



HE KNOCKS

FRED & ELSIE SCAIFE NEWSLETTER

*And whoso shall receive one such little child
in my name receiveth me. Matt. 18:5*



Vol 5 Issue 3

BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

Autumn 2009

2010 PLAN

Furaha Bisoke & Fred Scaife

Looking forward to 2010, a very significant achievement in the history of BCHC will be accomplished. During next summer, BCHC will become self-sufficient for its on-going operating costs. This objective was set during the summer of 2007, and now we stand on the brink of achievement. During 2009, BCHC has paid for about 50% of its operating costs. One more major source of revenue appears to be needed to get to 100%. Let us share with you the plan and solicit your help in making it happen.

BCHC has good farmland; as many as four crops per year can be grown on the same plot. A tractor and basic implements will be purchased and delivered to Bunia during March 2010. Crops of various vegetables will be grown and harvested for wholesaling to the host families that receive loans for small businesses. Since some people are not comfortable or equipped for selling, the families will be teamed into groups of about six people, mixed with sales and sales support people. The teams will be assigned to sell their produce in a specific local market, thus minimizing competition between teams. Each team will use their loan money to buy produce from the BCHC farm. They will then sell the produce in one of the many small markets around Bunia. Thereafter, the process recycles with following farm purchases paid for by money earned from previous sales. The result is a major monthly revenue stream to BCHC that will complete the coverage of the operating costs.

This past summer the decision was made to take under care another 100 orphans. These orphans come from many of the small villages surrounding Bunia. Host families were found and BCHC has 600 orphans living with 282 host families. Widows head 226 families and 245 families need micro business loans.

The money has been raised to buy the tractor and implements and to enlarge the micro business fund so that each needy host family can have a \$50 loan. The US role is shifting to providing a safety net when operational bumps occur, and to supporting capital needs. The key capital needs for 2010 are: fencing around the crop fields to protect from grazing cattle; refurbishment of the school buildings; buying a larger bus to transport children; further development of cattle; swine and chicken projects building a secondary education building; and providing computers for the library.

None of the BCHC success would be possible without you our partners. We are so thankful for your support. In this issue of the newsletter, please look for Glenn's corner, a report about the Host Family Development, and the dedication of the clinic.

- the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come to eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in the work of your hands - Deuteronomy 14:28b (NIV)

HOST FAMILIES PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

By Fred Scaife

A review of the micro business program has enabled BCHC to significantly enhance the program.

In 2007, money was donated to set up a fund for loans. One hundred women got loans at that time, started businesses, and repaid the loans. Our review shows that 15 women got sick or did not have enough inventory to compete effectively in the market. When a woman gets sick there is no one to conduct her business and she is also faced with medical expenses. A few women had very small loans which meant they did not have enough inventory to make the journey to the market worthwhile. In either case, the women worked on the BCHC farm to repay their loans.

Recent contributions have provided funds for loans to another 145 families. A qualified woman has been hired full-time to administer the program and work with the families. She will help develop business plans, keep books, identify business opportunities, resolve issues and conflicts, organize a teaching agenda, and in general become the spokesperson for the widows. She is a 40-year old widow with three children and has experience leading a local Bunia NGO for three years. She knows about family life, marketing products, and how to resolve problems/issues. She has experience in book keeping, writing reports, and using word processing and EXCEL. She has some experience in organizing classes and knows some English.

In 2010, BCHC will divide the women into six-person teams and assign the teams to local markets to sell produce. Teams will provide backup for a woman who gets sick and will also provide more leverage and efficiency for selling effectively in the marketplace. The plan is to create teams that will have good salespeople and good sales/family support people. Most of the women are illiterate but quite intelligent, speaking as many as four languages. BCHC is teaching them to read and write.



Women of various tribes in a "Women in Development" meeting



Learning to provide healthy environments for families, including use of potable water and good health habits



Jeanne is the micro business coordinator for BCHC

DEDICATION OF NEW BCHC CLINIC

On Saturday, October 10th, people came from different corners of the Congo to assist in the dedication of BCHC's new clinic. People came from Kinshasa, Kisiangani, Bangladesh and Bunia. There were many people of all ages who attended, in addition to the students of Baraka Academy. The ceremony started at 3:00 P.M. and finished at 7:00 P.M.

Distinguished guests, including the Ministers of Education and Health for the Democratic Republic of Congo, the District Commissioner Minister of Ituri Province, the Mayor of Bunia and the Commander of the UN troops spoke to the assembled crowd. Their messages encouraged the children to take full advantage of the services of BCHC and be thankful for the support of their friends in the US.

Furaha Bisoke said, "BCHC teams in Bunia express their thanks for all the contributors from the US that completed and equipped the building. Then, thanks, a lot to the people of Bangladesh, Banair 6, and the UN Peace Keepers, for putting a water facility in the clinic. Also we thank all the local people for their contributions for the clinic work. We also thank the minister of health to allow this clinic to start operating today. Lastly, we thank every body who prays for the success of BCHC work."

BCHC not only cares for the education of the orphan children, but it also cares for their health. When BCHC understood the needs of the community and the orphan children, it came up with the idea of constructing the clinic building that will give services not only for the orphans, but also for the surrounding community. The orphans are treated free-of-charge while the people from the community pay for services.

The clinic has separate wards for children up to 12, men, women and maternity. There is a lab equipped to perform many analyses, and a controlled room for dispensing medicines. Quarters have been built so that nurses can provide overnight coverage. No longer will a sick orphan need to go home at night .



First baby born in the maternity ward of the BCHC clinic, a little girl



Some of the children at the Dedication



Dignitaries left to right: District Commissioner, Minister of Education, Commander of UN Forces, Minister of Health, Mayor of Bunia, and Furaha

GLENN'S CORNER

Friday, November 13, marked a new beginning, in one sense, for the Bunia Children's Hope Center. Current and prospective new supporters met for breakfast at Emmaus Lutheran Church. Pastor Jim Ritter shared that Jesus Christ was the first to legitimize and value the life of a child. He said "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Along with introducing this ministry to prospective new supporters, we introduced the formation of a restructuring within this ministry. Over the past year, we have structured a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called Hope Centers for Children of Africa (HCCA). HCCA is the "umbrella" organization for BCHC and other works that the Lord may call us to do.

The ministry will remain the same. The focus will remain the same. Reaching out, meeting the needs of orphaned children and of those assisting them will continue to be our highest priority. Attaining self-sustainability will remain a high priority.

The formation of a 501(c)(3) affords some unique opportunities. Most grantees require the recipient to be a fully recognized non-profit, non-church, organization. Many companies are willing to donate to non-profit organizations, excluding churches. With that said, I believe our closest partners will continue to be the churches and those from within, because we share the desire to not only meet the physical needs of the children but to bring them to an everlasting faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Current and new supporters are encouraged to contact their employers to see if they are willing to provide matching funds. If you happen to be the employer, consider offering matching funds.

We are excited to announce the new organization. Fred Scaife is the Founding Director, Glenn Mork is the Executive Director, and Board members include: Jim Duodiet serving as Chair, Pastor Jim Ritter as Vice Chair, Joel Nash as Secretary, Travis Murphy as Treasurer and Pastor Jim Scaife.

A special thanks to those who took precious time from busy schedules to attend this event. Contrary to myth, the presence of the Lord made this Friday the 13th a rich and blessed time. A blessed Thanksgiving to all. Glenn Mork.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!