

Africa Poverty Relief Project

The Heart of Compassion Association, Inc. working in collaboration with Global Physician's Corps through Touro University

What began as an idea by members of Heart of Compassion to address poverty in Africa has fully blossomed into a fully complete and successful project in Tanzania, East Africa. HoC's purpose was to provide aid to those living in the poorest parts of Africa, to address hunger and starvation and to improve living conditions in these regions. Through HoC's collaboration with medical students involved in the Global Physician's Corps at Touro University, the title of Africa Poverty Relief Project came into fruition.

Selection of Project/Location

The focus was in East Africa because we easily had direct contacts with those going to this region annually. Medical students from Touro University who are also a part of the GPC go to Tanzania and Ethiopia each year to do medical research and can easily monitor and assess current and future projects.

In talking with our key contacts in Tanzania, it was decided that we needed to create a sustainable project that can provide a continuous income to those living in poverty. The Michire community of Mkoma Village, was selected as an area with individuals who would benefit the most from this project. The Michire community's village council, which is a legal registered council in Tanzania, took charge of selecting individuals living in poverty in this village.

Specifically, the project included the building of a hammer mill that produces flour from the staple foodstuffs through farming. This includes the milling of rice, cassava, and millet, which are common farming staples in Tanzania. Income earned from the mill will support families that were selected to receive aid. The project was inaugurated in September 1st of 2008.

Assessment of the Project's Success

Members of Heart of Compassion youth group and Touro University medical students with the direction of Dr. Mahmoud and Mr. Magati in Tanzania will assess

the project as it currently runs. Along with the Michire village council in Mkoma, our groups will together evaluate the success of the hammer mill project annually.

From communication with Mr. Magati, the hammer mill project currently accrues per month an average of 88,000 Tanzanian shillings, an equivalent of \$70 per month. The hammer mill project has been very beneficial to the Michire community in Mkoma Village. It has reduced the burden of women to go further distances for their milling foodstuffs and to obtain them at a more affordable price. It has created temporary wage employment for individuals involved with the project. It has also produced a significant income to the target group.

Heart of Compassion has successfully achieved the goal of poverty relief by implementing the hammer mill project in Tanzania, East Africa. Under the umbrella title of Africa Poverty Relief, HoC hopes to continue projects similar to the mill project in Mkoma Village throughout other parts of Africa ■

