The Power of the Sun

To celebrate the success of his Malawian Tin Smith business, Alpha Munumba (pictured above) used his portion of the group’s profits to make a purchase that will enhance the quality of his life: he bought a small 1-watt solar panel to use for lighting, charging cell phones, and watching TV.

Small solar panels, such as the one that Alpha bought, are becoming a common source of inexpensive electric power for people living in Malawian villages where solar energy means families can save money on increasingly expensive kerosene gas and reduce the amount of kerosene fumes in their living space.

Another SIA Grant recipient, Camily Wedende, in Eldoret, Kenya also uses the power of the sun to fulfill the daily needs of refugees.

Camilly teaches people to use solar cookers to prepare their daily meals and pasteurize water. “Many families are interested in learning and using solar cookers, and most of the trainings are in the refugee camps where life is hard, where a piece of firewood cannot be found and where water is highly contaminated.” Since January, his organization Sun Cookers International has sold five cookers.

Used in conjunction with the solar cooker, the Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI) is a thermometer that lets people know when water is safe to drink. A small piece of wax in a plastic vile drops to the bottom of the tube when the water has been heated up to 149°F, which means that it is free from harmful microbes.

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Camilly promotes the use of the WAPI with this reminder:

Wax Up = Not Yet Safe
Wax Down = Safe Water
The Spirit in Action Movement

This is certainly an ACTIVE time for Spirit in Action and the movement that we are part of - which views international development as a path towards freedom and peace.

For one thing, each day we are interacting with individuals all around the world, listening to their ideas, encouraging them along the way, and helping them, in turn, help others in their families and communities.

In a very literal way, SIA has also moved its office from the glorious lakes and plains of Minnesota to the shining coastline of California. We always welcome your mail, calls and emails! Please make sure you note our new address:

PO Box 3384
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
(831) 227-1169
spiritinaction@sbcglobal.net

We’ve taken a step into the current of social media! Check out our blog (www.godsspiritinaction.org/news) or, if you are on Facebook, become a fan of Spirit in Action. We post full versions of newsletter stories, frequent updates from our grant recipients, and a full color version of this newsletter.

Pssst. Watch for our new website - coming soon!

The Path of Transformation
Del Anderson, March 2006

- Begin right where you are with what you have.
- Give thanks to God for the gift of your own special life.
- Thank God for family, friends, community and for all that has brought you to this present, holy moment.
- Each day, spend time with God in the silence, sensing God's Spirit of love within YOU.
- Let go of all that binds and limits you, and sense God's empowering Spirit coming forth within you more and more fully, day by day.
- Open to gratitude, expectation and wonder.
- Recognize that you are a Spiritual being with God's indwelling Spirit activating you.
- In the quiet, sense the true needs of yourself, your family, your community.
- Lay these true needs before God, opening to God's guidance and empowerment, letting God come forth in every aspect of your life.

Meet our new Board members!

Name: Boyd Cothran
Where I live: Santa Cruz, CA
on my way to New Haven, CT
Profession: PhD Candidate in History
Age: 27
What I like most about SIA: Its donors who are wonderful people seeking to do good by empowering strangers half a world away to succeed.
What I find most exciting about SIA: I find SIA's Small Business Fund to be the most exciting aid program in the non-profit world right now. Paying it forward instead of paying it back builds community while preserving resources.

Warm welcome to our new Board Member Richard Kostyrka and Advisory Board members Barbara and Bob Deal!
We are deeply grateful to retiring Board members Ray and Marcia Larsen for their dedication and support to Spirit in Action over the years and for hosting the last board meeting at their lovely home!

Name: Zoë Carlson
Where I live: Santa Barbara, CA
Profession: Environmental Science Management
Age: 25
What I like most about SIA: I like being part of a community "co-creating with God" to sustain the world.
What I find most exciting about SIA: I find that SIA excites my spiritual, social, and environmental ethic. I also like the humility of Del and his words. I have been particularly inspired by The Path of Transformation [See left]. I enjoy beginning every morning right where I am and giving thanks to God for the gift of my own special life.

