



HGI Newsletter

Helmer Global Initiatives exists to promote a culture of generosity by using our resources to engage our people to their highest level of capability to provide aid and justice to the poor and vulnerable.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

September 2, 14, 23

City View

September 3, 7, 8, 10, 11

MS Bike Ride

September 28,

October 1

Support Our Troops

September 18

Summer of Service Day

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Can't stop now!

Word from David Helmer

"When did it become acceptable to focus all of our resources on the advancement of ourselves without considering the plight of others? Is there anything honorable in striving for comfort when so many are struggling for survival? These are questions that I continue to ask myself as I cross from life in the US to the stark reality of life on the edge in so many places of the world. Did I really work that hard for what I have or was I just fortunate enough to be born a white, male, US citizen at the time in world history when America was experiencing unprecedented growth and influence? How many others have worked multiple times harder than I these past thirty years, and all they have to show for their effort is the next meal on the table, with no assurance for tomorrow.

These very difficult questions are why we as a company keep pushing further into areas of need that seem unsolvable. We may not be able to solve any of the world's ills, but we can be the ones who care for individuals.

This edition of our HGI newsletter highlights a few more of our humble steps into the dark places, so that others may experience hope. Can't stop now. Too much to do!"

David



David Helmer celebrates an overwhelming election victory of Rwandan President Paul Kagame together with thousands of Kigali residents gathered at the national sports stadium on August 9, 2010



Rwandan women doing chores on Saturday afternoon



Our Day At Joy's House

Written by Kenny Wilson

On June 12th, a group of us from Helmer volunteered to build shelves and stain a privacy fence at Joy's House in Broad Ripple.

Helmer team with family members gardening at Joy's House



The group of individuals from Helmer included; Bruce King, Randy Mullins and his step son Justin, Maria Cortez, Jessica Cortez, Lupita Cortez (Jessica's sister), Andres Cortez (Jessica's brother) and myself, Kenny Wilson. Bruce's family, wife and two sons, came later in the afternoon to lend a hand. Joy's House is a non-profit organization that provides adults, with non-life threatening illnesses, a place to

interact and socialize with other adults with similar disabilities. Joy's House is open during normal business hours and does not house overnight guests. Joy's house is decorated beautifully and has a very relaxed feel about it. Guests of Joy's House feel as if they are at home; not in an institution. Joy's House currently houses about 30 guests on a daily basis. Helmer has been affiliated with Joy's House since its inception and Bruce King currently serves on the Board of Directors as Vice Chair.

When I woke up on the morning of the 12th it was pouring rain outside. I knew our chances of staining the fence were slim. As soon as everyone arrived at Joy's House, Bruce gave us the grand tour and informed the staff that we would not be staining the fence due to the weather. Without hesitation the staff handed us a list of things that could be done inside. Our team split up to complete the tasks; Bruce, Randy, Justin, Andres and I headed to the basement to build the much needed shelving, while Maria, Jessica and Lupita worked to finish the tasks compliments of the staff. As we carried the wood and equipment to the basement to begin building the shelves, Jessica already had the water/ice machine tore apart and giving it a much needed cleaning. As the ladies were dissecting the laundry list given to them by the staff, the men had a plan and step by step instructions for constructing

the shelves in the basement.

What our group thought was going to be a shortened work day turned out to be a full day of great accomplishment. The list of chores included planting flowers in window boxes, cleaning the entire house and stuffing envelopes with caregiver's surveys; all was a complete success. Maria, Jessica and Lupita worked hard to ensure that what the staff needed done that day got taken care of. The other half of the group completed the shelving in the basement. Randy's background carpentry/woodworking paid dividends as he was very familiar with all the tools used in constructing the shelves. Justin was nervous with the drill at first but after the pace picked up, he was drilling with confidence. Andres is an 8th grader and lives in a house full of women, he jumped at the opportunity to learn something new. Bruce taught Andres how to run the saw. Bruce also taught him how to not run the batteries out on the drill. All of us were able to work together to accomplish what it is that we came to Joy's House to do; give our services to those who need it and leave with a feeling of self satisfaction.

It is pretty cool to get to know someone who you spend 8+ hours a day with at work outside of work on a more personal level. Personal relationships improve business relationships. Volunteering, on June 12th, at Joy's House brought five Helmer employees closer together.

Helmer men constructing storage shelves in Joy's House basement





BASIC VEHICLES | CHANGED LIVES

Liberia In Focus

Written by Brian Hoaglan

Try to picture Helmer with no fork trucks, no pallet jacks, no way to move anything except by hand. Even with tons of raw steel on the dock, fab machines sit idle, parts only trickle through production, and the flow of products out the door slows to a crawl – we can't help customers, and we can't support ourselves. Worse, imagine a coworker that needs real medical help, but there are no ambulances or cars to get to the hospital. So we do the best we can, which is to load them into a wheelbarrow and start walking...

The first image is the reality of farming communities around the globe, where fields produce food that never make it to the population. The second mirrors a true story from a community in Liberia, a small country on the west coast of Africa which counts up to 3.5 million people, and is geographically about the same size as Virginia. Liberia has a hot climate with a summer rainy season and a topography that consists of forests, rainforests, swamps, low mountains, and dry grasslands. Today, Liberia is one of the world's poorest countries, with 85% unemployment and an extremely fragile economy left

by the ravages of war with a life expectancy of 45. The Institute for Affordable Transportation (IAT,

Indianapolis), a not-for-profit led by Will Austin, aspires to change tough reality in communities around Liberia.

