



SOHO

SAVING ORPHANS
THROUGH HEALTHCARE
AND OUTREACH

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

PARTNERING FOR CHANGE



AU leadership team joins Swazi Board members and SOHO staff to help feed 300 children at Marekamp slums

In the wake of the Covid pandemic, Eswatini (formerly, Swaziland) has been staggering beneath double blows. Fifteen years ago when SOHO began as a ministry to an exploding population of orphans in the small kingdom, one third of the country was affected by HIV/AIDS, and until two years ago, they had the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world. Today, with a prevalence rate of 26%, the Eswatini, with a population of 1.2 million, still struggles to meet the needs of 120,000 plus orphans and vulnerable children.

The Covid pandemic added another challenge, since the closure of schools resulted in a flood of new births. In this patriarchal society, one in three girls experiences sexual abuse and this takes place mainly where they live, with most perpetrators being people they know. School therefore is a safe place, and it is also where



Children waiting for a meal

many children get the meal that sustains them. An increase in pregnancies among under-aged children has been the legacy of the pandemic.

SOHO is in a unique position to influence positive change in the lives of the children. With title deed land enough to build an entire village of hope and a growing number of partners coming forward, hope is finally rising for these children and youth. He was able to gather valuable insight on agribusiness in Eswatini.

Dr. Alayne Thorpe and Dr. Amy Rosenthal paid multiple visits to Hope Discovery Learning Center where SOHO serves preschoolers from indigent families and children with disabilities. They were able to observe children engaged with an interactive Math program developed by Phillip Prime, to make learning about numbers fun for children. The Principal, Sherwin Abrahams, and the teachers were inspired and encouraged.

A leadership team from Andrews University visited in July and their experiences inspired them to a deep commitment to partner with SOHO.

Participating in this mission was Dr Judith Storfjell, Trustee of Andrews University, and former VP of Loma Linda University. She facilitated many of the discussions that took place. Dr Lawrence (Larry) Schalk, retired CFO, and his wife, Judy; Dr Carey Carscallen, retired Dean of the School of Architecture and Interior design; Dr Alayne Thorpe, Dean of the College of Education and International Services and Associate Provost for Graduate Education; and Dr. Amy Rosenthal, Dean the of College of Arts and Sciences and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.

The team visited with leaders from different disciplines to learn about meeting the needs of the large orphan population, understanding the education system, business development and sustainability, and health care. Dr Larry Schalk had numerous meetings with business



Newborn of under-aged mother



*Sabbath visit to Manzini City Church:
L to R Back row: Carey Carscallen, Larry Schalk, Phillip Prime, Cynthia Prime, Judy Storfjell
Front row: Judy Schalk, Amy Rosenthal, Alayne Thorp.*



Sean Hayter (L) and Frank Hayter converse with Larry Schalk during visit to the Macadamia nut farm



Amy Rosenthal and Alayne Thorpe chat with HDLC GM Sherwin Abrahams



Carey Carscallen (left), discusses the farm with Frank Hayter. Judy Storfjell and Phillip Prime listen in.



Amy Rosenthal chats with Marekamp toddler

experts as well as with the management team at Intsaba farm, focusing his energies on making the Agriculture program sustainable and financially supportive of the children's village. Having been briefed by Dr Tom Chittick, who is overseeing Agriculture at the farm, he was able to gather valuable insight on agribusiness in Eswatini.

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Dr. Carey Carscallen lectured to a capacity audience at Limkokwing University where he motivated students to learn how to convert containers to working and living spaces. He also met with local builders and contractors to discuss the development of children's homes and other structures in the Children's Village. The team also had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Board members of SOHO organizations in Eswatini.

Other partners include Oakwood University, which is planning their leadership team's visit for December, as well as Walla Walla University, whose Engineers Without Borders team will be addressing the design of a waste treatment system.

Hundreds of lives will be changed at Intsaba Children's Village. Partners are invited to share skills and resources: Universities and Colleges, Schools and Churches, Businesses and Humanitarian Organizations. Together we can create a bright and promising future for the children.

OTHER MISSION HIGHLIGHTS



Group discussion at Intsaba



Judy Storfjell, Richard Matsengwa, Educator and Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Ex. Dir. Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse share a moment together.



Cynthia Prime welcomes the team to Intsaba as Farm Supervisor Sean Hayter (far right) looks on.



