



African Education Fund - SWAZILAND

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Newsletter
Spring 2013 - Issue 5

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MISSION STATEMENT

We work with local communities in Swaziland to provide scholarships, youth development, clean water, primary health care, and economic opportunity through microenterprise and microcredit.



Our activities are concentrated in a northern district covering approximately 300 square miles with a population of 17000.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

This newsletter serves as an update for each of AEFs activity areas and also comments on current events in Swaziland.

Education

Primary school scholarships

In January 2010 the Swaziland Government began to provide 'free' primary school education. This was introduced for children entering first grade. This was expanded from first grade to first and second grade in January 2011 and third grade in 2012. However, children beyond third grade still need to pay school fees. In addition, children in the 'free' education grades still need to have a uniform and still need to pay various book and other fees. Inability to have a uniform or pay these fees leads to exclusion from school. AEF assists by identifying children that should be in school and assisting with either school fees (if in grades not yet included in free education) or providing school uniforms. In 2012, AEF provided



Nyokeni School scholarship and uniform beneficiaries,

uniforms for 150 children and paid school fees for 13 children.

Care points

AEF has been assisting several care points in the Nkambeni community. The care points are pre-primary school feeding and enrichment centers meant for orphans or other vulnerable children and established in response to the AIDS orphan crisis in Swaziland. Feeding at Care Points has been erratic; however, we believe we have contributed substantially to the educational aspects, principally through the efforts of Ellinor Angel. Ellinor has been traveling twice a year to Swaziland for the past 3 years (5 trips thus far) to work with care point teachers (as well as primary school teachers). In addition, Ellinor has provided books and other school supplies *and taught how to use them*. We have completed construction for 5 care points to provide a place to teach and keep materials.

Ellinor's last trip to Swaziland was in May of 2012. During that visit she held workshops for care point teachers and also met with primary school teachers and provided

teacher training at the national school for the deaf. In addition to enormous energy, time, and money for travel, Ellinor made a large contribution in memory of her father, the late Ted Goonan, which paid for the construction of the Sikhunyana/New Jerusalem Care Point. This is the care point presided over by Mrs. Nubunga who has been very happy with the building and has filled it with educational materials and decorations for her 65+ children.



Bongani Mdluli at an AEF completed Care Point at Mhkayeni

Health

Building a Clinic

We agreed to assist a more remote community with building a community clinic. The process has been slow, partly because we have made the community and community clinic committee responsible for determining what and how to get things done in order to develop a sense of ownership. In addition, it is more empowering for the community when they have built their clinic



Finishing a storeroom on the Zandondo-Kacuga Clinic

themselves. The community has been very involved, supplying labor, and small amounts of money for specific tasks – such as part of the electricity connection cost. The clinic building and houses for nurses have now been built and are nearly complete. We hope to have all



Community building walls for a nurses house at clinic

construction complete by July of 2013. The completed clinic will provide easily accessible health care, pre-natal care, TB treatment (including injections for drug resistant TB), and well-baby care. We share the community's excitement in having these services easily accessible.

Health literacy days

Basic community health education can be effective to dispel myths, impart information, and inform regarding available services. We continue to hold these health promotion days using drama, song, personal stories, and presentations to deliver messages. Because of the burden of HIV and TB in Swaziland, with 25% of adults infected with HIV and over 1% newly infected with TB each year, we emphasize these topics. The health days are also an important time for the community to learn the role of the health motivators. Each event has a slightly different focus, but the overall emphasis is on adherence to TB or HIV medications and testing for TB.

Rural health motivator program

The Rural Health Motivators are woman volunteers from the community. They are nominally organized and supported by the Ministry of Health, but have not been given a clear role by the Ministry of Health. AEF began working with the Health Motivators in 2007 and started a TB support program with them in 2009. The program involves (1) record keeping of the patients supported, (2) weekly visits to TB patients, (3) provision of food packets to patients in need, and (4) communication with the health clinic regarding patients not completing their TB treatment. The Rural Health motivators have been enthusiastic about having a role and especially about the very positive response from the community.



Health motivator training day

However maintaining an effective program is one of the larger AEF expenses. Each food packet is of minimal cost (approximately \$1); however, deliveries to patients with TB adds up. In addition, the Ministry of Health would like to see the Health Motivators become involved in well-baby check-ups. It is something that they may be able to do effectively; however, they have turned to us for guidance on making it happen effectively.

In 2012, we provided food support to over 200 patients and helped transport approximately 2 dozen to a clinic for weekly injections of TB medications. We now cover a population of approximately 17,000 through the health motivator effort.



