Spirit in Action began 15 years ago by helping people like Samuel and Rhoda Teimuge, whom our founder, Del Anderson met on his trips abroad. Sharing a dream of promoting simple, sustainable farming techniques, Del and Samuel worked together to establish the Ukweli Training Center near Eldoret, Kenya.

This July Tanya Cothran, SIA’s administrator, and her husband and board member, Boyd Cothran, will travel to Kenya, staying with Samuel and Rhoda, meeting face-to-face our SIA Small Business Fund Coordinators, and conducting a training workshop. They will meet people who have been impacted by SIA projects in Kenya and Malawi, like the members of the MAVISALO Poultry Project (see p. 7) and people using solar cookers (see p. 3).

We have three broad goals that will influence all aspects of our travel and interactions:

1. Deepen respect and understanding between SIA Staff, Board & Partners.
2. Foster dialog between our Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinators to share ideas and improve programs through peer-to-peer training and sharing.
3. Listen to community members to become better stewards of your support.

Continued on page 3.
New SIA President - Tish Bayer

What a delight it has been to serve on the Spirit In Action Board as Treasurer and, this year, as the President-Elect. I have had the opportunity to get to know our coordinators and watch them grow their communities. Their strength and faith has been a blessing to all those with whom they interact. They have grown to depend on Tanya for insight and support as they move ahead with their plans. Tanya and Boyd’s trip to Africa this summer will fill the void they have had to connect in person with her and provide needed training for them. Your gifts of prayer and funds have been the foundation that allows this work to continue. Thank you for letting us share their successes with you through our newsletters and thank you notes. May you be blessed for your efforts.

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.

From June 1, 2010 to March 1, 2011 (9 months):

   Incoming contributions: $ 28,545
   Outgoing funding to projects: $ 18,131

These funded projects include:

♦ Poultry farm and Savings and Loans group in Malawi
♦ Poultry farm and training group in Kenya
♦ Purchasing seeds in Kenya
♦ Small businesses in DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda

At SIA’s November 2010 biannual board meeting $5,875 in funding was approved for these new projects:

♦ Water pasteurization indicators (WAPIs) in Kenya
♦ Small businesses in DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda

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 help to further SIA’s outreach. Tax ID# 93-1207351

Report from the SIA Office

Spirit in Action is a learning organization. This means that everyone involved with SIA is continually learning and refining techniques, whether it be new ways of gardening, or new ways of presenting information, like the new SIA website and blog.

At Spirit in Action, we honor and encourage learning of all kinds and local knowledge is important to us.

We rely on our volunteer SIA Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinators, whom have the expertise, experience, and dedication to create change in their communities. They allow SIA to have a direct impact in the communities we serve.

As part of expanding our cross-organizational learning, this summer I will travel to Kenya to facilitate the SIA SBF Coordinators workshop. This will be a time of knowledge sharing and team building, two important practices for learning organizations. Combining all our local knowledge, we will explore new ways of fostering development and empowerment in economically depressed areas.

After 15 years in operation, SIA still places its connections to passionate people working for economic opportunity and community improvement in their villages as the centerpiece of our strategy. We do not act as “experts” but work together to discover the best way to spur development. Learning means listening first.

Now, the internet has created more places where I can share my learning with you so that you can become more knowledgeable world citizens and compassionate actors in global development. I would encourage you to visit our blog and Facebook page and leave your comments, so that we can learn from you too!

Del Anderson, A Lifelong Learner

I am learning, finally, that in this life each of us has a Divine Plan and a special, particular mission. Our challenge is to be aware of God’s Presence and constantly listening and responding all day with the words, “Yes, Lord, yes!”

~ ~ ~

Christians, followers of Jesus, our part is to be bridge-builders - linking all aspects of life into a unity and oneness.
One of the highlights of the visit to Kenya will be a four-day workshop and training for eight of our Small Business Fund (SBF) Coordinators. This will be the first time that Coordinators from Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Malawi will get together for team building, peer-to-peer learning, and project evaluation. We rely on our Coordinators to implement the on-the-ground training and evaluation of the SBF small business groups. This workshop will further develop their leadership skills and allow them to share about how to guide new business groups and overcome challenges such as drought, low product demand, and illiteracy.

A generous supporter and several SIA Board members have already pledged seed money for this important trip. Travel throughout Africa is costly and we need your help to raise $8,000 to bring all the Coordinators together.

Let us sing and believe the words of the hymn: “My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do for YOU…”
— Camily Wedende, Kenya

Our intention is to use the training workshop as a space to meet individually with the coordinators and also facilitate group learning and discussion. SIA is blessed to have such dedicated volunteers to help run our programs overseas and this ‘Strengthening Spirit in Action’ trip is a valuable opportunity to deepen our bonds of fellowship and unity and enliven our call to serve and empower the poor.

Projects that are led from within a community bring people together and positively impact peoples’ daily lives. People like Camily Wedende in Eldoret, Kenya look at problems in their community and then act to promote solutions. He saw that access to clean water was limited and that boiling water was an unnecessary use of precious firewood. WAPIs (Water Pasteurization Indicators) are a simple solution. Rather than take long, dangerous journeys to get firewood, women can pasteurize water by leaving the water in a solar cooker for a period of time.