OUR MISSION: SPIRIT IN ACTION is a network of committed people world-wide who are serving God by empowering others. Spirit in Action is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable foundation. Tax ID# 93-1207351
Last year two generous contributors donated used laptop computers to SIA. After clearing the memory, we distributed them to two long-time SIA partners to use as they serve in their communities. As you can imagine, the benefits of receiving even a used laptop computer are great for our international partners.

Before receiving the laptop from SIA, Jacob had to pay high fees while composing emails.

As a SIA Small Business Fund Coordinator in the DR Congo, Jacob Lipandasi is responsible for emailing regular updates and reports about the small business groups that he coordinates. Before receiving the laptop from Spirit in Action, Jacob had to travel 3-4 hours by van to the next town to visit an Internet café and then pay the high fees while composing emails. “But now, helped by the flash drive Spirit in Action sent to me, I can write my message or story slowly in my home using our beautiful laptop and then I bring it to the public cyber café for the Internet. We save time and funds in this good way.”

Musindo uses his new laptop in Zimbabwe.

Musindo has already secured contracts to print report cards for two schools, making an arrangement with the school’s development committee for a deposit payment to buy a printer. In addition to report cards, he will print medical cards for patients at clinics in his community. “I will charge affordable fees for my services so that I will be able to sustain myself and keep the laptop working.”

“I thank all the staff at SIA and everyone who made it possible for this donation to be successful. I want to share this letter so that others can come to know the good work that SIA is doing for God’s people around the world.”

What will he use for power to charge the computer? Solar panels, of course. For more stories of how SIA partners are using solar power, see page 1.

If you have a used laptop with some life left in it to contribute to our international partners, contact SIA at: spiritinaction@sbcglobal.net

Thank you!

You can leave a living, vibrant, active legacy!
Please consider including SIA in your will or living trust.

Del Anderson founded Spirit in Action in 1996 as a way to continue his dream to empower individuals in developing countries. Through a charitable bequest in your will or living trust, you can join SIA in sustaining Del’s vision of a world filled with supportive love. Your planned gift will help us fund sustainable projects that continue to expand and fund themselves long into the future.

How do I include Spirit in Action in my will or living trust?

The most common way people remember our organization in a will or living trust is through a charitable bequest. If you already have a will or living trust, you do not have to rewrite your current documents to add a gift to Spirit in Action; you simply add an amendment. Here is some suggested language you can have your attorney review:

“I give and bequeath ______% of the residue and remainder of my estate (or the sum of $_______) to Spirit in Action, Tax ID# 93-1207351, located in California, for unrestricted/restricted support.”

Thank you! If you have already included SIA in your will or estate planning arrangements, please let us know! We’d love to share our gratitude now.

For more information, please contact Tanya Cothran at the SIA office: 831-227-1169, spiritinaction@sbcglobal.net, or write her at PO Box 3384 Santa Cruz, CA 95063.
Every Spirit in Action Small Business Fund (SIASBF) grant begins with a visionary Coordinator and a generous donor. These Coordinators in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and beyond are the wellspring of our mission and these donors from around the world are the foundation of our success.

A SIASBF grant starts when SIA identifies an individual community leader and begins to develop a relationship founded upon respect and trust. Once we’ve developed a sustainable relationship, the SIA Board invites that person to become a SIASBF Coordinator.

Coordinators are then encouraged to identify members of their community who are most in need, especially disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals and those struggling to cover basic needs. The coordinator then works with each business group (collaborations of three more or people) to developed a viable business plan. Godfrey Matovu, a coordinator in Uganda explains, “In our all communities, all our small business groups are chosen from the poorest and neediest in our areas of work. The best manner to manage it is to encourage them to work together.”

Initial grants of $100 provide these micro-entrepreneurs with startup capital, and a $50 follow-up grant after three months allows them to grow to their fullest potential.

Throughout the process, Coordinators hold regular workshops, offering SIASBF recipients time for fellowship, training in communication, listening prayer and consensus agreement, instruction in record keeping, calculating costs and expected profits, marketing, and planning.

