We drove down a dusty road that looked more like a footpath until we saw a man waving us down from the edge of a field. The man was Winkly Mahowe of Manyamula Village, Malawi. That afternoon he had invited Boyd Cothran and me to visit his family and hear his story.

Winkly proudly welcomed us inside his home, urging us to sit down on the soft sofa. He called his wife and four children to his side and began to tell the story about how he came to be living in this nice house with a sty of five pigs out front.

In 2007, Winkly met with Canaan Gondwe, the local SIA Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinator, to ask him how he could get a business grant. Canaan told him that at that time there were no more grants but that one of the other successful SBF groups had a pig to give to help someone start a new business through the Sharing the Gift program. After initial hesitation, Winkly accepted the gift of the pig and began to care for the runty, sickly pig, “Canaan told me, something which I will not forget, ‘you have to think big, think outside the box,’ so I apply this principle today.”

Through loving care, dedication, and some advice from Canaan, Winkly has since raised and sold 26 pigs in the market, raising over $150. The house, the comfortable sofa, and the food for his family and his widowed mother, all came from the gift of a pig.

Winkly concluded with this message to us: “When you get back to the U.S., speak to our friends, say that ‘the donation you make, you are not throwing it in the water. It is helping someone in need. It is alleviating the life of somebody.’”

“See, our friends in the US gave to us; they shared their hearts with us. So we too, in turn, need to share what we have tried to accumulate with other less privileged people amongst us. Is that not so?”

- Canaan Gondwe
"Turning from the thought, 'There's nothing I can do to help my situation,' to Jesus' assurance that 'With God all things are possible,' I can take new, simple steps that lead to the good life that God wants for me." - Del, 1997

**OUR MISSION: SPIRIT IN ACTION**

is a network of committed people world-wide who are serving God by empowering others. **SIA is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, charitable foundation.**

The past few months has been filled with both opportunities and challenges. As we look back on the last six months, SIA is proud of its accomplishments. **Some highlights include:**

- New small businesses (over 25 total!) in Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda
- Administrator visited over 33 SIA projects in Malawi and Kenya
- 12 participants at the Coordinator’s Conference in Kenya in August

Financial Overview from April 1 - October 1, 2011

- Incoming Contributions: $23,968
- Africa Trip & Coordinator’s Conference: $11,601
- Small Business Fund Grants: $4,125
- Fundraising Costs: $259

We are excited about these new opportunities to serve those in need. We would appreciate your prayers, comments, ideas and questions about SIA’s activities. We welcome your tax-deductible contributions that support SIA’s outreach. **Tax ID# 93-1207351**

**Recognizing Skills in Others**

A Story about Del Anderson, SIA’s Founder by Dennis Johnson

We often think of Del as a successful businessman. In 1936, he bought a dry cleaning business in Alameda, CA which had the distinction of being the first drive-in dry cleaners in town. That business - Revelation Cleaners on Encinal Avenue - still exists today.

But here is something that people may not know. Some time after buying that business, Del realized that he was in trouble. He had wonderful employees and wonderful customers, but Del realized that he did not have the organizational skills to be a successful manager. In fact, the business was on the verge of going under.

At the same time, he realized that in the back room there was a woman working the presses who was cheerful and had good relations with the customers and her fellow employees alike. Del had the idea of asking her if she would consider a promotion to store manager. She accepted, and immediately the business started to turn around. Within a few years, the cleaners was highly profitable and five years later, Del was able to sell to a new owner and retire on his investments.

Del attributes all of his success to this undervalued woman, in whom he saw a lot of potential. When he said “Let go and let God,” he was speaking from personal experience.
What I learned in Africa.

1. What did you learn about SIA during your trip to Malawi and Kenya this summer?

I saw clearly that SIA has a program that works! We are flexible enough to respond to the needs in a specific community. Rather than think everything looks like a nail because we have a hammer, SIA partners with community members and leaders to address their needs and challenges.

2. How did this trip change your view on SIA?

I think what came through over the course of the trip is the importance of the Small Business Fund (SBF) coordinators. It’s not just that SIA has a system for grants. But it also has a group of passionate people who want to improve their communities. They volunteer their time and give tirelessly, not for their own gain, but in order to help others. Meeting all eight coordinators brought home to me the importance of what SIA does.

