



NEWSLETTER FALL 2018

ZIMBABWE, AFRICA

We received a report from Christian Care, a partner organization of [Global Ministries](#) on the low-input gardens (LIG) project that GWAH funded last year. The main goal was to reduce the rate of malnutrition in Chipinge district. One hundred nutritionally vulnerable households were selected to participate in this project. Eligible were households with at least one member who fit into the following categories -pregnant and new mothers, families with children under the age of five, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons living with tuberculosis, or persons with disabilities. The main objective of the project is to increase the quantity and variety of mineral rich vegetables available and to improve knowledge of nutrition. Funds were used for teaching trainers about low-input gardens. The trainers then instructed villagers on how to plant and maintain seeds and crops, and to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy diet.



Keyhole Garden

Christian Care purchased and distributed one hundred packs of assorted vegetable seed and one hundred sets of small garden tools. The vegetable packs included seeds for mineral rich vegetables such as spinach, beans, butternut, rape, mustard, and tomato, among others. Approximately 75% of the households have been able to meet their daily vegetable requirements, and many are selling the surplus to earn additional income which they use toward expenses such as grain milling, purchase of additional food items, and non-food items such as soap. Because of the proximity of the gardens to the participants' homes, disabled persons, persons with illnesses, and young children are able to participate actively in the gardens. Participants also highlighted that the risk of sexual abuse among women and girls when traveling to a remote garden is no longer a concern. The keyhole gardens have excellent water conservation capacity, as water is very scarce in most of the communities in Chipinge.

GUATEMALA

In June staff and students from [Vamos Adelante](#) were faced with a terrible outbreak of the volcano Fuego which left many people from San Miguel Los Lotes and El Barrio homeless. Several of the students died, others lost their families. Nina Jorgensen, director of *Vamos* writes: "Trying to motivate them to continue to study was and is not easy but the staff helped as best as they could by extending scholarships, and paying for expenses such as bus, food, and sometimes rent when there were no shelters available yet. The *Vamos* staff and volunteers were cooking for over 1000 people and are still feeding 150 people daily. Sadly, within the last

week the volcano has again increased its activity and the roads around it were closed.” Recently, *Vamos* has reported that volcanic activity continues. Ms. Jorgensen has written that “We sort of live with this right now but we are keeping a huge eye on the volcano.”

ANNUAL FALL PARTY

The GWHHA officers and board hosted its annual party on October 25th at the Tomes Higgins House. Attendees were able to listen to presentations from two of our partner organizations: Fr. Emmanuel Ihemedu, president of [Marycare Nigeria](#) talked about the skill acquisition program that was recently funded by GWHHA (see Spring 2018 newsletter).

Marycare, Inc. is a nonprofit organization based in Hartford, CT. that works to break the vicious cycle of poverty in the community of Ejemekwuru, Nigeria through the above-mentioned skill acquisition program, small-scale loans, and nutritional programs. It also runs a health care clinic that provides care and medication for over 3,000 registered patients.



Fr. Emmanuel and Meg Orazio

Fr. Emmanuel noted the persistent challenges that face the impoverished, most often, through no fault of their own: “Many people in the isolated district of Ejemekwuru are poor, not because of their moral failure; they are poor because they inherited generational poverty. This is what Warren Buffet meant when he said that being poor or rich is often a function of an ‘Ovarian Lottery’.”

GWHHA recently partnered with [Hope for Haiti](#), a nonprofit organization with offices in Les Cayes, Haiti, Naples, FL, and Stamford, CT that “works to improve the quality of life for the Haitian people, particularly children.” The organization just celebrated its 30-year anniversary. Sarah Porter, Director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships, and Meg Orazio, Chief Impact Officer, explained how the organization creates sustainable communities in five key areas of long-term development: education, nutrition and healthcare, clean water, infrastructure, and economy with the belief that education is the foundation of community development and the way out of poverty. Hope for Haiti supports over 7,200 students at 24 schools, mainly in the rural South of Haiti.



Peter Linderoth and Ros Brady

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The GWHHA board of directors welcomes Mr. Peter Linderoth as a new board member. Peter is the Water Quality Program Manager at Save the Sound. He worked in the Education and Science Departments at the Bruce Museum prior to joining the team at Save the Sound. He also serves on various committees and boards in the Greenwich area.