

Opportunity 2 Hope eNews Letter

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Dear Friends,

It is my delight to share the impact that you are having toward mercy and grace for the poor throughout the world.

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What Is Opportunity 2 Hope?

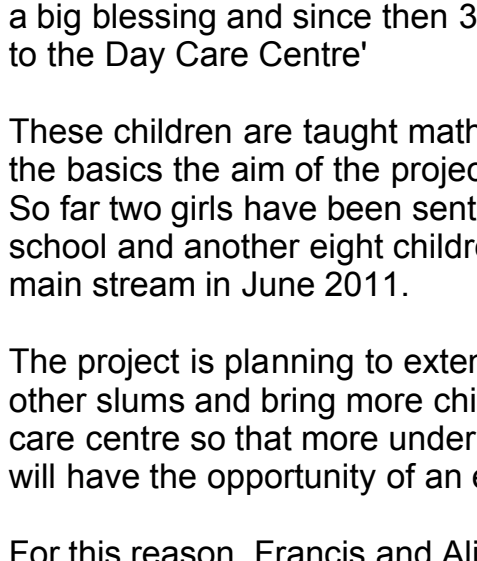


Opportunity2Hope (O2H) is a mercy ministry operated by ordinary people to help the poor throughout the world. O2H is best described as a grass roots organization where the members not only contribute but also initiate grants for worthy projects.

Since O2H began, the Board (a group of O2H members who are purely volunteers) has agreed the distribution of over £100,000 (\$162,825 US) worth of grants. Often these grants are no more than £3,000 (\$4,885 US)/ project. It has been amazing watching how 'seed' grants have made a difference to the lives of the poor and disenfranchised. Without the regular monthly giving of O2H members this would not be possible.

Some of the grants O2H have made recently include:

A Vehicle For The Tender Heart Foundation in Goa, India



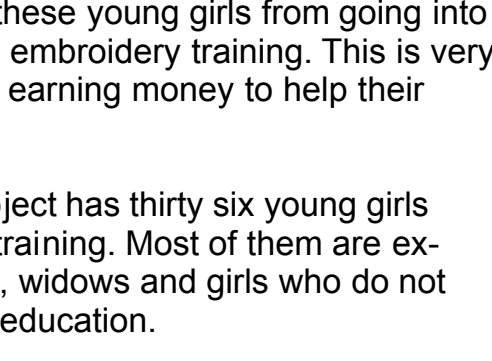
£3,000 (\$4,885 US) towards the costs of this vehicle.

Francis and Alison Pidugu oversee the mission. To date they have been working in 4 different slums of Margoa, Goa through Hope Children's club which is catering for between 50 to 80 children. The children who come to the club are beggars, child labours, Street Children and Garbage collectors. We know that in the children's club we cannot focus on every child and we can't teach everyone effectively. So we are focusing on a smaller group of children who are interested in learning.

They comment, 'Thanks to O2H's previous grant we have started a DAY CARE CENTER in April -2009 for the underprivileged children. The Grant from O2H was a big blessing and since then 35 children from four different slums are coming daily to the Day Care Centre'

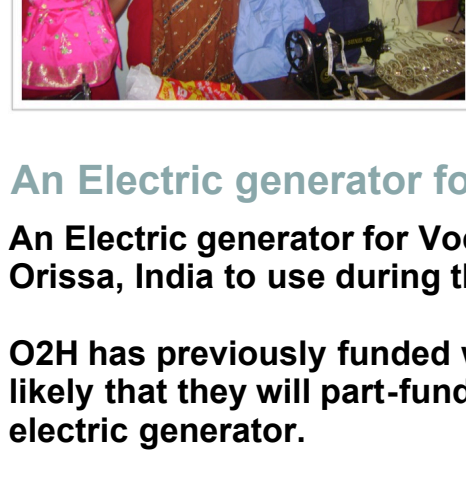
These children are taught math, reading and writing. Once they have a grasp of the basics the aim of the project is to help them to enter into main stream school. So far two girls have been sent to main stream school and another eight children will be sent to main stream in June 2011.

The project is planning to extend its work to other slums and bring more children to the Day care centre so that more under privilege children will have the opportunity of an education.



For this reason, Francis and Alison applied for funding to buy a new vehicle so that they can go around to different slums and bring the children to the Day Care Centre.

