



HGI Newsletter

Helmer Global Initiatives strives to spread a culture of generosity by engaging individuals and organizations at their highest level of capability to provide aid and justice for poor and vulnerable people.

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**FORWARD
INTO 2012!**

Inspiring **GENEROSITY**
Engaging **POTENTIAL**
Facilitating **ACTION**
Driving
TRANSFORMATION

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HGI - Generosity With Impact

Word from David Helmer

With the end of the year approaching we look back on this year grateful for what we have accomplished together. Along with appreciating our volunteer efforts and the grants to non-profit organizations, we continue to ask, "Has HGI been successful this year in fulfilling its mission?"

As the charitable effort of Helmer, we strive to deliver aid and justice for poor and vulnerable people through our philanthropic and volunteer initiatives. During this year we have communicated how Helmer volunteers have cared for elderly and poor families in the local community, raised funds for health-oriented causes, sacrificially participated on international service trips, mentored leaders in developing countries, contributed to fighting HIV/AIDS, as well as provided individual expertise and Helmer products. Whatever initiative Helmer commits to we want to see an impact take place. It is not just about doing good. It is about effecting change. In 2011 HGI has provided support and prod-

uct donations to non-profit organizations in USA, South Africa, Rwanda, Guatemala, Ukraine, Russia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mexico and Uganda.

uct donations to non-profit organizations in USA, South Africa, Rwanda, Guatemala, Ukraine, Russia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mexico and Uganda. We hope to see an increase in the number of Helmer volunteers and their family members. Our desire is to begin engaging our customers to work with us, as well. We



This is a time for all of us to appreciate how our hard work to make a great company is also making a difference! Thank you for doing your day job with enthusiasm and professionalism. It is the outcomes of those efforts that allow us to give from what we have honorably earned. Thank you also to those who are actively engaged as HGI volunteers. Your passion and generosity with your own resources (time, talent, influence, relationships, finances) is a great example of who we are as a people. We also appreciate the loyalty of Helmer customers, who are making a difference in the world through their vocation and also by purchasing our products.

As we look to 2012, we antici-

will continue working with non-profit partners to empower them toward greater effectiveness in fulfilling their mission. We will also continue our efforts to inspire individuals and other companies with our culture of generosity, so that they may see their potential when engaged at their highest level of capability.

We believe that individual worth and dignity is furthered through excellence and hard work, especially when it is employed for the sake of others. 2011 was a continued step in that direction together. The years ahead will further our resolve and impact. We have just started to see what is possible, as our efforts ripple through the nations and the generations to come. Forward into 2012!

A Thanksgiving Success

On the pictures: Helmer employees packaging food for the meal delivery.



Total of 2,200 meals were prepared on Thanksgiving Day by Good Samaritan



www.gsnlive.org

Written by: Tabatha Weatherbee, Refrigeration Assembly Team Member at Helmer Inc.

The Good Samaritan of Hamilton County Thanksgiving Meal Service had another successful year. With no hesitation, many families, churches, and 21 Helmer employees came together to contribute their time to work side-by-side for those in need. Most volunteers think that it is just a two day event, but it is actually a year full of phone calls, donations, and 2,250 volunteers to execute the Thanksgiving-



ing and Christmas events.

for them.



Thank you for everyone's help and for sharing their time, faith, hope, and goods to those who have none. Special thanks to all the drivers who volunteered their time and gas. I am sure it was very rewarding to see each smiling face as the meals were delivered.

Many independent elderly, disadvantaged families and folks in assisted living programs depend on Good Samaritan to provide food for them during the holidays. Many times regu-

There were those who wanted you to stay and talk, those that gave that big ole' Granny hug, or the simple "thank you". Whatever it was, may it bring you back every year.

lar meal services are not available in the kitchen, leaving the elderly to fend for themselves with no family to pick them up or cook

In his appreciation Jim McGee, Communications & Operations Director of Good Samaritan, thanked Helmer Inc. for the obvious community spirit & participation it modeled as an integral business entity serving Hamilton County.

Treasure in a Shoe Box



www.samaritanpurse.org

Written by: Kathy Taylor, Accounts Payable Specialist at Helmer Inc.

Even with the present economic struggle, Helmer employees and their families found it in their hearts to donate shoeboxes, wrapping paper, items from the provided list, and their personal time. In doing so we created 68 individual Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for children around the world who are in disadvan-

tagged and complicated situations. Some of

these children have never received a present of any sort in their entire short lives.

The significance of these shoeboxes for children, filled with hygiene items, school supplies, toys and candy, is treasured by each. Several of the wrapped boxes went out this year with a personalized letter or card in hopes that the children will respond back to Helmer employees.