3. What is one moment you cherish as you think back on the trip?

One early morning, I went with Canaan Gondwe (SBF Coordinator, Malawi) as he went out to care for his pigs. As he injected the piglets with iron to keep them healthy, he talked to me about raising pigs and the pig market in Malawi. In this way, he was showing me how he shares all his knowledge with the people he trains for SIA SBF. They share knowledge with other, building upon skills they have to help each other be successful and be food secure. It revealed to me that our partners don’t need an outside “expert”, they just need my support and encouragement.

THANK YOU to all the donors who made this visit possible. SIA partners send their gratitude for your encouragement and support.

This trip has been so energizing for me. For some it was the first time to get into a plane, and the first time to come to Kenya. Thank you thank you so much.

-Yewo chimene.
-Canaan Gondwe, Malawi

Boyd (left) learns from Samuel Teimuge about how to grind corn stalks into feed for cows.

Thank you thank you so much.
-Yewo chimene.
-Canaan Gondwe, Malawi
Since 2004, eighty-six businesses have been started in Ofonime Nkoko’s community. These businesses have touched many hundreds of people in the villages in rural Nigeria.

When new business groups receive their first $100 grant, which is a significant amount of money where two-thirds of the population live on less than $1.25/day, they are asked to consider how they can share this gift with another family.

Nkoko, who trains the new members and helps them design their businesses, explains: “I use a tithing model for “Sharing the Gift.” Each group pledges to tithe a specific percentage of their profit at the end of the year.” As they become successful, they plan to give 3-5% of their profit to another family in need. Through their generosity, 5 new businesses have been started without any SIA support! This truly is grassroots - neighbors helping neighbors.

SIA Small Business Fund reaches remote, rural areas in Africa, including the small island of Ihyo in Lake Kivu, which is a region long caught in the middle of boundary disputes between Rwanda and DRC.

Francois Hamuli expressed his gratitude for SIA in his community, saying, “SIA has helped people get food. Also, sharing food and eating together unites people. Once, we brought all 32 SIA Small Business Fund groups together and it united a divided community.” There is little economic opportunity on the island but with SBF grants families earn enough to become food secure.

www.godsspiritinaction.org/news
Read the SIA blog for more SBF stories!
Nalu Prossy

“I had that spirit of helping other children from when I was very young,” Nalu told me when we met at the SIA Coordinator’s Conference in Kenya this summer. Nalu is one of our Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinators, responsible for training, monitoring, and encouraging new SIA business leaders in her community of Nawangnisa village, Uganda.

Nalu focuses on encouraging women and girls to start small businesses. “It concerns my heart when I see young girls getting married at age fourteen. What can I do? Their parents don’t have money so what can I do? I can train them and teach them skills, like tailoring and making mats.” So far she has mentored eighty-two people, including eight who did not receive funds from SIA but were invited to participate through the paying it forward program, Sharing the Gift.

Nalu volunteers her time to SIA, fitting visits to SBF groups in after work and on weekends. She gives her time because she has seen the positive influence the SIA SBF has on children in her community. “The young children are happy because they are getting something and they are also hopeful, thinking that there is a future for them. They are no more thinking of getting married when they are young. Men tempt girls at home by giving them presents and the girls don’t have anything of their own.” Now, Nalu works as a tailor in someone else’s shop, but one day she dreams of starting a tailoring workshop where she can train and employ these girls, to empower them and give them hope for the future.

Godfrey Matovu

The local leaders have noticed a change in the community since Godfrey started coordinating SIA small businesses in 2006. “They asked me what was this thing called Spirit in Action? Where did you get this money?” Godfrey responded to their questions by telling them about prayer and consensus agreement. “I tell them that Del Anderson came from a poor family, and so he wanted to help the poor.”

Since 2006, Godfrey has coordinated fifty-five business groups, mostly groups making mats, bricks, or clay pots, or growing tomatoes and cabbages. He emphasized the importance of providing the training before giving the gift of the $150 grant. Part of the training is about Sharing the Gift with another family. “Once the groups make money, they often purchase a pig.” A pig can give birth to eight piglets and then Godfrey encourages them to give one of the piglets to another family. So far eight piglets have been graciously given to other people in the community in need.
What’s Nalu so excited about? It’s about Rose Ayabei’s innovative chicken-warmer. Keeping chicks healthy and warm the first few days is always a challenge, especially in the rainy, cool season in Eldoret, Kenya.

Right underneath the wood burning stove in her cooking hut, Rose constructed a compartment where the chicks are kept warm by the constant cooking fire! Once the chickens are a week old they move to another spot inside the hut where they can keep warm but have more space to move around. Finally, once they are a few weeks old they can move outside.

