

The School Sisters of Notre Dame

Good News From Africa



Spring 2010

Good News From You!

Because of your generosity ...

- ◆ We have 17 sisters from the District of Africa studying for a degree or certification that they will use during a lifetime of ministry.
- ◆ The new maternity ward at Notre Dame Clinic in Nsawam, Ghana, has been completed and furnished and is ready for use.
- ◆ Many school children have been given the opportunity for a good education either through scholarships or because their school was helped through funding.
- ◆ An outreach program for children orphaned by AIDS was started in the Homa Bay Diocese of Kenya.
- ◆ Many people are living healthier lives now because of water filters which provide them with clean drinking water.
- ◆ Our home for the young women just entering the congregation was made larger to accommodate a larger study room and more bedrooms.
- ◆ Children with physical disabilities continue to receive care and rehabilitation at the Orthopedic Centre in Ghana.
- ◆ All the SSNDs in Africa had what they needed to live simply and minister well.



Children in primary school in Sierra Leone



Sister Cecilia Gross with a new mother and baby at Notre Dame Clinic in Ghana

This list is only a small part of what your support was able to do this past year. Many people in six countries in Africa were touched by your not-so-random acts of kindness. And we will never fully know who or what the ripples of your generosity will touch and transform. We are all truly the hands and feet and eyes of Jesus in our world. We are the ones who bring God's compassion and love to others in a concrete way. Thank you from all the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Africa and thank you from all those you have touched.

Stewardship Report on Charitable Gifts in 2009

Income

Memorials	Gifts given in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a living friend or relative	\$6,739.00
Christmas Appeal	The appeal for financial support for our sharing fund to give direct aid to those in need	\$8,660.00
Mission Appeals	Funds given for appeals made in parishes	\$16,697.86
Special Events	Funds raised through the rummage sale, quilt raffle, cell phone recycling, sale of cookbooks	\$6,665.07
Grants	Funds given by foundations or organizations for particular projects	\$70,483.62
Schools	Gifts given by schools, mission clubs and parish schools of religion	\$11,625.01
General Donations	Gifts given by individuals either through the appeal in the newsletter or unsolicited	\$164,136.48
TOTAL		\$285,007.04

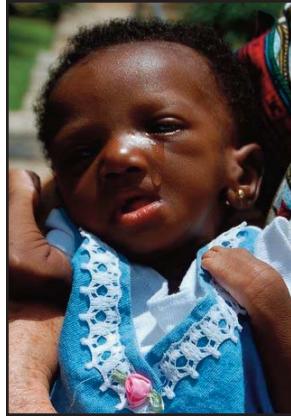
Expenditures

Scholarships for children/youth	Individual children and youth helped with fees and supplies in various schools	\$6,650.03
Education Ministries	Aid to schools supported by SSND	\$53,463.84
Notre Dame Children Outreach	Support for our newest ministry in the outreach program to aid children orphaned by AIDS in Kenya	\$27,922.55
Notre Dame Clinic and Maternity	Completion of the new maternity building and help with medicine for those unable to pay	\$20,283.54
Orthopedic Training Centre	Help to purchase food for the children and support the work	\$42,395.00
Small Designated Projects	Funds for water filters, individual sister's ministry, etc.	\$7,524.01
Extension of House for Postulants	Funds to offset the extension built to enlarge the SSND house for postulants in Kenya	\$13,876.16
Sharing Fund	Direct aid to those in need	\$11,375.00
General Support	Living expenses, education of Sisters, needs of SSNDs in Africa	\$101,516.91
TOTAL		\$285,007.04

Good News From Ghana A Tear From Africa

By Sister Elizabeth Newman

One day I walked out of my office just in time to see a young mother with a very small baby coming up the stairs to the Centre. I followed her into the treatment room and asked how old the baby was, she told me two and a half months. I was shocked to see how tiny she was and how bad she looked. I learned that the mother had no breast milk and they could not afford to buy baby formula so they were giving the baby coco (a corn mixture). I realized then that I was looking at a starving child. We went to the market to buy the formula and bottles and, after giving the baby a bottle, I knew that she needed more attention than I could give so we sent her to a hospital run by German Dominican Sisters.



Akua, as the baby is called, was there for five days when she was sent back looking very good. Akua and her mother are now with us and will be with us several months. The baby was born on June 3 at home and she was premature. Her mom is 19 years old and was a junior high school student when she got pregnant. Akua has many things wrong with her, she was born with club feet and webbed hands and, just recently when I sent her to an eye specialist, we learned that she has optic atrophy which means she may be blind.

Every day when I go to hold her and talk to her, I do not see the many physical prob-

lems she has but a beautiful child who I hope will become a beautiful woman. We can take care of her club feet and her webbed hands and only pray that with good nutrition she may have some sight. I realize that she is only one of many children who will die because of lack of proper food. In this true story, we have a young mother who loves her child but, because of poverty, is not able to give the baby what she needs to live. She would gladly have bought the formula but where would she get the \$40 a month to do that? She is caught like so many young women who get pregnant, never hear from the father and, unfortunately in this case, delivers a child with multiple disabilities while she herself is incapable of producing breast milk.

This experience has taught me so much. It has reminded me again of the Providence of God, for I don't think it was a coincidence that I came out of my office at that very moment. It puts before me again the terrible consequences of poverty, and it gives me the strength to continue when I feel tired and discouraged. I know that with God's help and the generosity of many people we can transform the lives of women and children. This child who had a big tear coming from her eye when I first met her now is a child with some hope—this makes it all worthwhile.



Akua today
at 8 months and 15.4 pounds

Good News From Kenya From Newspaper to Charcoal

By Sister Janet Crane

The food was running low among our clients at the Care Centre in Nairobi. Food is as essential as medicine and medical care for people living with HIV and chronic illness. The drought was making food in short supply and the prices soar. We prayed for rain, reduced our supplements, and finally had to make the terrible decision to remove food from our health support for our households. *continues on page 4*

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Good News From Kenya—continued from page 3



Making newspaper "coal" for cooking

One day as I was looking at a stack of newspapers, I was thinking how I wished that newspapers were eatable. An inspiration came from my childhood experience of making "charcoal" from the newspaper. We devised a plan to teach our clients to make the "charcoal" from the abundant and ready supply of newspapers. Domtilla, our social worker, gathered the clients in the chief's office and we started to produce the "charcoal" with the shredded paper and small amounts of water. After soaking the shreds and molding it into balls, the charcoal balls were laid out to dry. The clients have been able to save money through the work of their

hands and using the "charcoal" for cooking. Each newspaper makes enough "charcoal" to cook tea and supper for two to two and one-half days. The clients call it, "makaa," which is Kiswahili for charcoal. In its simplicity, our inspiration has become a weekly production for even the weak clients. The clients have been able to form a co-op to save money for their children's schooling and other household expenses. The Care Centre has been able to promote recycling of the newspaper, the services of our project, and concern for our clients.

We are planning to implement creative initiatives such as the crocheting of plastic bags into placemats, doormats, and bags and using rags for small rugs and seat pads.

Necessity has become the mother of our paper balls and initiatives to come. We are helping to promote health, well-being, and community!



Newspaper "coal" drying