Visiting on the porch: Mphumelelo Similane, Pamela Cominetti, Alayne Thorpe and Amy Rosenthal



Carey Carscallen chats with the children of the Squatter Camp



A child of the squatter camp

ONE WOMAN'S COURAGE

Slindi Ngcamphala is a woman who knows how to live with grief and loss. Mother of two boys, she managed to eke out a living by selling peanuts by the roadside with her husband. Then he died and she was left to fend by herself. Before losing him, she had 'adopted' a foundling hiding in the bushes near her hut. Mbali, a child of six or seven years of age. She has no birth certificate, so it is difficult to tell.

Members of the Andrews University team visited her hut, a stick-and-mud structure that offered little comfort and questionable security.

Her generosity in taking in a child when she could barely feed her own, attracted the interest of a donor in California who had sent her a

greeting card with a personal message and funds to buy some of the necessities the family lacked.

Her face lit up as she received her items of clothing and watched as Mbali, the rescued orphan, tried on shoes and a warm coat. She also received a small gift of funds to purchase corn for sale. Unfortunately, a few days later, she was robbed as she returned to her home on the way from her work.

Marekamp, where she lives, is unsafe for elderly and children as it is frequented by thieves and traffickers. SOHO currently provides a food parcel monthly for Slindi and a search is in process for a place where a secure home can be found for her and the children.



Mbali, a foundling



Gogo Slindi tries on new clothes



Judy Schalk and Judy Storfjell encourage the children

INTSABA VILLAGE

WHY THE NEED FOR A CHILDREN'S VILLAGE?

- Because of the increasing population of under-aged children having babies, and engaged in human trafficking.
- Children abandoned because they are unwanted or because the caregivers lack resources to support them.
- Odds are greater to become pregnant than to complete high school.
- Stunting and malnutrition affecting the ability of children to learn.
- High suicide rates, because of loss of hope.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE?

A 1082-acre beautiful farm where the windows of opportunity are open wide, and where children can experience the power of God to transform lives and change circumstances.

Envision

- Safe, loving homes
- Skills development
- Quality education
- Health of body, mind and spirit
- A sense of purpose and personal worth.
- Empowerment to overcome adversity and embrace opportunity



Intsaba Farm, site of a Children's Village of hope

WHAT WE NEED NOW

Dear friends, the journey to this incredible place of opportunity began with just a word of consent. We gave God the go ahead to use us however He chose to, and the results have exceeded our expectations. Time is of the essence. Every day counts in the lives of the orphaned and vulnerable population in Eswatini. Here is what we need now.

PARTNERS

- Universities and colleges can engage, giving your young professionals a wonderful opportunity to serve as well as enjoy academic and career enrichment.
- Businesses or Foundations can help while we develop this Village of Hope to be sustainable.
- Churches and clubs can partner with us to help us get the First Phase developed.
- Individual investment can be made and living legacies created.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Clean water from wells or water harvesting
- Sewage disposal
- Security
- Clean energy from solar sources or combined with electricity

HOUSING

- Homes for the children: Our goal is to start with housing to accommodate the first 24 to 28 children. Our vision is to be able eventually to house 200 to 250 children
- Accommodation for staff and volunteers as the farm is not readily accessible by public transportation.
- Volunteers can help to make the construction of initial structures more cost efficient by teaming with local workers.
- Farmhouse remodeling and repair: We would like to convert the four-bedroom farmhouse into volunteer accommodations and an office.

AGRICULTURE

- This is key to sustainability. The farm has 200 plus arable acres for development. Initial plans call for growing of high value crops to generate revenue even as we continue to grow vegetables to feed the children. The macadamia nut orchard of 1100 trees will be expanded so that in five to six years, it can begin to generate revenue to help sustain the children's program.
- Equipment is needed. A tractor and four by four would make a world of difference.
- Funds are also needed for crop development and maintenance.

OPERATIONAL COSTS

- This is the most overlooked but very critical part of development. All designated funds must be used only for the purpose intended. Contributions that are not designated are also needed.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

- \$38 per month – provides basic health care, food and shelter for a child.

COME JOIN US! There Are Many Ways You Can Help

Building Fund

\$30,000 has been pledged so far! Help us reach our \$100K goal.

Food Fund

\$30 per month - food parcels for homes with vulnerable children

Child Sponsorship

\$38 per month - school fees, meals, and transportation to and from school

Emergency Fund

SOHO serves orphaned and vulnerable children who are often in crisis due to abuse, injury, lack of food or other resources. Our Emergency Fund enables us to meet urgent needs that arise.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000

☐ Monthly contribution ☐ One time contribution

For more information:

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SOHO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the states of Indiana and Washington.



SOHO

SAVING ORPHANS THROUGH HEALTHCARE AND OUTREACH

Growing Hope • Changing the Future

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