Most importantly, during these workshops, the Coordinator explains SIA’s belief in Sharing the Gift – the idea that instead of paying SIA back for the grants they receive, recipients are asked to pay the grant forward, reinvesting in their community.

Once a business has begun, Coordinators establish a regular schedule for visiting them, reviewing their progress, and providing them with support. After three months, each business fills out a report setting out a plan for saving and reinvesting to expand their businesses and explaining how their efforts are impacting their communities.

Finally, the Coordinators send SIA a record of their expenses, One-Year reports on every business, and lots of photographs.

Throughout the life of a SIASBF grant, the SIA office is communicating with the Coordinators, solving problems, sharing in successes, and offering suggestions and encouragement.
SIA Small Business Fund

Dennis Kiprop, SIA Small Business Fund Coordinator in Eldoret, Kenya, combines training sessions of new business groups with those groups receiving their 2nd continuing grant. “I like combining the previous groups with new groups to create an enabling environment for practical development for the new groups. When they hear how existing groups speak about their businesses and their experiences, it helps the new groups be more efficient.”

New business leader Moses Kigen (Kenya) says, “We didn't know at first how to coordinate the activities within the group, but when SamuelTeimuge and Dennis Kiprop trained us about listening prayer and reaching consensus agreement, we saw a ray of light come our way and we began to understand there’s a higher power, higher guidance, a higher understanding.”

Why I contribute to SIA – from a SIA supporter:

Del called the Barksdale Foundation one day requesting some articles. We talked briefly, he told me about SIA and its work. I’ve been receiving your newsletters ever since and just feel connected somehow in Spirit. **SIA is an organization I really trust so it is a pleasure to be able to donate from time to time.** Thank you for the loving, good work you do. - Jan Bennett

Del’s words of encouragement: **Don’t let impossibilities intimidate you – do let possibilities motivate you!**

Pictured above: Business leader Joseph Chepsielei signs for his $50 follow-up grant. “When we received the first grant, all our focus was to just start a butcher; little did we know that it can just grow so fast to be a food kiosk!” (L to R: Monica Chepsielei, Joseph, and Coordinator Dennis Kiprop)

Pictured left: DR Congo Uniform Sewing business: After 3 months they had made $135 in profit - enough to buy an additional used sewing machine to expand their business. Coordinator, Jacob Lipandasi praises, “This group provides uniforms to the poorest. Before their business good uniforms were for rich families only.”

Recent photos from the field, relevant articles, testimonials, & more!

Types of SIA Small Businesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jacky: A mother to orphans

Jacky Buhoro has been blessed with eight healthy children of her own and yet many more children are lucky enough to call her mother. In 2004, one of Jacky and Jacob’s sons asked his parents to pay the fees for an orphan in his class. That was the beginning of Jacky and Jacob’s ministry to orphans...

Years of violence in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have left many orphans, fatherless children, and widows in need of assistance in Jacob Lipandasi and Jacky’s border town community of Bakuvu. Responding to the need, Jacky and Jacob, who is a SIA Small Business Fund Coordinator, now care for 25 additional children in their home and in other host families in their community. I recently had the opportunity to interview Jacky about her service:

Tanya: Tell me about your work with orphans:
Jacky: To help these orphans living with us to study, I organized a nursery school. It helps my orphans and also other children of vulnerable families with no access to public schools because their parents are unable to pay. During the holidays the older children come and learn carpentry in the studio of Jacob with other orphans.

Tanya: What are some of the topics you teach?
Jacky: Our mission is to re-connect children with the earth and to help them understand the importance of growing food in an organic intensive way. Focusing on active and participatory learning and learn-to-create. The topics I prefer to teach are farming and the basics of Grow Bio-intensive, small gardens, small livestock, construction of solar cookers and the use of Water Pasteurization Indicator (WAPI). [See solar article on pg. 1]

Tanya: How do you and Jacob work together on your projects to help others?
Jacky: We organize our time to visit the poorest of our communities and put our attention to widows, orphans and disabled in our pastoral ministry. With the support of Spirit in Action, we organized the community garden and piggery for the widows and the craft workshop. We helped the widows to plant trees and banana trees, because before it was taboo for a woman to do that in our communities.

Tanya: What inspires you to give your time to help others in your community?
Jacky: It is the expression of the joy of free grace in Jesus Christ that motivates us in the infinite love of God and our way of serving God by serving others. It is our goal to share the gift with others, share our compassion for the poor especially illiterate girls and women. "As Christians, we are called to change by doing".

"As Christians, we are called to change by doing".

www.godsspiritinaction.org/news
Read the SIA blog for the full interview!
Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed between November 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010.

Anonymous (2)
Ian & Denby Adamson
Betty Lou Bargo
Elizabeth Barnard
June Berry
Allen & Phyllis Blume
BJ Boone
Jan Burnett
Dorothy Burton
Paul David Burton
Mac & Marilynn Dunham
Alfred Durrance
Eloise English
Barbara & Tim Farley
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GFWC Menominee Woman’s Club
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Florence Crago
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Ted & Gloria Lomax
Ray Pitsker, Jr.
Del & Lucile Anderson
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Scott & Rosemary Anderson and family
By Dennis & Marsha Johnson
Maggie Arner
By Catherine Martin
Scott & Paige Bayer
By John & Tish Bayer
Bobbie & Dick Corson
By Dennis & Marsha Johnson
Boyd & Tanya Cothran
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By Dennis & Marsha Johnson
Geoff & Martha Gould
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Doug Haner & Bonnie
By Dennis & Marsha Johnson
Dennis, Marsha & Karl Johnson
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Karen Ande & Jeff Johnson
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Harriet Kidd family
By Patti James
Moussa Konare
By John & Tish Bayer
Adam & Helen Ludvigson
By John & Tish Bayer
Millie Millar
By Tanya & Boyd Cothran

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF
Marion Elliott
By Kathleen Elliott & David Jones
Ermy Scott
By Regina Jimenez

THANK YOU to everyone who helped SIA raise over $10,000 from August to December 2009. Each contribution was matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous grant from several SIA Board members!

Man makes banana juice in DR Congo.

Yes! I want to directly impact an individual’s life with a gift to Spirit in Action.

Name(s) _____________________________
Address _____________________________
City ______________ State ______   Zip _______
Email _____________________________
__ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.
__ $30* (15 chickens)
__ $50 (one year school fees for a child)
__ $75 (skills and leadership training session)
__ $100 (initial small business grant)
__ $150 (full funding for a new small business)
__ Other $__________

I would like to make a gift in honor / memory of:
____________________________________

Please send me information about:
__ making a gift of stock
__ including SIA in my estate plans

Please mail your contribution with this form to:
Spirit in Action
PO Box 3384
Santa Cruz CA 95063

Remember, donations to Spirit in Action are tax deductible! Tax ID#93-12073

*These amounts represent an estimate of the costs for SIA to provide the gift described. Each “gift” represents a contribution to the entire mission of SIA and funds are allocated to projects as decided by the SIA Board of Directors.
Sharing the Gift, Paying it Forward

Godfrey Matovu, when explaining about SIA during a small business training session in Uganda, said, “SIA is a group of kind people who decided to help the poor and the needy with the little which they have, such that the small can become big and help our family.”

When each person contributes a little, together we do make a big difference. That is the reason I imagine the simplest phrase to describe our work is: MICRO GRANTS, MAJOR CHANGE. There is no limit on the impact that a humble show of generosity - whether by our supporters or those business owners that Share the Gift with others - can make in the life of another human being.

God Calling... YOU

by Del Anderson

God Speaks to You, to Me, to Spirit in Action

If you hear My voice and obey Me, I will use this very small organism called SPIRIT IN ACTION as leaven, as a mustard seed, as Light.

A dream has no dimension, no boundaries, no limitations. In Me, you have the Wisdom, Love and Power to be My instrument in bringing My Kingdom into manifestation here and now.

For the full text of “God Calling” and more of Del’s writings, please visit: www.godsspiritinaction.org

Lilian and Tony in the radish patch. The Balayiro Women Self-Help Group in Kenya planted a garden for their families with seeds donated to SIA by Thomsen’s Garden Center in Alameda.