Also, a new vehicle will help with their tailoring school in Karnataka and Goa. They are working among young girls who have little or no education. These girls are from very poor backgrounds and are in a situation where their parents are considering sending them to be Davadasis, (Servant of God) that means to serve God by prostitution. They are working to prevent these young girls from going into prostitution by giving them six month tailoring and embroidery training. This is very important to them as it gives them another way of earning money to help their families.



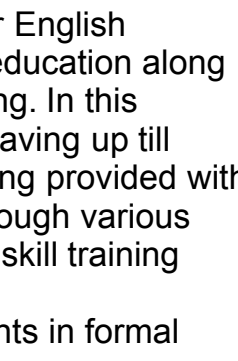
At present the project has thirty six young girls going through the training. Most of them are ex-temple prostitutes, widows and girls who do not have any skills or education.

With the same vehicle which O2H has contributed funding they will be able to bring the Girls to special workshops, such as: Health and Hygiene, cooking workshops and candle making.

An Electric generator for Vocational and Career Development

An Electric generator for Vocational and Career Development (VCD) in Orissa, India to use during the frequent power cuts.

O2H has previously funded work with VCD in Orissa, and it is likely that they will part-fund a more recent request for an electric generator.



The project reports: By the grace of God we have 50 children who are being nurtured in the Jeevan Jyoti Ashram (Light of Life Home). Most of these children are the victims of the violence against the Christians in Kandhamal and other places of Orissa. They study in our English medium school with God centred education along with several employable skill training. In this academic year the school will be having up till standard 7. These children are being provided with career education and guidance through various work experiences and employable skill training

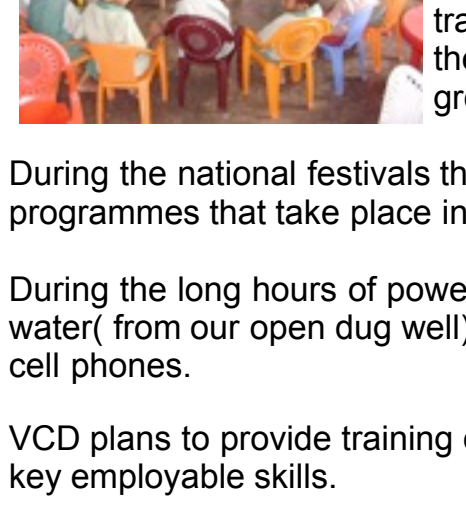
Besides this VCD imparts career education and guidance to students in formal schools & educational institutions.

Psychiatric patients are being treated with love, empathy & behavioural modification & psychotherapy. Thus there is no need of the toxic drugs for treatment of all the psychiatric cases.



Through primary dental care (i.e. cleaning, filling and extraction) the children in the campus, staff and other community people around the villages are being served

In the campus they have a small dairy, two fish ponds & a small kitchen garden to raise some support for the living cost of the children.



VCD campus is situated in a village surrounded by few small industries. In the past years: 1994 to 2002 VCD worked among the community people in 14 villages. They have had much consultation with the people for formation of various committees for their development; training of employable skills, advocacy; awareness of the rights of tribal people etc. 14 SHG' s (self help groups) were formed by the women.

During the national festivals the community people participate in various programmes that take place in the campus.

During the long hours of power cuts the local community people may access the water(from our open dug well) and electricity through their inverter for charging of cell phones.

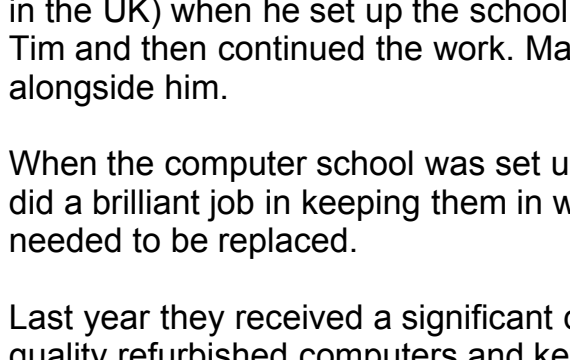
VCD plans to provide training of the women, young people and unemployed with 5 key employable skills.

"We will provide training in computer skills, making leaf plates by using the electric machine, food processing and preservation training (i.e. baking etc)

We will provide vocational training in electrical, mechanical, welding and fabrication training.

It will help the poor to find the suitable jobs as they upgrade themselves to become skilled workers."