“When the wax melts then people know that the water is safe for drinking and when the wax does not melt then the water is unsafe,” explains Camily Wedende, whose organization received a SIA Community Grant to locally purchase and distribute WAPIs. “Many have discovered that solar cookers save time, save money, and pasteurize water.”

SIA works with community-based groups that are already established, giving them maximum ownership of their projects. This respect and trust leads them to feel empowered in their development, rather than feeling dependent.

When asked about why he was driven to serve his community by promoting clean water, Camily replied, “As long as you are blaming other people and outer conditions for misfortunes, you are steadily creating your own poverty.”

Leading the Effort for Clean Water

Camily Wedende shows people in the market how to use the WAPI to make clean drinking water easy and inexpensive.
“I’m particularly touched how flexible the SIA Small Business Fund (SBF) program is. It gives the groups and the Coordinators an opportunity to choose the businesses that suit their skills and ideas. That is one big way of reaching the communities effectively.

The other very unique idea is SHARING THE GIFT. Instead of groups paying loans back to SIA, they pay forward to another a new group to build continuity of hope and light to the community.” – Dennis Kiprop, SIA SBF Coordinator

“A new child is the most beautiful thing to happen to a woman. We have managed to meet our daily needs and sponsored one child to school.” - Shalynn’s Milk Spot

“Rose Aiyabei, calls me each week to tell me about their progress and successes; right now they have 100 chicks!” - D. Kiprop

To start their agriculture ventures, the newest five business groups in northern Malawi bought treadle pumps to irrigate their crops. With a simple foot pump, “The irrigation of horticulture crops like onions, Dimba (maize), tomatoes, and vegetables have been very excellent,” reports Canaan Gondwe, SIA SBF Coordinator.

One family’s onion crop yielded $161 in profit, allowing them to enhance their diet by buying a pig!
Hope Hatching in Kenya
A Report by Joshua Machinga

Common Ground Program - Poultry Project

In Kenya, some of the world’s most breathtaking sights intersect. Mount Kenya looms over Kenya’s plains with its snowy caps glistening under a veil of cloud near the equator. Along the stretching Mara National Reserve, lions, cheetahs, rhinos, hippos, elephants, zebras, gazelles and wildebeests kick up plumes of dust in the world’s largest migration. In Mombasa Archipelago, the labyrinth-like streets are lined with colorful flowers dotting the streets and the air is heavy with the scent of a variety of coastal trees.

Yet, in the midst of such astonishing beauty, life in Kenya is often filled with staggering hardship. Although many families, especially in Rift Valley, rely on subsistence farming, food yields are unpredictable due to poor soil. Often, in northern and western Kenya, local crops like maize, beans, cassava and sweet potatoes only produce a seven-month supply of food each year. Also, few families can afford cattle or goats, and many households manage only a few chickens – due to limited poultry husbandry skills.

Reading from one of the leaflets from Del in 1991, I realized that I was the one to bring the change I wanted to see around me. I worked on small projects in my community with funding from Del. As a routine, he enclosed a $20 bill in every letter he wrote to me until his death in 2008. For the first time Common Ground Program (CGP), a local Kenyan community based organization secured a grant from Spirit in Action in 2010 to develop a poultry project in hopes of building a better tomorrow.

To turn these hopes into a reality, CGP started the poultry project at the Pathfinder Academy school by building a poultry house, buying broilers [raised for meat] and later adding the layers [raised for eggs]. The project had 100% survival of the first batch of chickens. Since last summer, three batches of broilers have been raised and sold, raising a net income of US$ 203 and the second batch of 100 layers was distributed to the local farmers. The first batch is about to begin laying eggs. Currently there are 250 full grown chickens and 49 two-month layers. We are hoping to secure additional funding so that additional chicken coop structures can be built and more chickens can be purchased. The initial concept has been proven with the first batch of chickens, the staff and school children have now acquired the skills necessary to further expand operations.

Due to better results with the first batch, CGP initiated a farmer education and support program. Through this initiative, local farmers and CGP staff have village meetings, or casual information sessions for training. “There has been a steep learning curve on this project,” says Linet Nyongesa. “From understanding the local issues and the best way to integrate project into other village programs, to deciding which groups to engage and where to concentrate efforts.” These efforts have contributed to: (1) Two villagers trained as veterinary aides to carry out the measures; (2) Village chickens vaccinated against the fatal Newcastle disease and other parasites.

In many villages, approximately 35% of school students have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. For these students, access to food and money is scarce, and prospects for the future are limited. In response to these challenges, CGP is working with the students to expand the poultry project at Pathfinder Academy. Already the income from the sale of the broilers paid school fees for Emmanuel Kibotha at St. Anthony Boys High School. The experience will help children develop skills to improve their livelihoods.

Testimonial from Mrs. Lumire: “Many of the students have AIDS and are supposed to be eating a more healthy diet as part of their overall treatment regimen. Before the chicken project, meals consisted mostly of just porridge and beans. Now, families receive at least one egg and maybe two per week as part of their daily meals.”
Thank you!
We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to SIA between Oct. 15th, 2010 - March 15th, 2011.

