

World Impact Network

News

Macy's

Thank you Macy's for your community minded spirit. Every year Macy's supports Renewal Food Bank in so many different ways. At this years food drive Macy's staff were once again encouraged not only to give but also to volunteer. Here a Macy's team can be seen bagging rice and beans at Renewal Food



From right Macy's employees: Jenny Villasin, Patty Deras, Heather Parker, Viktoriya Rudenkova

Thank you also to Louis Davenport who once again donated 10,000lbs of Rice and Beans driving it to the Food Bank all the way from Idaho!

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Inside this issue:

<i>Thank you Macy's</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>10,000lbs of Rice & Beans Donated</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Life For Rural Pastors in Kenya</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Beijing, China</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Volunteer Spotlight</i>	<i>4</i>

WIN

world impact network
meeting needs around
the world

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Life for Rural Pastors and Leaders in Kenya

South Kinangop is one of those lush green areas at the foot of the Abedere Mountains that reminds one of the beauties of Kenya. Though potholes are plenteous and things like hospitals, mortuaries and internet cafes non-existent, the leaders of South Kinangop consider themselves blessed.

They have very little in terms of what we would consider life's necessities and yet they are grateful to be living in one of the most beautiful regions in Kenya where the high elevation keeps deadly African diseases at bay, except for the scourge of HIV Aids that is no respecter of communities.

Their immediate needs are more than abundantly met through their enterprising businesses such as agriculture, zero grazing units, bee keeping etc.

These are educated leaders who like all of us want to be recognized as part of the global leadership community. They, too have challenges – immense challenges and yet their greatest strength is their limitless ability to accept what they cannot change and work hard to change what they can.

In the last number of years I have seen tremendous change in the lives of these leaders.



Sammy Ngumba is a man who recently gave up a well paying job at Standard Charter Bank in Nairobi; while still at Standard Charter Sammy started a local NGO called Merciful International Guild. Sammy is one of those leaders who never says die. He is innovative, influential and most of

all committed to serving his community. He is also the pastor of Happy Spiritual Church and the father of six wonderful children. His wife Margaret is one of those smart entrepreneurial women who runs three businesses and knows how to look for new opportunities to do better and do more. It is people like Sammy and Margaret who make communities thrive - not western dollars, or the Mzungo's who drops in and out of their lives – but their spirit of commitment, perseverance and dedication.



These leaders are avid learners and teachers. I have learnt as much from them. We are friends, building a relationship of trust. They know that I am not the Mzungo who comes to tell them what they should change but rather an African born and bred just like them who has a heart of passion and love for leaders all over the world – and most especially Africa – my own true heartland.

Our efforts in Kenya this year focused on developing character and integrity, the importance of not losing credibility, vision and good stewardship as well as practical and business skills, including first aid, CPR, disaster preparedness and the ability to keep a cash flow statement and understand the reasons why many small businesses fail.

We look forward to our ongoing partnership with the leaders of Kinangop and know that our future sessions together covering the important topic of domestic violence and introducing them to the ministry of the chaplaincy will deepen the ties that bind us together as Christians whose only goal is to better serve our communities.

I especially want to thank this years incredible team members Olu Oluwatofehinti and Fred Breedlove.

Gabriella Van Breda



Beijing

Beijing China is not only the city of Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the great wall but it is also the city of the annoying Gobe dessert dust. At this time of the year the wind blows tons of it onto the central business district where residents are seen wearing masks to protect themselves from the insidiousness of this invader. Residents report that you can even feel it on the bed sheets.

How glad we are to have missed the event. Our recent trip to Beijing came at a good time. The weather although cold was pleasant giving us the opportunity to take Dr. Jack Hayford and his wife Anna to several of the above mentioned historical sites.

Our trip this February once again focused on training. China with its rapidly growing economy is facing many of the challenges of other industrialized nations as millions of rural workers migrate to the cities. This brings with it social challenges that are normally addressed by charitable organizations through its benefactors. However humanitarian endeavors and the non profit sector is something new for China who for the first time is giving this a great deal of consideration. WIN's history of humanitarian work in many emerging nations has given us the experience needed to help nations like China and its leaders overcome some of the hurdles associated with providing social services.

Thus begins a huge shift for the Chinese government as it begins to look for ways to accept the work of non-governmental organizations and to understand the value of partnering with them to address the many needs that have arisen as part of one of the largest migrations in history of people leaving the rural areas to look for a better life in China's growing cities.

So even as the Gobe dessert dust penetrates every aspect of Chinese life when the wind begins to blow, China is looking for ways to positively penetrate societies most vulnerable - the millions of Chinese who live in their cities perimeters with few if any of the basic human needs so many of us take for granted.



How is WIN helping? By sharing our knowledge when invited to do so. Using our own paradigms to foster change in China can only backfire. One government official with much wisdom told me that other western entities had come to 'do training' with unhelpful results.

This seems to be a familiar pattern with western organizations who still live under the illusion that they know best when it comes to understanding the plight of the poor in developing nations. Few of them take the time or make the effort to understand the local culture, both spiritually, politically and socially and then to share their expertise and knowledge as a form of mutual learning. After all we must never forget that we have as much to learn as we have to teach. The two are not mutually exclusive. They go together. With this attitude we will achieve so much more in our efforts to bring help when it is needed and asked for. When China says it is looking for models to replicate it means "we want your ideas" but we will then decide what we use and what we don't.

This shouldn't be an issue for the organization that is motivated to sharing educational and other resources to improve the lives and living conditions of others. In the end it is helping the poor and the marginalized that counts, not who gets the glory for what is accomplished.

Over the years WIN has extended its global reach through training and education and continues to receive invitations to address these needs all over the world.



Volunteer Spotlight on.... Nancy Vann

Our featured volunteer in this edition is Nancy Vann. Nancy joined us in September of last year. Nancy is a resident of the nearby Woodridge neighborhood and first heard about our Renewal Food Bank last summer when Bellevue Foursquare Church did a local neighborhood food drive. Nancy was born and raised in Maryland, and moved to Washington in 1980. Nancy worked 32 years for the Federal Government, the last several years working in the Federal Court System.

Not only does Nancy work every Monday and Wednesday at the Renewal Food Bank but she also volunteers twice a week at Hopelink's food bank. She has been with Hopelink for more than four years. "I enjoy the clients and volunteers here at Renewal" Nancy says. "I like the atmosphere and smaller size of Renewal" she adds.

Among Nancy's interest outside of volunteering includes riding a segway to and from the food bank during the summer. She also enjoys cooking.

"Nancy has been an amazing asset to our food bank" says Rich Bowen, Renewal's Food Bank manager. "She is a tireless worker and very organized, I don't know how we got along without her", Bowen adds.