New software for Africa Enterprise Trust Computer School:



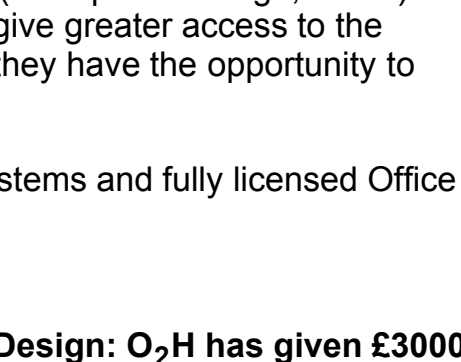
Africa Enterprise Trust Zambia has operated a computer school for the past eight years as one of its projects to uplift the poor through education and enterprise. During this time many students have gained work or better posts because of their enhanced computer skills.

The computer school is run by Mark Mukanda who was in the first class of students taught by Tim Blake (from Basildon in the UK) when he set up the school. The following year Mark taught alongside Tim and then continued the work. Mark has now trained an assistant to work alongside him.

When the computer school was set up all the computers were second-hand. Mark did a brilliant job in keeping them in working order but the time came when they needed to be replaced.

Last year they received a significant donation from the US and sourced good quality refurbished computers and key boards.

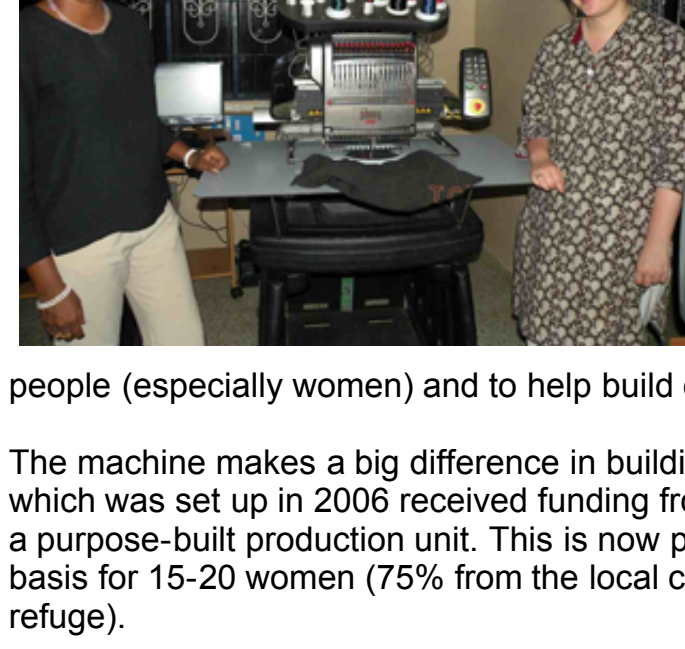
They are also gradually replacing the monitors with new flat screens which use less power. This is particularly helpful when we have to run the generator.



The donation which provided computers for Enterprise College also includes five computers for Hope College. Every Hope College Diploma Programme student is given a week of training in basic computer skills and using the internet for research and study. The course is taught by Tim Blake (Basildon) and Mark Mukanda (Enterprise College, AETZ). They plan to install new computers in the library to give greater access to the students for study and to increase their skills while they have the opportunity to receive help from Mark and visiting tutors.

The Grant of **£2,500 [\$4,080 US]** is for operating systems and fully licensed Office Professional plus 2010 software.

VIA Design:



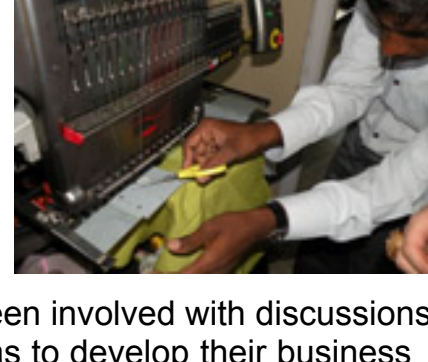
VIA Design: O₂H has given £3000 [\$4,885 US] for a semi industrial computerized embroidery machine for Mahalir Aran Trust's (MAT - a refuge for disadvantaged and marginalised women).

This is an income generating business initiative, **Flowering Desert**, (FD) which works in partnership with VIA Design. VIA design is a UK registered charitable company set up to empower disadvantaged and marginalized

people (especially women) and to help build community.

The machine makes a big difference in building capacity for this small business which was set up in 2006 received funding from O2H (in December 2006) towards a purpose-built production unit. This is now providing paid employment on regular basis for 15-20 women (75% from the local community, 25% from within the refuge).

Mercy Abraham Imondi, the founder and managing trustee of Mahalir Aran Trust, is also the proprietor of Flowering Desert, which was established in 2006 to provide income-generating opportunities for young women who come from the surrounding community as well as the refuge.



Local people are involved in consultation and have been involved with discussions. Regular team meetings at FD provide a forum for ideas to develop their business and although hand embroidery will still be part of the range of skills developed and used for more specialized products, it has been recognized that there is much potential for commercial stability and viability through manufacturing higher volume/lower margin customised products for corporate businesses, organizations and conferences.

This provides more jobs locally and generates profits to reinvest into training and empowering others in the community.

Here is a letter from Mercy Abraham of VIA Design:

Dear O2H Friends,

We are very thankful to Opportunity to Hope (O2H) for your generous grant of £3000 and to friends who have provided an interest-free loan of £2000 through VIA Design to enable us to purchase a computerized embroidery machine to help Flowering Desert expand its customized product range.



This machine (an Amaya XT) is really useful for FD product-development. It will help us to offer more training for the ladies, at Flowering Desert, our business enterprise, so they can improve their talent and have better opportunities for themselves and their families.

Through this machine, we hope to secure more orders and increase our turnover so that we can improve the rest of the campus and give work to more people from the surrounding area.

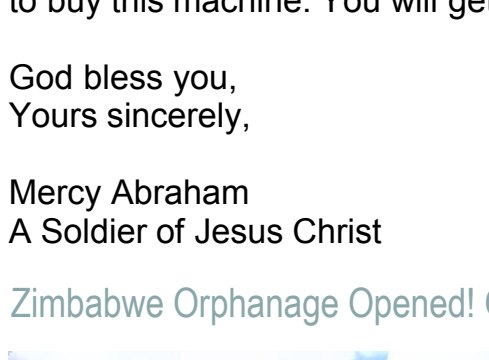
There is a Chinese proverb "instead of giving a man a fish, teach him how to fish, and he will have food for life." With the same philosophy we want to help our ladies to learn more skills so they have the hope of a better future.

Once again we are very thankful for your kind help and the loan, which enabled us to buy this machine. You will get double the amount in heaven.

God bless you,
Yours sincerely,

Mercy Abraham
A Soldier of Jesus Christ

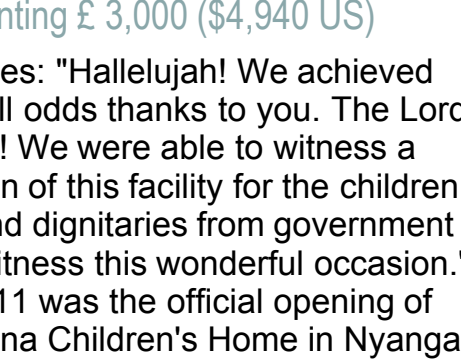
Zimbabwe Orphanage Opened! O2H Helped By Granting £ 3,000 (\$4,940 US)



Alan Scotland writes: "Hallelujah! We achieved our goal against all odds thanks to you. The Lord has come through! We were able to witness a beautiful dedication of this facility for the children. Church leaders and dignitaries from government were present to witness this wonderful occasion."

"January 27th, 2011 was the official opening of the Rekai Tangwena Children's Home in Nyanga, Zimbabwe. Built during a time of extreme economic problems, the completed buildings are home to 22 children (with a capacity of 30) and stands as a testimony to the generosity of many people. This final cost was £140,000 (\$227,676) for the completed project of which O2H gave £3,000 (\$4,940 US)."

'I want to say a huge thank you to all who have given and for the colleagues working together to carry this work with this end result. We are encouraged by what we had seen. It was a joy to see the children cleaning the steps and preparing the marquee for the visitors arriving just after a huge rainstorm. They made everything spic and span.'



There is capacity now to double the numbers if necessary (22 Children present). It is so good to see these children in a good, safe environment. It's the beginning of a whole new chapter for them. The parameter fence and houses are complete. What they need next is to develop the chicken run and the vegetable gardens. I believe this is a testimony for years to come if it is managed well. Please see the video of the building and the dedication on the following link:

<http://lifelinkinternational.org/media/videos/rekai-tangwena-childrens> - click on this link (or copy and paste in browser)

Again, it is my pleasure to serve Alan Scotland, O2H, the Churches, and our partnerships.

May God bless us all that we may accomplish the purposes of God in our generation.

Your Friend and Servant,

Jim Munson
O2H Board Member
Global Horizons and Lifelink International

If You Want To Join O2H

You can Join O2H by contacting the board chairman, Andrew Sturgess through the following link:

andrewandjulie.sturgess@btinternet.com

Place 'interested in becoming a member' in the subject matter.