



# Livelihood Infrastructure Food Education For Health

## Newsletter - Summer 2011

L.I.F.E. For Health was able to fund the implementation of the following projects this past year thanks to our members' generous giving of their time and energy, and thanks to the financial contributions made by individual donors, fundraising events and corporate donors:

### Livelihood

#### **Banana Chip Facility: Helping to Build Sustainable Communities**

Last year, L.I.F.E. For Health funded a "trainers' training" in banana chip production for 15 women in three impoverished rural Boholano barangays (small villages). This year, we are providing funding for a sustainable facility where the women can produce the banana chips in accordance with local good manufacturing practices! This will provide them with a clean location, including access to clean water, to prepare, package and ship the banana chips. The women are connected to a regional network of banana chip producers and marketers, ensuring their products have access to a viable, growing market.

Even better, once the program is fully operational, these women are trained to train their neighbours, meaning more of the community can participate over time, thus creating more opportunities for even more women to grow their incomes. An extra bonus? They'll be buying bananas from the local farmers, including their husbands, extended family, friends and neighbours!

This is an example of L.I.F.E. For Health's sustainable community development approach. Last year, we supported the farmers' cooperative in this same region through the provision of a very low-interest micro-loan for shared irrigation equipment. By making small-scale, high-impact investments in this community, we aim to encourage the community members' long-term, sustainable livelihoods.

Special thanks to our local partner, LIFE Philippines Foundation (Bohol), for their expertise and ongoing oversight in the planning, implementation and monitoring of this project!

### Infrastructure

#### **Sunshine Home Van: Providing a Means of Transportation to Children in Need**

We're very happy to report that Sunshine Home, a home for orphaned and abandoned children that we support, has finally realized its dream of purchasing a van large enough to safely transport all of their 30 children! This van is a necessity for the home as it is located seven kilometres outside of the city in a rural area. As such, before purchasing the van, the children walked many kilometres to and from school each day, including during rain storms, and were unable to be transported to hospital in medical emergencies.

With this new van, the children will be driven to school in inclement weather, will be able to enjoy excursions all together, can be driven into the city for medical and dental appointments and, when emergencies arise, they can be attended to in a timely fashion.

Special thanks to our corporate sponsor, Rogers Communications, whose financial support helped the children and staff of Sunshine Home make their dream come true.



Left: The brand new Sunshine Home vehicle

Below: The Sunshine Home kids all piled in for a ride!



## Infrastructure



### Coloconto Water Well: Bringing Water to Families

We are extremely pleased to share that the deep water pump in Coloconto, Batangas has been completed and is now fully operational. Coloconto, an impoverished farming barangay, is located on high ground and so suffers from a lack of water access needed for domestic and irrigation purposes. The water pump that was just completed is centrally located on the property of the local elementary school. It will serve not only the staff and children of the school but also the surrounding neighbours who will now be able to spend less time fetching water and more time focusing on their family's and farm's needs.

Special thanks to our local partner, Rotary Club San Juan, for their oversight of this project.



*The completed well in Coloconto, Batangas, Philippines*



*Local boys fill water jugs at the new well*

## Education

### Expanding the Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Memorial Scholarship (Rwanda)

We are very pleased to be able to extend our educational support in Rwanda from one young genocide survivor to three.



Marie Claire Mukaminega was born in 1983 and lost her parents and two of her siblings during the genocide. She and her younger sister survived, although Marie Claire's leg was crippled by attackers. Today, she is the head of her surviving family, living in an orphans' estate in Kigali, Rwanda's capital city, with her younger sister and cousin. Marie Claire is completing her degree in Administrative Science at Kigali Independent University, thanks to L.I.F.E. For Health's support.



Like many women and girls, Marguarithe Mukashyaka was raped during the genocide, impregnated and infected with a sexually transmitted disease by her attackers. At a point, her challenges felt overwhelming, but with the assistance of the Government of Rwanda's Assistance Fund for Survivors, she was able to complete secondary school once the genocide ended. Now, with our support, she is specializing in Sociology at Kigali Independent University. She is working towards a better future for herself and her child.