IAT manufactures a Basic Utility Vehicle (BUV), a low maintenance, high durability transport used for ambulance, taxi, farm delivery, school bus, water distribution, and malaria fogging applications around the world. To date, there are almost 100 BUVs in service in 12 countries, includes areas of Central America and Africa. They reuse most of the back half of a scrap light duty pickup truck, can be customized to the environment, and are financed by donors and global ministry organizations.

To expand the impact of the BUV, IAT is launching an initiative in Liberia (among other countries) to build a self-sustaining business where BUVs generate enough im-



ment of BUVs, maintenance, and manufacturing facilities indefinitely with no additional donor support.

We had the chance to meet with Will on June 22 to see the shop, read through business plans, and hear success stories. It was humbling to discover the overwhelming need, but inspiring to see the passion IAT has for their mission.

Will shared a number of volunteer opportunities, including building custom cargo beds, vehicle donation, office work, hosting presentations or desert banquets, and even an annual challenge where colleges nationwide compete to make the BUV more durable, safe, and effective. See Penny, Randall, Jesse, or

Brian if you're interested in learning how you can help.

Liberia is unique among African countries in its historical relationship to the United States. Liberia (based on the word "liberty") was founded as a colony by freed American slaves and slaves freed from slave ships. In 1847, these formerly enslaved colonists founded the Republic of Liberia.



Business Planning Consultancy Team for IAT/ BUV, from left to right: Jesse Smith, Brian Hoaglan, Randall Croom and Penny Witzke

pact in an area to support not only short term community growth, but also pay for the eventual replace-



Trip Update - Ukraine



Tammy Hamman playing with Slavik at the Romaniv Orphanage, Ukraine.

Written by Penny Witzke

Tammy Hamman, Michelle Wilson, Kenny Wilson, Garry Busby and Penny Witzke departed for Ukraine on July 23. We spent the week laughing and playing with the boys at the Romaniv Orphanage, met many children and families that participate in Mission to Ukraine programs and experienced Ukrainian culture.

The director and staff at the orphanage continue to make changes and differences in the lives of the boys at the orphanage. Desks, chairs, bookshelves and outdoor covered

areas have been added for lesson time. The director is looking at the possibility for funding of a full time teacher for the boys.

Many of the Mission to Ukraine programs are targeted for mothers and children. Many men in the Zhitomyr, Ukraine region lack self confidence and responsibility for their family. Our Helmer men gathered with fathers of disabled children for the first Men's Night.

The evening started with

simple games to lighten the atmosphere and to get to know each other. The men then opened their hearts and shared experiences and life stories. It was a great evening for the men to push aside their struggles for a few hours and share smiles and laughter with each other! It is very rare to see a Ukrainian man smile.



90 percent of residents in Rwanda use kerosene lamps to light their homes, as a result people are exposed to fumes which are the equivalent to smoking two packs of cigarettes a day



Kerosene lamp used in Rwanda

GRDP GLOBAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Trip Update - Rwanda

Written by Natasha Mazur

A team of five, David Helmer, Rick Witzke, David Ormesher (GRDP Board Chairman), Natasha Mazur and Pavel Patyuk (HGI friend and entrepreneur from Ukraine) spent 6 days of August in Kigali, Rwanda speaking at a professional workshop and providing individual consultations to Rwandese entrepreneurs.

Along with providing professional support to entrepreneurs GRDP is actively involved in other socio-economic development projects responding to the challenges Rwandans are facing at the moment. In the frames of this involvement the Helmer team paid visit to an orphanage in Kigali, which is a home to 147 kids. 80 of those orphans are older than age 16. As victims of Genocide of 1994 they are the ones who lost their



Rick Witzke with Rwandese entrepreneurs

parents and homes 16 years ago – now they are learning to adjust to realities of contemporary society. The introductory tour to the Kigali Memorial Center was an eye-opening experience for every team member in comprehending the pain of Rwandans and the terrifying consequences of

choices the human beings make throughout history.

Joining in vision of using art to change lives the Helmer team brought back several pieces of Rwandan art created by self-taught artists at *Ivuka Art Center*, they will be exhibited in Helmer offices promptly for everyone to appreciate.



September 18, 2010
www.missionhaitimidwest.org

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Madison Park Church of God
(formerly North Anderson Church of God)
2604 N. Scatterfield Rd, Anderson, IN

Volunteers meet for short informational meeting on Thursday,
September 16 at 10:30 am in the main break room.

Match your capability to the needs of the community!

Get your family & friends involved for a project!

Contact Penny Witzke

Mission Haiti Medical primarily provides health care services to Haitians in poverty through direct care work camp clinics around Haiti.

On this day, volunteers will sort, separate and repack donated items of clothes, shoes, medications and medical equipment into semi trailer. The semi trailer will need to be packed for shipping condition.

Calendar Of Events - September

City View

Team meeting:

Thursday, **September 2**, at 3.20pm in the break room

Team meeting:

Tuesday, **September 14**, at 3.20pm in the break room

Dinner will be held on

Thursday, **September 23**, leaving Helmer at 4.30pm

Rwanda & GRDP

“Seeing is Believing” promo film

Thursday, **September 16**, at 11:30 in the break room

MS Bike Ride

Team meeting:

Friday, **September 3**, at 3.20pm in the break room

Money Jug Collection is on

Tuesday, **September 7**

Spaghetti Lunch & Bake Sale is on

Wednesday, **September 8**,

at 11:30 in the break room

Bicycle Auction is on

Friday, **September 10**

The Bike Ride is on

Saturday, **September 11**

Support Our Troops

Team meeting:

Tuesday, **September 28**, at 3.45pm in the break room

Chilli Lunch is on

Friday, **October 1**, at 11:30 in the break room

Summer of Service Day

Mission Haiti – will take place on **September 18**



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:

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