When we went to visit Rose and her chicken warmer during the Coordinator’s Conference, everyone was very impressed by her advanced techniques. After visiting, Benoit Malenge (DR Congo) said, “I was surprised to see the woman in charge of chickens and that it’s helping her family so much. In DRC it does not happen that way. I will take this information back with me.”

Someday, Rose hopes to earn enough money to send all her children to good schools in town, but for now, she is slowly reinvesting to expand the size of her flock. She started with just 20 chicks after receiving a SIA Small Business Fund grant in 2009, and now has over 100! Camily Wedende (Kenya) was impressed with this initiative, “I saw how she was capable of helping herself rather than always asking for help. And I really saw the importance of reinvestment. Rose needed chicken wire and so she can sell chickens to buy the wire. I think donors will be pleased to see us grow our own businesses.”

Celebrate Lucile Anderson
An Update from Rob Hanford

“Mom is doing well. Even though she doesn’t speak, she does understand things and seems relatively happy and comfortable. We take her out for walks as much as possible which cheers her up. The fall is her time and she loves the fall colors which are just beautiful in Chico. We took her to the movies to see "The Help" which she loved.

There is a great staff where she is staying and they all love her. Even though she doesn’t speak, she says a lot with her eyes. I visit her every single day and she’s getting a lot of love.” (October, 2011)

Thanks for the update, Rob. Lucile is in our prayers for peace and joy! Happy 90th Birthday, Lucile!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice!” -Philippians 4:4
Thank you!

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA from March 16th - Oct. 18th, 2011.

Anonymous (2)
Ian & Denby Adamson
Elizabeth Barnard
John & Tish Bayer
Chris & Elissah Becknell
Bette Betts
Annis Beutke
Ron & Camilla Bixler
Phyllis Blume
Andrea Boone
Karen Brejska
Jan Burnett
Diane Bush
Peter Campbell
Roberta Corson
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Julie Simmons
Barbara Thomas
Peter & Donna Thomas
Ron & Kay Thompson
Pamela & John Toews
RuthAnn Wessman
Thomas & Linda West
David & Constance Zelinsky

DREAMER’S CIRCLE
Supporting SIA with monthly contributions.

Gloria & Sverre Knapstad
Ray & Marcia Larsen
Ed & Pilar Ruddell
Wendy & Terry Silverthorn
Teresa Smith
Becky Sutherland

Yes! I want to empower communities with a gift to Spirit in Action.

Name(s) _____________________________
Address _____________________________
City ______________ State ______   Zip _______
Email _____________________________
__ I would like to receive weekly emails from SIA.
__ I would like my gift to remain anonymous.
I make my gift in honor / memory of:
____________________________________
Please mail your contribution with this form to:
Spirit in Action
PO Box 3384
Santa Cruz CA 95063

I would like to join the DREAMER’S CIRCLE by pledging a gift of $_______ on a (monthly / quarterly) basis.

__ $10* (10 water pasteurization indicators)
__ $30 (Internet for one volunteer for 6 months)
__ $50 (50 chicks)
__ $100 (Empowerment workshop for one girl)
__ $150 (Full funding for a new small business)
__ Other $__________

*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.

You can now donate online through www.justgive.org. Search for “Spirit in Action California.”

GIFTS IN HONOR OF
Del Anderson
By Anonymous
By George Furniss & Sandy Larson
Donald Fillmore
By Pauline Fillmore
Marsha and Dennis Johnson
By Linda Groobin
Rev. Fr. Jim Ross
By Jane Ross
Gloria Knapstad
By Anonymous
Chuck Smith
By Teresa Smith
Claire Sutherland
By Becky Sutherland

Deep gratitude to Elizabeth Barnard, Marsha and Dennis Johnson, and Peter and Donna Thomas who hosted events benefiting SIA this year!

Spirit in Action honors the memory of Charlotte “Sheri” Jefferson (1922-2011) of Bloomington, IN, who left a legacy gift to remember her friendship with Del Anderson.
Meeting SIA Partners Face-to-Face

Above: Tanya with student volunteers at SIA poultry house at Pathfinder Academy in Kitale, Kenya.  
Center: Kelifa Banda, a widow, buys maize and sells it in the market. Now, her older son can go to private school! Manyamula, Malawi  
Left: Camily Wedende shows Tanya, and Dennis Kiprop how the WAPI lets people know when water is safe to drink. Eldoret, Kenya