in 9 cows and built his family a home with glass windows! "Your visit is an encouragement to me," he said.



2.

2. (Malawi) Florence used the profits from her SIA Small Business Fund retail shop to connect her house to the electrical grid.

3. (Kenya) After Eugene was targeted by the police for being "idle," SIA partner Josephine taught him to make beaded items for the market. He feels like he got a second chance on life.



4. (Malawi) These guys are part of the SIA team in Manyamula! Winkly, Mbweni,

and Sylvester helped Kathleen and I visit over 35 of the 200+ SIA supported businesses in the area!



4.

5. (Uganda) Ainematsiko cares for pigs for her woman's group. They support widows in the community and provide positive peer pressure to keep girls in school, in

Deepest gratitude to SIA Board Member **Kathleen King** for traveling to Malawi with me and generally being the best kind of friend!



5.

the face of patriarchy that devalues girls' education.

6. (Uganda) Robinah in front of the Set Her Free chicken project. The income from the chickens supports a 6-month skills program for girls who have been sexually assaulted or who were in the sex trade.



6.

Supporting Girls to Stay in School

Hope for Relief in Malawi

Salome bravely stood up as her peers cheered for her. It was a gathering of 36 girls at Phalasisito School, a few miles outside of the small town of Rumphu in northern Malawi. "I don't miss school anymore, since the changing room was built at our school." The brick stall, built with a SIA grant, is a place that girls can use to wash out their cloth pads when they are at school and on their periods. There is a bucket of water and, when there is enough money in the school budget, a bit of soap. "Now I can even play netball during my period!" Salome, age 15, said proudly. Netball is a popular girls' sport in Malawi and playing on the team means she gets to travel to other towns and cities. Salome has received seven pads since 2017 from SIA partner organization, Hope for Relief.



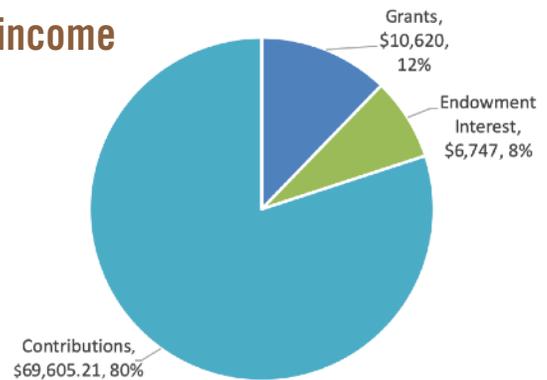
Hope for Relief trains women to use sewing machines to sew cotton pads - cotton is best for absorption - and when I visited them in June I got to hand out 40 pads to the girls assembled. For bravely sharing her testimony, Salome got a Spirit in Action t-shirt!

Girls in Malawi are eager to learn and motivated to stay in school. Both SIA and Hope for Relief are supporting them by supplying pads and building changing rooms. Hope for Relief is also training the girls to be entrepreneurs. As we finished up our site visits, I chewed on a piece of Malawian bubblegum sold to me by one of the students who sells gum to her classmates.

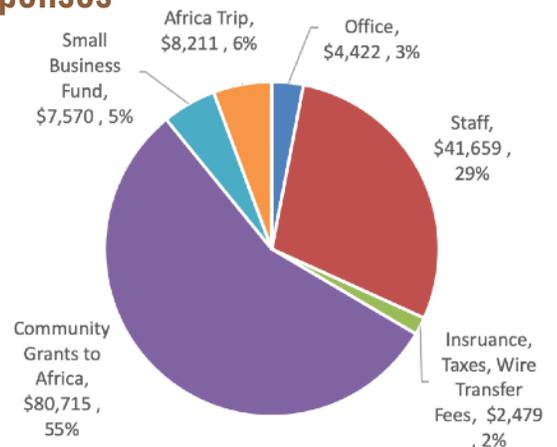
Top: Tanya and SIA Board Member Kathleen King hand out cotton sanitary pads to girls at a rural school in Malawi.
Bottom: Esther and Salome shared their testimonies about how having the pads has given them more confidence when they are at school.

SIA 2018-19 Finances at a glance...

income



expenses



Read our blog posts for success stories, photos, and inspiration! <http://spiritinaction.org/news>

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

New & Ongoing Grants

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

CIFORD Kenya (Girls' Empowerment) Workshops for girls, boys and community leaders on the topic of anti-female genital mutilation (FGM) and youth empowerment.



Flaming Chalice, Rwanda (Refugee Support) Café/ community center run by 12 Burundian refugees in Rwanda.

Hope for Relief Malawi (Girls' Education) Constructing five more changing rooms at schools; provided funds for seven sewing machines for sewing feminine hygiene pads; awareness meetings on girls' rights to education. (See page 4)

***Kimbo Amazing Women Group, Kenya (Micro-loans)** Expanding the micro-credit program for women in Githurai - one of the poorest areas around Nairobi. Hosting a business training workshop.

Manyamula Community Savings and Investment Promotion (COMSIP) Cooperative, Malawi (Agriculture, Organizational Development) Support for Cooperative administration and general operating budget. Peanut oil processing machine and storage room.

Rebuilders Charity, Democratic Republic of Congo (Skills Development) Training classes for sewing skills, funding for sewing machines, and start-up grants for 20 women.

Samro Grade School, Kenya (Education) Tuition for 73 students to finish the rest of the year at Samro School.

Set Her Free, Uganda (Economic Development) Poultry project and skills training for vulnerable girls.



Sonkoyo Nailepu Women's Group, Kenya (Economic Development) 10 bulls and 20 lambs for this cooperative of Maasai women.

Universal Love Ministries, Uganda (Human Rights, Organizational Development) Administrative support for general operations.

Visionary Women's Centre, Kenya (Economic Development) Poultry project for 80 women.

***SIA Small Business Fund** Funding for 25 new businesses in Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda in July 2019. (See front and back page)

Top: Susan (SBF Kenya) pays the school fees for her two grandchildren and a neighbor boy using funds from her produce stand. Middle: Barbara Deal with Inclusivity Club members in Uganda. Left: Tabitha is a member of the Visionary Women Centre in Kenya. Through the VWC she learned how to raise chickens and is now able to send her children to school. She used to have to beg for vegetables and now she can give vegetables away to others in need.



Thank you to our generous supporters!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from April 16 - September 10, 2019.

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Honoring Legacy Circle Member: Paul Jaun (1916-2011)

SIA is grateful for Paul Jaun who included SIA in his legacy and will. We are humbled by his generosity, kindness, and desire to help others.

Paul lived his whole life in the same house in Oakland. He intentionally lived a simple life and his savings now will be used to help so many people around the world. His faith was strong and he became excited when talking about passion for bee keeping. In a 2010 conversation with Dave Gattey, Paul, describe himself by saying, "I like to help poor people, I like to be helpful, and I'm against war."

For more information about including SIA in your legacy, visit:

<https://spiritinaction.org/support-sia/legacy>

Barbara Anne Neighbors Deal (October 25, 1948-July 4, 2019)

Barbara Anne Neighbors Deal was born on October 25, 1948 in San Pedro, CA, the only child of Clarence E. Neighbors and Neilya Marsh Sharon Neighbors.

Barbara joined Spirit in Action as an Advisory Board Member in 2010 and then later became a Board of Trustees Member in 2016. She was an enthusiastic contributor to SIA, donating in honor of her late husband, Bob Deal. This year, she was thrilled to have the opportunity to visit SIA



This captures such a beautiful moment. It was the end of a long day of site visits. I think we visited over 15 Small Business Fund groups in Aboke, Uganda. Barbara still had energy to engage, ask questions, share inspiration and encouragement with Milly and her family. Milly received a small grant from SIA and now Shares the Gift to help many more who are in need in the community.

with God. As we traveled together, she gave me so many hugs, and laughed with me when we were beyond tired and giddy from excitement about all the positive change we were seeing as a result of SIA's partnerships. She understood my goals for SIA perfectly and was a great encourager and adviser to me in all aspects of my work.

Barbara is remembered and missed by many in California and around the world who were privileged to call her a dear friend. Read the obituary here: <https://spiritinaction.org/barbara-deal/>

partners in Uganda and Kenya, countries she had not visited since 1996. One week before we left, she wrote of her excitement, **"I'm sitting here with this big stupid grin on my face. SO looking forward to this adventure."**

While in Kenya, Barbara became ill, suffering from a perforated gastric ulcer, and subsequent sepsis. She graduated into the heavenly realm on July 4, 2019 in Eldoret, Kenya, surrounded by friends. She was cared for by a faithful and loving #TeamBarbara. At her request, she was cremated in Kenya and her ashes are buried on the farmland of her friends Samuel and Rhoda Teimuge in Illula Village, Kenya.

Barbara was a true spiritual mentor to me, always reminding me of the strength and freedom that can be found when we are full in the flow of the universe and perfectly in tune



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www.spiritinaction.org/donate

Douglas, Entrepreneur and Provider, Age 17

Douglas Okello is 17 and he is the main breadwinner in his family in Aboke, Uganda. Both of his parents died when he was six months old, during the war in northern Uganda. He now lives with his grandmother (who is so proud of him!) and two other orphans.

Douglas is passionate about photography. When I visited him in May, he expertly arranged a large group of Small Business Fund leaders to pose for a group photo. He also took photos while I shook hands and visited grantee partners' shops.

He used a Spirit in Action Small Business Fund grant to purchase a fancy backdrop and



Barbara Deal, Tanya Cothran, and Douglas Okello posing around Douglas's photography studio chair in Aboke, Uganda.

a bright red chair for his photography studio. Douglas's services are in high demand! He works in a community where people don't have easy access to photos, and may only have one printed family portrait in their homes.

He has been in business for one year and already he has been able to build his own thatched-roof house! He planted flowers in the yard, a touch of beauty in the face of the trauma that he has already endured. He is also investing in goats and pigs as a way of saving for the future.

As a way of Sharing the Gift, Douglas takes and prints photos of elderly community members.



FALL & WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Tanya Cothran, Executive Director

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