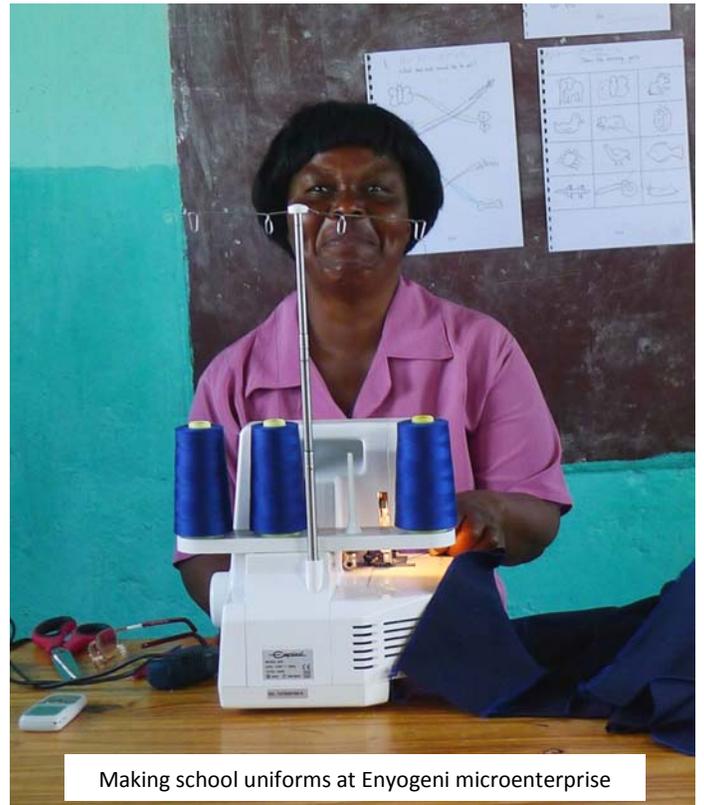
Hand operated sewing machine for the Ehlabatseni HIV Support group

Microenterprise

Microcredit, championed by Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank, has the capacity to help raise families from poverty. Small loans allow individuals (usually women) to expand microenterprises and increase income. This has enabled success for groups engaged in sewing, informal trading, chicken raising, baking, basket weaving, and skin lotion production.

Approximately 400 individuals, mostly women, are currently benefiting from the program. The most notable

example is the **Enyogeni** sewing group (in picture). In addition, we recently delivered a donated hand-operated sewing machine to an HIV support group located in an area far from available electricity.



Making school uniforms at Enyogeni microenterprise

Financial Summary January 1 to December 31, 2012

Income total		\$ 42422
Donations	\$ 41622	
Sales of baskets, cards, and plants	800	
Expenditures total		\$ 56464
Education: scholarships, uniforms	4237	
Care point construction	4509	
Health care: food, supplies	8333	
Medical clinic construction	25087	
Water wells	7622	
Microfinance	805	
Swazi worker stipends, rent, supplies	4547	
Bank transfer & exchange fees	1324	
Balance January 1, 2012		\$ 38242
Balance December 31, 2012		\$ 24200

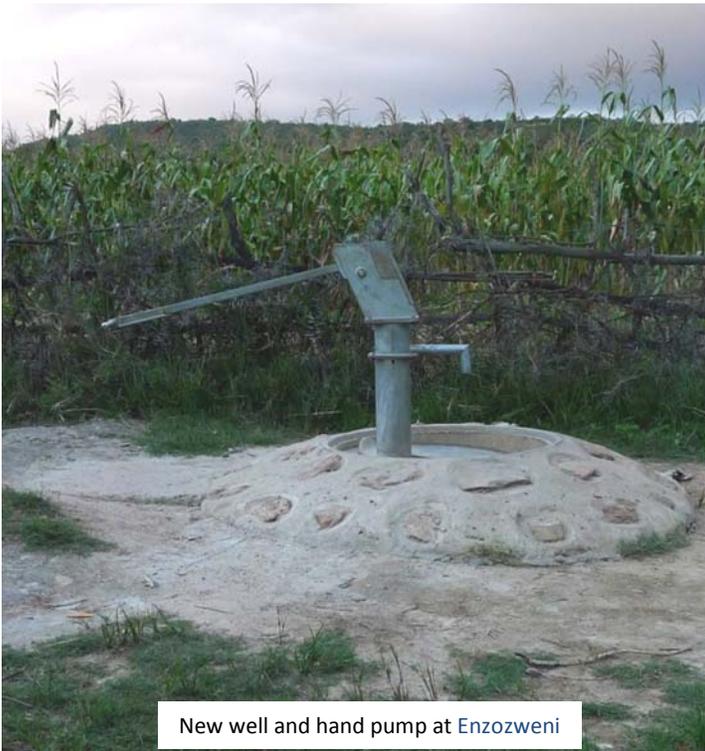
In-kind donations:

Sewing machine, sewing materials, medications,
School supplies, volunteer effort from Christopher

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Water Projects

During the time since the last Newsletter we have had considerable success with water projects. We have installed two new wells and repaired or rehabilitated four non-functioning wells. All six wells are fitted with hand pumps. Each well serves a population of 100-400 people



New well and hand pump at Enzozwi

replacing unreliable and stagnant water sources or a distant source of water. When we started on one of the wells between 50 and 100 people came out to help and show their support. We would especially like to thank Mrs. Krystyna Serkowski for her support of wells and water projects.

HOW TO HELP

Sponsor a primary school student (\$125 / year)

Provide a school uniform (\$25)

Library for Care Point (\$60)

Contribute to building the clinic

Drill a water well or buy a pump (\$1000-5000)

Provide food & soap for TB patient for a year (\$50)

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the African Education Fund

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