Leading our Operation Christmas Child project has been a rewarding and learning experi-

ence for me. I feel blessed to work with such generous and giving co-workers. It was exciting to watch each week's progress. I do see areas for improvement with our effort and hope for greater success next year.

Thank you to all who contributed filled shoeboxes, materials and time to make this project another HGI success!



Lou Ann Sylvester is an HGI super box wrapper.

Inspirational Rwanda

GRDP|BiggerFUTURE™

www.grdppartners.org

Written by: Aaron Stout,

Vice President of Global Sales & Marketing at Helmer Inc.

During four days in November David Helmer and I represented HGI in a partnership with GRDP| Bigger Futures, along with other business professionals in Kigali, Rwanda to lead the quarterly workshop for entrepreneurs. Our primary goal was to assist Rwandan business owners in growing their companies through workshops and one-on-one consulting. The experience was inspirational and a life-changing, growth opportunity for me.

Examples like Joy Ndungutse, Founder/CEO of Gahaya Links, who has devoted her life and business to training/employing presently 4500 women, 15 percent with HIV/AIDS, who would otherwise have no future for themselves or their fami-

lies. was inspiring to me. Her unselfishness, positive attitude, and vision at Gahaya to grow a sustainable business that creates so much hope for others was noteworthy.



The opportunity to speak with Rwandan business owners, such as Innocent Nkurunziza of Ivuka Arts at their studio, has created an awareness of how I may help others by using the sales and marketing skills I have developed over the past few decades. Since returning

home, seeking ways to support and influence business owners in Rwanda has now become a goal of mine.

I continue to communicate with business owners who participated in the workshop and assist those whom I have developed a relationship with.

Ladies being trained and developing their skills at Gahaya Links in Kigali.

The business friendly climate, government/business led infrastructure initiatives, and foreign investment are foundational for future Rwandan economic and social growth. HGI's involvement with Global Relief and Development Partners was impressive. My wish is for others within Helmer to see and experience what I experienced during our time in Rwanda.



On the streets of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda.

Results Beyond Expectations

GRDP|BiggerFUTURE™

www.azizilife.com

Compiled by Natasha Mazur,

Director of Development at HGI

Acknowledging the value of his participation in GRDP| Bigger Future program, an HGI supported initiative, Tom MacGregor, Founder of Azizi Life, states, "Your training has helped Azizi Life move well beyond anything we could have hoped for when we started this project. Using the tools you have provided we have been able to really focus our efforts and the

difference we have seen in confidence and creative thinking from Jeannine and Sheila has been something that I do not believe we could have achieved even through sending them to do a business management



Azizi Life team (from left to right): Sheila, Christi, Jeannine, Tom, and Venantie.

degree.

We are already looking forward to continuing with the "Bigger Future" program in 2012 (there will be a team of 5 from Azizi Life this year). It is my hope that the three Rwandese ladies we now have (Sheila, Jeannine & Venantie) will form the basis for the future management and ownership of Azizi Life - as long as they are able to grow into these positions in the next three to four years."



53 items of Azizi Life Crafts were purchased during Christmas Sale at Helmer.

A Special Little Girl



10-year-old Jumaica Ashley Gonzales from Philippines.

www.compassion.com

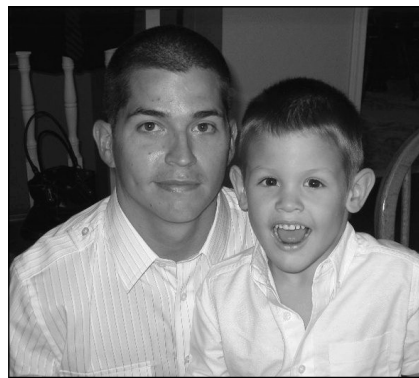
Written by: Jared Owen,

Engineering Tech I at Helmer Inc.

When we were first given the chance to become pen pals with one of our company sponsored Compassion children I jumped at the opportunity. I thought this would be a great chance for me to encourage and teach a small child, while learning different things about their culture in a different part of the world. I also thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce my son to a world he may never see or experience first hand. He could also begin to engage with another child who had so many more obstacles to overcome. Selfishly, I had hoped that by reading her letters and hearing

her story he could learn to appreciate the things he has and also gain compassion for those less fortunate beyond what my words could communicate.

Writing to Jumaica over the last few years has been very rewarding. My son prays for



Jared with his son Grayson.

her almost every night, wishes he could meet her, and always asks what she's doing, as if

she's just a phone call away. (The concept of distance and geography is a bit lost on a 5 year old). It has been important for me to praise her, let her know how important she is, and how she could accomplish some dreams, by keeping up on her studies (she's an excellent student) and remaining God-centered.