*continued...*

## Education



### Expanding the Marie Claudine Mwizerwa Memorial Scholarship (Rwanda) cont'd



Devothe Mukundirehe was the sole genocide survivor in her family. She is now specializing in Law at Kigali Adventist University and is striving to complete school and make a positive impact on her community and country.

### Growing the Dr. Honorata Migriño-Stephenson Memorial Scholarship (Bohol, Philippines)

L.I.F.E. For Health is also pleased to have been able to expand our support of impoverished, deserving Boholano post-secondary students this year. Last year, we were able to support three students, while this year we are thrilled to expand this to six students! Special thanks to LIFE Philippines Foundation (Bohol) for being the local partner implementing and monitoring this scholarship.

### Scholarship Recipient Profile - Jose Bugas

Seventeen year old Jose Bugas attends Bohol Island State University in Balilihan, Bohol, Philippines, and is currently in his second year of a four year program. He was born without lower limbs and half of one arm. Jose is one of six recipients of the Dr. Honorata Migriño-Stephenson Memorial Scholarship.

L.I.F.E. For Health has supported Jose since 2006, when a motorcycle was purchased to transport him from the family's remote hut to high school, where he maintained honours-level grades. The motorcycle also served as a pedicab (a form of taxi) as part of the family's livelihood. Determined and courageous, Jose graduated high school with honours.

**What are you studying?**  
Information Technology

**Why did you chose this field?**  
I like to work with computers...it comes easily to me and I'm good at it!

**What is your favourite course?**  
Information Technician where I learn about computer programming.

**What are your career goals?**  
I want to become a computer programmer.

**What are your personal goals?**  
I find it difficult to plan ahead with personal goals because of my physical limitations. I hope one day to be able to walk on my own and gain my physical freedom.



L.I.F.E. For Health Secretary Lara Stephenson with Jose at his college

L.I.F.E. For Health will be funding this young leader's permanent prosthetics once he is fully grown. You can contribute towards Jose's future freedom of movement and independence through a donation to L.I.F.E. for Health, either in your name or as a gift for a friend or loved one. When making a gift, you will be sent via email or post an attractive gift card that you can send to the gift recipient A charitable tax receipt will be provided to you for the full amount of your gift.

## **Upcoming Events!!**

We're very excited to announce the following upcoming events.  
Please mark your calendars!

### ***L.I.F.E. For Health Annual General Meeting***

Sunday, September 18, 2011 @ 2pm  
17 Suncrest Drive, Toronto

RSVP at: <http://lifeforhealthagm2011.eventbrite.com>

Our AGM is open to all registered members. Become a member using our  
online registration form at [www.lifeforhealth.org/join-l-i-f-e](http://www.lifeforhealth.org/join-l-i-f-e)

### ***Halloween Dinner/Dance Party***

Saturday, October 29, 2011  
6pm-12am

The church hall at the Cathedral of the Nativity of God  
257 Shaw Street @ Dundast St. West  
(just south of Dundas between Bathurst and Dufferin)

Put on your best costumes, grab the kids and come out to this family friendly  
community pot-luck dinner & dance! Prizes for best costumes!

Tickets: \$20/members \$25/non-members

email [info@lifeforhealth.org](mailto:info@lifeforhealth.org) for more details and to purchase tickets

### ***Faces of Hope, Faces of Change: An Evening at the R.O.M.***

Thursday, November 24, 2011

The Glass Room @ the Royal Ontario Museum  
100 Queens Park @ Bloor Street

Join us at the Royal Ontario Museum for an intimate evening with award-winning jazz musicians,  
silent auction and a photography exhibit featuring the kids of the Sunshine Home!

More details and ticket info to come

### ***Reyna Elena 2012***

Saturday, May 26, 2012  
St. Clement of Ohrid  
76 Overlea Blvd.

L.I.F.E. For Health's grand fundraiser is back in 2012! After a year's hiatus, Reyna Elena,  
our traditional Filipino dinner/dance celebration, will be bigger and better than ever!

More details and ticket info to come