



Newsletter March 2011

1. Women's Co-Operative



In November 2010, thanks to the support of its volunteers and friends, Give A Heart To Africa (GHTA) celebrated the grand opening of its Give A Heart To Africa Women's Co-Operative, taking another major step forward in its aim to help empower women in Tanzania through education and entrepreneurship.

Located close to downtown Moshi, the co-op can accommodate up to six of our graduates' businesses; it currently accommodates three. Our aim is to operate at maximum capacity, on a rolling basis, so that every six months, three current co-op members leave, making room for three new ones. Graduates may stay in the co-up for up to one year. At the end of that time, they leave with all of their inventory and net profit, and hopefully the necessary skills, funds, and confidence to set up shop for themselves or form another small co-operative on their own. We encourage all of GHTA's businesswomen to help each other whenever they can, applying the teamwork ethic we promote at the school. In the co-op, they purchase inventory, sell products and services, and recruit customers for one another. Outside the co-

op, this collaboration is illustrated nicely through the first business launched with GHTA's support -- The Happy & Neema Coffee Company. Happy and Neema, two graduates from GHTA's very first class, sell their coffee into local curio shops in fabric bags sewn by Victoria, a September 2010 GHTA graduate. Consequently, Happy and Neema benefit from a lower price for their bags than would otherwise be the case, and Victoria benefits from additional business; everyone comes out a winner and, in the process, these women are helping one another make better lives for themselves and their families.

GHTA has committed to paying the co-op's annual rent and to purchasing the initial inventory (worth approximately \$1,500 per business) for each graduate that GHTA's board of directors has selected to participate in the co-op. We also take these graduates to Dar-es-Salaam or Nairobi, all expenses paid, to help them research and select their first inventory. Our involvement does not end here, however. We visit the co-op regularly, track each of the graduate's sales, offer business advice, and discuss with the graduates their successes, weaknesses, and concerns.

After four and a half months, we are happy to report that the co-op is doing well, attracting more and more customers every week. Our first three co-op members are from the April-September 2010 class. We congratulate them on their success thus far, and wish them a very prosperous future:

- Gaudencia, who sells cosmetics;



- Christina, who sews clothing and home furnishings to order, and also sells kangas and other fabrics; and



- Eunice, who sells shoes.



For more information about these three remarkable women, please refer to our website.

2. Students' School Fees

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of our supporters and to volunteer fees, GHTA is currently sending six former students to secondary school:

- Helen Hamis – Completed Form 1 in a private boarding school and is currently attending Form 2.
- Calvin Kimambo – Completed a combined Form 1-Form 2 course in one year and is currently doing a combined Form 3- Form 4 course.
- Siyanga Msibe – Completed Form 4
- Luckson Kimambo – Is currently attending Form 1
- Godluck Kimambo – Is currently attending Form 1
- Ms. Neema Peter – Is currently attending Form 1

These students, and their parents, are very thankful for the opportunity to further their education--an opportunity that is unfortunately denied to many Tanzanians due to the high costs involved.

Please, refer to GHTA's website for more information about these and other students who are still in dire need of assistance. Thank you kindly for your generosity.

3. Community Momentum

With each round of interviews we have held so far to select a new group of students, there has been an exponential increase in the number of eager candidates hoping to be selected to occupy one of the 40 available spots in the school. During the last round on March 12th, almost 200 aspirants walked through our doors, talked to us, shared their stories, and explained why they wished to join our school and why they deserved this chance more than others.

We would like to thank the Moshi community for embracing our NGO and its efforts, and for being so welcoming and hospitable.

4. New Website



GHTA would like to express its sincere thanks to the Webdrive team for designing our new website. Webdrive's CEO, Jennifer Savage, and team member Kelly Woo worked extremely hard to ensure that our new website truly reflects the nature of our organization and serves all of its needs. We would also like to express thanks to our longstanding volunteer, Alison Savage, for being the liaison between Webdrive and GHTA, and for assisting with the website's content.

Webdrive (www.webdrive.ca) is a well-established web design company in Montreal, Quebec, and is primarily responsible for building most of the Canadian government's websites. Its knowledgeable and dedicated team was a pleasure to work with. .

5. Volunteers/Donations

Donations come in all shapes and sizes (time, money, supplies, etc.) and are always extremely helpful to our organization. We would like to thank **all** of our supporters, who have been so generous with their giving.

In addition, we would like to extend a special thanks to the management and employees of Standard & Poor's Madrid, for donating--on two separate occasions--several boxes of school supplies, clothing, and toys, and to those of Bazaar Voice, for donating five new laptops, a ton of computer mice, and many books.

Our organization, our school, and now our women's co-operative would **never ever** exist if not for our international volunteers who travel to Tanzania to share their time and expertise. Their volunteer fees enable us to invest in the pursuit of GHTA's mission. We would like to recognize, here, those volunteers who have come through our doors since May 2010 (please see our previous newsletter for a list of earlier volunteers):

Victoria – USA/Spain	John – England	Sarah – England
Karissa – Canada	Andrea – Canada	Mike – USA
Sergio – Italy	Monique – New Zealand	Caroline – England
Kristin – USA	Hester – Australia	Pattye – USA
Nuala – Canada	Melinda – Canada	Linda – Canada
Lily – Brazil	Meggi – USA/Germany	Emily – Canada

Anne – USA
Ronda – Canada
Halina – Canada
Caroline – Germany

Renee – Australia
Michelle – Australia
Alex – Canada
Katia – Germany/UK

Maria – Canada
David – USA
Anne – USA



We would like to extend a special thanks to Beverly (USA), who managed our organization in July and August 2010...Beverly, we tremendously appreciate all of your efforts and care.



Thank you all so much for giving your heart to Africa!

6. New Teachers



GHTA welcomed two new teachers in October 2010: Penina Matola and Rahimu Ramadhani, both recent GHTA graduates. An aspiring journalist, Penina graduated as one of the top five in her class and was always very helpful to her fellow students. Because of her excellent English skills, she was an obvious choice to become GHTA's new English translator/teacher. Rahimu Ramadhani is a very studious young man who did not speak English at all just over a year ago. With a lot of hard work and determination, he is almost fluent today. Rahimu earned his position as GHTA's new Computer translator/teacher by winning--with an overwhelming majority--a competition among five of GHTA's September 2010 graduates, each of whom was given the opportunity to translate/teach the Computer class for one week. At the end of the five weeks, the students made their decision: Rahimu hands down!. We wish both of our new teachers all the best, and we very much appreciate their having joined our team.

7. Board of Directors, Tanzania

Being a registered NGO in both Canada and Tanzania, GHTA is mandated to have separate boards of directors. Fortunately, we were able to resolve our issues with a few uncommitted former board members, and have formed a new, stronger board, consisting of members with different backgrounds and experiences.

We would like to welcome the following new board members and thank them for joining:

Lusajo Mwamakula	Herman Chelesi	Taberan Jumanne Mzee
Rehema Mwaisaka	Penina Matola	

We look forward, together, to building a strong, long-lasting, and productive working relationship that ensures that our NGO functions smoothly and serves the local community to the best of its ability.

The Government of Tanzania recently approved our annual NGO report and was pleased with our operation and management.

Thank you kindly for all your support

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to visit our website www.giveahearttoafrika.org
Or contact us at info@giveahearttoafrika.org
You may also follow us at www.giveahearttoafrika.blogspot.com or join our Facebook group –
Volunteer in Tanzania . Give a Heart To Africa

Sincerely, Monika Fox
Executive Director

