

HEIFER NEWS

In partnership, striving to end hunger and poverty in South Africa

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Let there be heifers everywhere.....passing on the spirit, the goodwill and the gift.....

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Nono Nkgadima Wins Female Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2010

By Marisia Geraci, Executive Director

In 2003, we established Hereford Dairy Project located in the Sekhukhune district at Makhuduthamaga Municipality - about 160 kilometres northeast of Johannesburg.

Project members of Hereford Dairy Project are engaged in dairy farming and vegetable gardening. They have come together to build a packing plant so that they can package and supply their products to local supermarket chains. They have even taken a step further and are exporting seasonal crops, such as patty pan squash and zucchini, to France.

Recently, four project members received recognition, through certificates and awards, from South Africa's Department of Agriculture. Mrs. Nono Nkgadima, a 64 year old widow, who became engaged with the Hereford Dairy Project in 2005, was one of the members to get an award. Mrs. Nkgadima won first runner up for Female Entrepreneur of the Year in the livestock category.

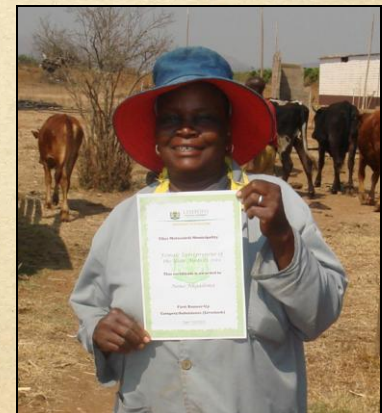
Success has not always come easy for Mrs. Nkgadima. She is a 64 year old widow who is blessed with eight children. Mrs. Nkgadima says, "When my husband passed away in 2006 he left me with four acres of land that was not being used well. We had been occupying that land since 2001 and we were growing only a few vegetables. When we moved to this place we had no livestock."

Prior to her husband's death in 2005, Nono had become involved with Heifer International South Africa. She joined the Hereford Dairy Project where she received extensive training and later one jersey cow. A year later, upon being widowed, she didn't give up. She trudged forward. Her dream was to become a small scale dairy and vegetable farmer. "When Heifer intervened, I was delighted. I managed to raise the cow until she began to reproduce well. I have succeeded in fulfilling Heifer's principles by passing on to another needy family to help them survive and earn a living."

Her original cow has multiplied by four and they are producing milk on daily basis.

"Currently I'm milking two cows and they are giving me 15 litres of milk per day. The market for milk, which is our local community and even in town, is very reliable. I am selling one litre of milk at R10.00 each. I am able to generate about R3000.00 per month from selling milk and vegetables. I currently have three acres of maize, one acre of tobacco, one of lucerne, two of Napier grass and some plots for vegetables such as beetroots, spinach, onions or sweet potatoes. I would say the cows and vegetables are working for me and my family. They brought an immediate change in the house. I have been trained and I'm confident in taking care of cows and vegetables. Before, we used to plant very few vegetables. Today, I have knowledge of rotating seasonal vegetables and know how and when to plant them. I sell vegetables and milk at the market, and with those profits, further my children's education. Just last year, my daughter has completed computer school and she is looking for job. The income I earn from sales I buy household necessities such as food. I have also extended my house into a two room house. I bought room dividers and floor tiles. Life is not as difficult as before Heifer arrived." Nono would love for her children to follow in her footsteps as she realizes that there is a better life in agriculture.

At Heifer International South Africa, we are truly proud of the efforts of Mrs. Nkgadima and the Hereford Dairy Project!



Mrs. Nkgadima and her award certificate

Empowering Women
*by Vusi Mpokeli, Eastern Cape
Programme Manager*

An important part of Heifer International South Africa's work is to support the women from rural areas in South Africa. Our organisation provides livestock as well as trainings to improve their business skills. As result of owning livestock and generating an income, the status of the women in the community rises and they become important members and decision makers in their communities.

One of Heifer's project beneficiaries, Mrs. Nokhaya Jaji, is a 54 year old single mother with five children from Peelton in the Eastern Cape Province. After her husband's death in 2001, Mrs. Nokhaya became the only breadwinner of the family. In the hopes of improving her financial situation, Mrs. Nokhaya joined Heifer's Masimanyane project in 2003. She soon received a gift of a female pig, a goat and 50kg of feed from Heifer International South Africa. After a while, Mrs. Nokhaya's pig gave birth to piglets, not once but several times! After Passing on the Gift of female piglets, Mrs. Nokhaya used her business skills and began selling the other piglets to generate income. Now, Mrs. Nokhaya and her family have sustainable access to food and also have been able to furnish their home with a wall unit and TV. She bought her son a school uniform and paid his school fees.

Asked how her life has changed after joining Masimanyane project, Mrs. Nokhaya says,



Marisia Geraci with member of Nsiken community during Sukuma Goat Delivery.

"I am very grateful to Heifer International South Africa because now I am a better



Members of Nsiken community dancing during goat delivery

person and a dignified and respected woman in my village. My life and living standard of my family have improved significantly. It is my wish that Heifer International South Africa could be supported financially by many so that they can continue making a difference in other poor families' lives."

Sukuma Goat Delivery
*by Sthembiso Gasa, KwaZulu-Natal
Programme Coordinator*

In the middle of November, Heifer International South Africa delivered 50 goats, 45 does and five ewes to the Sakuma project in Nsiken community thanks to a donation from Rotary Club of Elryia, Ohio, USA. Fifteen project members benefited on that day. Each member received three does and the ewes will be rotating among the members for breeding purposes. Through practicing our Passing on the Gift principle, Heifer's assistance will have impact on 75 families in the Nsiken community.

The goat delivery ceremony was a joyful day for the local population. The families were very happy on that day. They were singing and dancing. The ceremony was attended by different stakeholders such as Department of Agriculture, SAPS, representatives of the Mayor's office, Heifer representatives, the Local Pastor and Traditional Local Leadership.

Members of the community said: "These goats are moving us away from poverty." They emphasized that they will continue practicing the POG principle so that the

whole community can move out of poverty.

Reading Helps Alleviate Poverty
by Magdalena Wos, Volunteer

Right after the schools reopened and children returned to their schoolwork, our Read to Feed programme got back on track.

Reed to Feed is a reading programme that not only motivates children to read more books and improves their reading skills but also builds good citizenship and encourages a philanthropic spirit from an early age. Currently, the programme is being implemented in Charles Hugo Primary School and Benjamin Pine Primary School, both in the Durban area.

The two schools decided to run Read to Feed for six weeks from 1 February. During that time, children from both schools will read and obtain sponsorship for books they read. Collected money supports Heifer's projects. Heifer International South Africa is truly grateful to all children for support and participation in Read to Feed.

OUR SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:

Dr. K. Bergh who responded to our Christmas appeal and supported Heifer with R4 000.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Der Hornert have donated R5 000.

Duck 'n Deck Animal Farm supports our Read to Feed programme by providing animals for animal visits at schools.

Space, cost and data protection prevents us from listing all of our kind donors by name, but we would like to send our thanks to each and every one of our donors.