Anonymous (3)
Ian & Denby Adamson
Phyllis Blume
B.J. Boone
Jan Burnett
Boyd & Tanya Cothran
Helen Dannelly
Frank Dawson
Bob & Barbara Deal
Mary Doughty
Alfred Durrance
Eloise English
George Furniss & Sandy Larson
GFWC Menominee Woman’s Club
Ruth Gosting
Charlie & Barbara Grassl
Anne & Jeff Grell
Daniel & Sherilyn Hagen
Rob Hanford
Ellis & Arlene Harms
Regina Jimenez
Mary Jordan
Kathleen King
Moussa Konare
David & Leveda Law
Marjorie Lucero
Margaret & Clive Mansergh
Gary Millar
Shelley Moeller
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Bronwyn & Robin Pryor
Jerry & Ila Reynolds
Tom & Susan Rickert
Verne Robinson
Jane & James Ross
Marilyn Shreve
Julie Simmons
Susan & Larry Southwick
Chris Stewart
Seung-Nam & Jung-Ja Tae
Warren & Ilene Teeters
Barbara Thomas
Peter & Donna Thomas
Ronald Thompson

DREAMER’S CIRCLE
Honoring those who support SIA with monthly or quarterly contributions.
Gloria & Sverre Knapstad
Ray & Marcia Larsen
Ed & Pilar Ruddell
Wendy & Terry Silverthorn
Teresa Smith
Becky Sutherland

GIFTS IN HONOR OF
Del Anderson
By George & Cathleen Chambers
By James Mahoney
By Scott Leland
Del & Lucile Anderson
By Jacklyn Meurk
Scott & Rosemary Anderson & Family
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
L.S. Barksdale
By Jan Burnett
Scott & Paige Bayer
By Tish & John Bayer
Tish Bayer
By Mark & Laurel Plumb
Bess, Harriet & Charles
By Helen Panitt
Walt Clark
By David & Lana Runyan
Bobbie & Dick Corson
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Boyd & Tanya Cothran
By Millie Millar
By Jerry Rickard
Dimitra Efstathiou
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Geoff & Martha Gould
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Doug Haner & Bonnie Tank
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Jeff Johnson & Karen Ande
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Marsha & Dennis Johnson
By Doug Haner & Bonnie Tank
By Ric & Sue Shafer
Kidd Family
By Pattie James
Lois King
By Sylvia King
Gloria Knapstad
By Merle & Janice Baldwin
Moussa Konare
By Tish & John Bayer
Adam & Helen Ludvigson
By Tish & John Bayer
Mark & Laurel Plumb
By Tish & John Bayer
Natalie Ralston
By George & Cathleen Chambers
Sanfilippo Family
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
In Memory of Everett Schaffer
By Paul Schaffer
Carol Schifferling
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Ric & Sue Shafer
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Chuck Smith
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson
Sylvia Sperry
By Mary Agnew
By Glenn Sperry
By Karen Sperry
By David Sperry
Lois Strong
By Ray Strong
Clarine Sutherland
By Becky Sutherland
George & Claire Tornay
By Tish & John Bayer
Horner & Sira Williams
By Tish & John Bayer
Yensuate Wilson
By Marsha & Dennis Johnson

Beatrice Kibet and her business group in Kenya, started with just 10 chickens and a rooster. They made enough money to build a structure to protect their chickens against predators and rain!

We honor the memory of two SIA Advisory Board members who recently “graduated” into Heaven.
Thank you, Paul Jaun.
Thank you, William Foland.
We send our blessings to their families.
In January, 350 baby chicks made the journey 175 miles northward from Malawi’s capital city of Lilongwe to the little town of Mzimba. Since their arrival, the chicks have been fed, vaccinated, and cared for by the members of the Manyamula Village Savings and Loans (MAVISALO) group.

The group, which now has 41 registered members (46% female members), received a small SIA Community Grant in 2010 to raise chickens and use the combined profits from selling eggs and meat to provide small loans to group members.

“We are on the highway to achieving our goal of raising the required funds to provide financial services to the group members,” reports president Canaan Gondwe.

The members make decisions together at monthly meetings and take turns caring for the chickens. Recently, they began actively recruiting new members from the vulnerable households in their community to join the project.

So far they have approved 28 small loans, providing the needed access to capital to help their community thrive! Look for more updates on the SIA website.

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 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 (room and board for 4-day training in Kenya)
__ $50 (Kenyan visa for a DRC Coordinator)
__ $100 (bus ticket for two from Nairobi to Eldoret)
__ $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.”
By the numbers...

SIA Small Business Fund

$150 grant award for group of 3 or more

445 micro-enterprise groups since 2003

58% female business leaders

50% groups have improved their houses

2/3 feel better about their future

People like Saulos Sakala in Malawi (pictured above) can now reinforce their houses. This family purchased two new doors.

And families like the Ihosqeis in Eldoret, Kenya can send one more child to school.

SIA Community Grants

$47,193 in grants since 2006

to 18 different community-based organizations

in 28 grants awards

Read more stories and see more pics at: http://godsspiritinaction.org/news