

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

PROJECT #1:

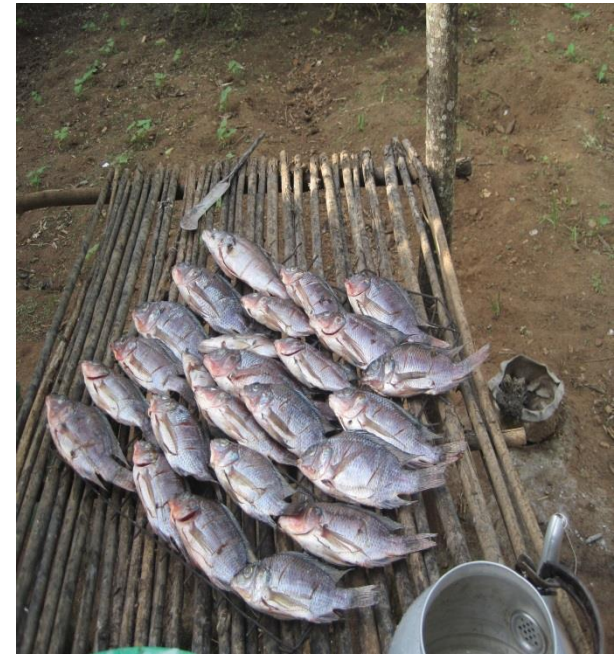
SUSTAINABLE MICROFINANCE FOR WOMEN

- To expand the microfinance program for poor women in Rural Ghana: Jinijini Women's Project and Akropong Women's Project
 - Micro-agricultural projects
 - Food preparation and selling projects
 - Petty trading projects
- Service-Learning Project Goal:
 - Raise funds to support the expansion of the micro-projects initiated by groups of poor women in Jinijini and Akropong, Ghana.
 - A poor rural woman receives interest-free micro-loans for one year. She generates profit through her small business. This profit becomes her new seed money to continue her business when she pays the entire loan. The paid loan is given to another poor woman in the village. The process continues to expand to other poor women
- Contribution from Winter 2012 and Winter 2013:
 - In Winter 2012 a student group in SOC 211 (Introduction to Africa) raised money through their service-learning projects to support 5 micro-projects initiated by poor women in Jinijini. As of Summer 2013 four of the five women have paid the loan in full and had saved up about 75% or more of the original value of the loan to continue with their businesses. One of the five women needed more time to sell her agricultural produce to pay back the loan. The paid back loans have been given to another four poor women to start their small businesses.
 - In Winter 2013 a student group in SOC 211 (Introduction to Africa) raised money through their service-learning projects to support 6 micro-projects initiated by poor women in Akropong. They are expected to pay the loan in full in May 2014. When it is paid it will go to another six women to start their businesses.



PROJECT #2: SUSTAINABLE MICROFINANCE FOR MEN IN ISALO VILLAGE, UGANDA

- **Service-Learning Project Goal:**
 - Raise funds to support the fish nets micro-projects initiated by a group of poor men in Isalo village, Uganda.
 - A poor rural woman receives interest-free micro-loans for one year. She generates profit through her small business. This profit becomes her new seed money to continue her business when she pays the entire loan. The paid loan is given to another poor woman in the village. The process continues to expand to other poor women
- The fishermen groups still need help. We are planning to provide training so they can begin looking at this from a market oriented perspective. We discovered that they take the activity casually because it is regarded as simply a source of occasional fish dish and money whenever it comes. The good nets cost between \$25 and \$40, the more money the longer the net and the more durable type. I am glad your Students would like to support the men in Isalo. Thank you for sharing with them (Agnes Twoli, Executive Director of Women First, Uganda).



PROJECT #3:

AFRICA CALLING: Communication for Transformation & Sustainability

- **Service-Learning Project**
Goal:
 - Organize information booths about Africa Calling at Camosun, Uvic., etc.
 - Collect dropped off phones from boxes in various locations in Victoria.
 - Wipe data from collected phones
 - Organize phones for shipment



PROJECT #4:

Narrowing the Digital Gap in Education

- **Service-Learning Project**
Goal:
 - Raise funds to supplement the existing AAC fund for shipping 16 computers to a rural Senior High School in Ghana as part of AAC's computers-for education program in the Third World
 - Collect used and working laptop computers to add to the 16 PCs to be shipped



PROJECT #5:

Sustainable Education

- **Human Factor Leadership Academy (HFLA) in Akatse, Volta Region of Ghana**
- (visit <http://humanfactorla.com>)
- **Service-Learning Project Goal:**
 - Raise funds to purchase school supplies for HFLA
- **Contribution from 2012:**
 - In 2012 a group of students in SOC 211 raised \$980.00 through their service-learning project. One hundred bags of cement were purchased to help complete building the classroom block.



PROJECT #6:

AIDS CHILDREN'S PROJECT IN TANZANIA

- I wanted to contact you regarding your Sociology 211 class that starts in January and the Service Learning Project that your students do. I was wondering if some of them may be interested in fundraising for their project for my orphanage in Tanzania. In the new year we are going to be pushing forward in an effort to raise approximately \$45,000 to purchase 3.5 acres of land in order to build our Children's Village. The village will allow us to care for the children who are aged 5 and above that are starting school and cannot live at the orphanage anymore. The village will provide them with family style living accommodations so they do not have to be in boarding school. By having the Children's Village we will be able to reach out to more children and families in the area through daycare drop off programs, and have children live with us that are HIV positive. Through the village they will be able to be day students and some back to the village in the evening for help with homework, shared mealtimes and of course love. We have our pilot house starting in January, so this will give us some time to work out the kinks while we raise money to purchase the land, and start building.
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- If you have any students that would be interested in raising funds through their Service Learning Project for The Small Things I would be more than happy to meet with them and provide them any information that they would like. In the meantime please feel free to check out our website and see what we have been, and are doing.
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- www.thesmallthings.org
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- Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and blessings for 2014.
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- Kristina Alexander
- kristina.l.alexander@gmail.com



PROJECT #6:

AIDS CHILDREN'S PROJECT IN TANZANIA

- **MORE INFORMATION**
- “We can do no great things, only small things with great love. ~ Mother Teresa
- The Children's Village project aims to provide a safe, nurturing environment for orphaned and vulnerable children as they age out of local orphanages. At age five the Nkoaranga kids go to boarding school through sponsorship and our partners at The Foundation for Tomorrow. However, boarding school is emotionally tough at any age, and even more so for five year olds who have experienced trauma. Therefore, 'The Small Things' vision is to integrate these children into a Children's Village, which will contain modular family-style homes with 8-10 children in each, and the children will attend high quality local day schools; then return home. We feel this is the optimum way to nurture these children at just the point where many organizations' support stops. In addition, we will be able to take on children from a number of local homes that provide care only for young babies, assist children who are orphaned at older ages or who have been living on the street, and provide safe and sanitary facilities for children with health needs including HIV/AIDS. Finally, we plan to provide different levels of care for families who want to keep their children, but just need a little help to get by. This will take the form of a free day care and community center.
- The first stage of our project has already happened, in the form of our pilot house for the children who started school in January 2014. We are now looking to raise the necessary funds to begin building on our land and get the Children's Village underway. Every child deserves a place to call their home.
- www.thesmallthings.org
- Kristina Alexander
- kristina@thesmallthings.org
- From all the staff and children at Nkoaranga Orphanage, Asante Sana! (Thank you!)