I know Jumaica loves the letters she receives from my family and looks forward to getting them. She is a special little girl. Perhaps foolishly, I thought I would be the teacher in this relationship, but Jumaica has taught me more than I had thought possible through her letters and the sharing of her story. She displays nothing but joy, hope and resolute faith in her letters, even while she finds herself in what most would deem a hopeless situation. This theme is unmistakable in every letter she sends and that is both significant and inspiring.

"... a sponsor plays an important role in the development of a child living in abject poverty."

Compassion Visits Helmer

*Compiled by Penny Witzke,
Helmer Global Initiatives
Administrator*

In September Dan K. Prochnow, Business Relations Regional Director at Compassion International, visited Helmer with the purpose of getting a better understanding of how Compassion and HGI can work together in the future to engage Helmer penpals and Compassion children at a higher level. During his visit Dan met with the group of

Helmer penpals and the HGI team. He shared that "a sponsor plays an important role in the development of a child living in abject poverty. The sponsor's role is one of the keys to success in the holistic child development model implemented by Compassion International."

An internal study by Compassion shows that children who receive letters are more engaged with the project and with their school: showing

better attendance, effort, enjoyment, concentration, performance, and value than children who do not receive letters. A child needs to receive a letter at least every 6 months for optimal developmental impact. A penpal may not be able to change the world all by himself/herself, but they can change the world for one child.

Compassion treasures the role of a sponsor in a child's life, and encourages every participant to continue in their good work.

Importance of a Sponsor's Letter



Nathan with his mother.

www.compassion.com

Written by: Marsalina Lekan,

Indonesia Field Communication Specialist at Compassion International

"I want to be like my sponsor's daughter. I want to be a doctor some day," Nathan told his mother after reading a letter from his sponsor. This one simple letter motivated this 8-year-old Indonesian boy to take his studies more seriously and use his time more wisely.

Three times a week, Nathan walks 150 meters to attend his Compassion child development center. He is usually accompanied by his mother, but lately he has taken the initiative to walk by himself. Nathan has attended ID-228 at Eklesia Pentecostal Church in Motoling, South Minahasa, since it opened three years ago.

Back then, says Linda Weenas, the center's secretary, Nathan was known as a stubborn, shy child with whom it was difficult to communicate. "He only loved to play all day with his friends," she remembers.

According to his mom, Nathan cared so much about playing and having fun that his nickname was 66, because he was outside playing from 6 in the morning until 6 at night.

Nathan's father works as a coconut farmer and his mother as a laundress. Because they both worked

long hours away from

home, Nathan didn't get much attention, coming and going as he pleased. He also lacked good nutrition to keep his body healthy and strong.

Today, Nathan is a different boy. He shows his diligence not only by attending the meetings but by paying attention to every subject. He loves to study, and he reviews his lessons again



with his friends at home. This has helped him make impressive progress in his grades.

Nathan has also become aware of the importance of having a healthy life style and has influenced his family as well.

"Just stop drinking pa," he told his father. "Try to look at men that have died because they drank too much alcohol." Nathan's father, who used to stay out every night drinking, slowly realized the harm it was causing and reduced the frequency of his smoking and drinking.

"We are amazed by him because he has encouraged his father to stop

his bad habit," says Nathan's mother, Elsjie.

They are also inspired by his drive to achieve his dream of becoming a doctor. Nathan is one of many children at his center who has been changed by a sponsor's letter. Linda, the secretary, says that after children receive their first letter, many of them have increased enthusiasm to come to the activities there and develop their life.



"Nathan cared so much about playing and having fun that his nickname was 66, because he was outside playing from 6 in the morning until 6 at night."

"I want to reach my dream," Nathan says of his new priorities. "I want to become a doctor someday because I want to help people in this village."

Nathan playing outside.



A Positive Difference in People's Lives



To watch an inspiring story of three middle adulthood men that are guests at Joy's House please follow the link below.

Ray, Dan and Jerry have physical and mental limitations, but that hasn't stopped them from becoming inseparable friends helping each other get through the day. A brotherhood and friendship has been restored for these men and they have a renewed sense of purpose and hope for tomorrow.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVB2cJar3rM>

Welcome Helmer Customers

TO HGI NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST



In October 2011, during the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) Meeting & CTTXPO, HGI efforts were introduced to Helmer customers with appreciation of their loyalty.

On the picture: Helmer trade show team in front of the HGI display at the Helmer booth.



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:
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www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx