



Livelihood Infrastructure Food Education For Health

Newsletter - Spring 2012

Livelihood

Women's banana chip production facility almost complete!

Almost ready to receive deliveries of fresh bananas, the Candelaria-based banana chip facility is near completion. Soon, the 15 women's association members from three remote barangays will be producing banana chips! As production grows, they are trained to train more of their neighbours in making banana chips, creating more job opportunities for members of the community. In this way, the banana chip livelihood project will continue to grow and provide more and more opportunities for these communities. The products from this facility will become part of a banana chip distribution network, ensuring a market for their products.

In an effort to purchase improved equipment for the facility, L.I.F.E. Philippines Bohol is also applying for support from the Department of Labour and Employment, which is currently funding manufacturing and processing micro-projects.



The exterior of the banana chip production facility



Interior view from the entranceway

Education

L.I.F.E. For Health funds 11 Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Scholars in 2012!

Having grown from funding one, to three, to 11 Rwandan scholars in just three years is so exciting! This year, we are pleased to be able to fund post-secondary educational support for the following Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Scholars, all of whom are deserving young people who survived the 1994 genocide:

Valentine Uwitonze
Beatrice Kubwiman
Mireille Uwiringiye

Marguerite Banamwana
Nicole Kamanda
Sophie Kantengwa

Emmanuel Mutangana
Patrick Alain Dutahe
D'amour Jean Ingabire

Isaac Nteziryimana
Josee Kampirwa

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Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Scholars continued...

Over the next few issues, we will feature the stories of these young people. In this issue we will feature the stories of Nicole Kamanda and Emmanuel Mutangana.

Nicole Kamanda

Nicole was born in 1988, the last born in a family of three children. She was born in Kivugiza, Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda. Her father worked with the Rwanda Development Bank.

She was very young but remembers how her parents were taken to prison in 1990 with the start of the liberation war. In 1993, they were released, however, her mother suffered from significant mental health issues as a result of mistreatment in prison. Her father was terminated from work at the same time and life became very difficult. Sometimes they went without food.

In 1994, when the genocide started, the family joined many other Tutsis to seek refuge in St. Andrew's Church in Nyamirambo. On the way, the Interahamwe (the paramilitary organization responsible for many of the genocide's massacres) stopped them, killed the men and took the women away. Nicole and her older sister, along with the other children, managed to escape and hide for many days until the liberation army took over.

Several years after the genocide, Nicole was able to return to elementary and secondary school, paid for by the government because she was a genocide survivor. Now in her fourth year of post-secondary school, she receives partial funding for school via a student loan agency, and financial support from L.I.F.E. For Health for other necessary expenses, such as transportation and photocopying. Nicole is a bright student with an average grade of 71%.

Emmanuel Mutangana

Emmanuel was born in 1981 in Kamonyi district. He was one of six children. His father was killed in 1991 during the liberation war. Their mother survived, but was later killed during the genocide.

During the genocide, all but one of Emmanuel's brothers and sister were killed. His one surviving sister was badly beaten and raped, and now struggles with mental challenges. He is unaware of where his relatives were killed, and so was unable to bury them.

Life has not been easy for Emmanuel. He is responsible for caring for his sister and providing for their basic needs in order for them to survive. He was fortunate to find work with a gacaca court (local, traditional courts re-instated in 2001 in an effort to enable post-genocide justice and reconciliation), which provided the money needed for him to start university and continue to care for his sister. At the end of last year, the gacaca court closed and he lost his job, but the funding he receives from L.I.F.E. For Health allows him to continue his studies. He passed his third year exams with an average mark of 62%. He is now in his fourth year of university.

Interview with Cerilmae Furog, a recipient of the Dr. Migriño-Stephenson Scholarship Fund, Philippines



Cerilmae with L.I.F.E. For Health President, Leah Stephenson

Where are you from, Cerilmae?

I live on Jao Island. My father is a fisherman and my mother is a housewife and housekeeper. I'm the eldest with two brothers and a sister. I turned twenty on March 19.

How did you find out about the Dr. Migriño-Stephenson scholarship?

I call it an accident! My mother and I were in Cebu. When we returned to the Talibon wharf after a four-hour boat ride, a Barangay Councillor saw us and told us about the scholarship. I immediately started pulling together my application. There were many applicants needing the slot, so I hurried. I am so thankful I was successful.

What and where are you studying?

I am studying Education with a major in English for secondary education at Blessed Trinity College in Talibon. I'm in my third of four years of study.

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Why did you pick this field of study?

Because of my mom. She's a frustrated teacher. She graduated but couldn't practice. She says she had to take care of us. There is a newly established high school in our barangay. My teacher encouraged me to apply for the scholarship in order to teach locally and help the community.

What are your goals?

To be successful, to have a career when I graduate. I don't really know yet if I can teach or not! There is a practicum next year, so I will find out soon. I want to help my parents first, then help support my brothers and sister.



New Projects!

L.I.F.E. For Health has just announced three new projects!



Public daycare in Barangay Laang, Abra

About 50 children in the small, rural, mountain-locked Barangay Laang, in Abra, Philippines will soon have a public daycare centre. Agreements have just been signed and the project funding was provided in March, so stay tuned for updates on this new infrastructure project!

Support for survivors of Typhoon Sedong in Iligan City, Mindanao

The Mercy Community Hospital in Iligan City, which is supporting survivors of Typhoon Sedong through medical care and educational support, will be able to fund more treatment and support of survivors. Typhoon Sedong killed over 1,000 people when it struck in mid-December, devastating Iligan and Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao. Recovery is ongoing and L.I.F.E. For Health is pleased to be able to contribute to a grassroots hospital making a holistic difference in survivors' lives.



Educational support for rural Kenyan siblings surviving violence at home

Two siblings who fled with their mother from an abusive father were unable to attend school, as their mother still seeks work in a new village in rural Kenya and couldn't afford their school fees and new uniforms. The girls, affected by the post-electoral violence that exploded in Kenya in late December 2007, not only helped their mother survive during that time, but also helped her support people displaced by the violence. L.I.F.E. For Health is happy to be able to help them in their time of need.



L.I.F.E. Giver: Rosario "Chary" Sabayle

Chary Sabayle is a Board of Director and long-time volunteer of L.I.F.E. For Health. We are proud to feature her as a dedicated L.I.F.E. Giver!

"I was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. Right now, I am retired and doing volunteer work. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Nutrition at the Philippines Women's University. In Canada I worked at Toronto General Hospital with the Nutrition Department as a Clerk Receptionist. From there, I moved to other departments to upgrade myself.

I have been a volunteer with L.I.F.E Philippines Foundation, Canada for 12 years and currently with L.I.F.E for Health, as the organization is now called.

In 1992 the late Dr. Nora M. Stephenson was recruiting young girls to volunteer as candidates for Reyna Elena fundraising, and ask my niece to join. My sister, the mother, then introduced me to Dr. Stephenson. She asked me if I would be interested in joining the organization. I was hesitant at first because I was just recuperating from a long illness. After attending their meetings a couple of times, I saw what she was doing and believed in her ideas in helping the needy people in the Philippines. It had been my dream to do charity work since I was in school. Through Dr. Nora M. Stephenson, founder of L.I.F.E Philippines Foundation, Canada, I was able to fulfill my dream of doing charity work.

From then on I became active in doing fundraising events for the organization. Now that we are bigger and helping those in need internationally, I am more motivated to continue this charity work with L.I.F.E for Health.

Being a volunteer for L.I.F.E is very rewarding, knowing that you are able to help others who are in need through this organization."



L.I.F.E. For Health presents...

The Reyna Elena Coronation Ball

Dinner/Dance ~ Silent Auction ~ Raffle ~ Door Prizes

Saturday, May 26, 2012

6:00pm Reception ~ 7:00pm Dinner

St. Clement of Orhid, 76 Overlea Boulevard

\$45 members, \$50 non-members, \$500 corporate table of 8

Contact: (416) 577-5249 or info@lifeforhealth.org

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