

A Glance At Community Transformation

*“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.” Psalm 68:5.*

Within every WOW community we see hope for a brighter tomorrow. Your commitment to WOW

is transforming the lives of orphans and widows in sub-Saharan Africa. As HIV/AIDS continues to strip families of their livelihood, WOW is there to offer strength to these families providing them with home-based care, skills training, food relief and micro-finance loans. WOW is not only helping to rebuild lives but also establish God’s unconditional love in the hearts of all those we serve.



Meeting Women Right Where They Are

Agnes lives in Biwi/Kawale, a small rural community in Lilongwe, Malawi. Food insecurity, poor health care and minimal access to education has left her without hope for a better life.

After her husband passed away, Agnes was left with no means to a livelihood. Shortly after, four of her children died from HIV/AIDS, leaving her to care for 7 grandchildren on her own.

At 55, Agnes was without skills training or education – work was impossible to come by. With every day that passed without food, her grandchildren’s health worsened. Agnes prayed for the strength to keep her family alive. Each day she looked for work at the market, only to be turned away.

But thanks to your gifts, WOW was able to meet Agnes in her time of need. After assessing her needs, our WOW community director provided Agnes with two business loans. Today Agnes has a successful business and although life continues to be challenging, she is thankful that she can offer her grandchildren the essentials of food, clothing and education. The money she earns has also helped her repair her home. Now her family is protected from the damage of severe heat and rain.

Through your gifts WOW is offering women like Agnes financial assistance and teachings about the importance of financial stewardship. Today Agnes is helping other women in her community invest in real change by using the knowledge and financial support she received through WOW.

Food Security For Today and Tomorrow

Families in KaPhunga, Swaziland struggle to survive in the midst of extreme poverty, disease and hopelessness. Child headed homes, abandoned young mothers, orphans and widows are extremely vulnerable to malnutrition and hunger related diseases. Without proper nutrition, children are too weak to go to school and their futures become compromised as they are burdened by disease.

Yet a small seed given with knowledge and care can go a long way.

Your gifts provided families in the KaPhunga community with seeds and tools for growing and harvesting maize gardens. These gardens not only help women secure food for their families but also provide a forum for education about cultivation, agricultural techniques and importance of food preservation for the hungry season. A portion of the maize harvest is also brought to city markets to sell. The money earned helps cover the costs of a child's education, school supplies and medical needs.



After a stunning harvest from last year's planting, the community is excited for the opportunities next year's harvest will bring. The community is also entering a maize growing contest, which will honour the practices of those with the best yield. Having brought about some measure of short-term food security, the community is beginning to envision a future for their children beyond the devastation of poverty and disease. Children are returning to school and those battling through disease such as HIV/AIDS are able to withstand the side effects of anti-retroviral drugs as their stomachs are no longer empty.

Triumph Over Adversity

Angelina was just two years old when her mother, a single parent, died from HIV/AIDS. A year later she too was diagnosed as being HIV positive.



Her aunt Sara became her primary care taker but, like her sister, she was extremely poor. Sara and her husband farmed a small piece of land in Mgoni, Malawi which provided a small harvest of crops, but the income generated barely covered the cost of Angelina's medicine.

Sara worried for Angelina's health. She promised her sister she would look after the child, but the effects of poverty were relentless.

Sara began losing hope. Then one day grace found her when a team of compassionate WOW volunteers visited her community. Through your gifts we were able to provide the family with food aid and anti-retroviral drugs to help stabilize Angelina's health condition. Transportation services were also organized, which helped Sara travel to the hospital for Angelina's medication. Before WOW came to their rescue, Sara had to travel 20 kilometers on foot to get the medication.

Today Angelina is seven years old. Her health has greatly improved and she is going to school at a nearby community feeding centre. The prayer and support offered by WOW volunteers, has helped her and her aunt overcome the devastation brought about by HIV/AIDS.