



SEEDS OF HOPE
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

JUNE 2012

“GROWING” A BUSINESS

On May 6th, 2012, Seeds of Hope - Zambia began the first, official “Agriculture as a Business” training series! The program is six months long and opened with 33



RESOURCE CENTER PRODUCE

students, half of which were mobilized through our partnership with the Zambian Ministry of Youth. The purpose is to train unemployed youth and harness their energy so they become successful vegetable growers and potential businesspeople. The program has two major components: in-field and in-class learning. The in-field portion consists of students being trained in and performing land preparation, compost making, transplanting, fertilizing, weeding, spraying, aerating, and harvesting crops. This practical, participatory portion comprises 70% of the student's grade and is complimented by the in-class sessions, which increase understanding of full-scale vegetable production- from budgeting to marketing to selling!

Currently, the students are growing a variety of vegetables with a special focus on tomatoes, cabbage,

and onions because they have the most reliable markets for our students. Foresight, such as focusing on growing produce with a proven market, while introducing “new” crops for added nutritional value in areas of vitamin deficit is made possible by the combined, experienced efforts of Matt Ellis, Oswald Mulenga, and Agatha Kanegu. Together they run the program and teach, challenge, and empower students to become efficient and effective farmers. Students who complete the first six month program are then



MR. MULENGA TEACHING

given access to the expertise of SHIP staff to be consulted and encouraged as they begin farming on their own plots. This follow up helps to create confident farmers who can successfully execute learned methods and

begin to take hold of the resources they need to change their lives and the lives of their families and community!

The program is based at our Resource Center in Ndola and we are looking raise money to extend the fence

around our plots to demonstrate and teach on even more ground! Once our first batch of students are “harvested” in November, they will be “transplanted” to their own farms or to intern plots, which is a critical transition where the new graduates will benefit from the support of SHIP staff and champions, like you! We are in need of sponsorship for the second six-month phase, this is the “launching” portion and is paramount to ensuring generations of wise farmers are strategically released to bless and reap from the land!



“AGRICULTURE AS A BUSINESS” STUDENTS

CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT // ERIN SCHAUER

This month we would like to highlight Erin Schauer for selflessly devoting over two years of her life to developing Seeds of Hope and the empowering SHIP Zambia staff and local community members. During those years in Zambia she was a source of constant encouragement to her family while faithfully using her gifts of strategic thinking and system development to craft curriculum, trainings, facilitation guides, borehole management, and the Healthy Home Certification program. Erin

helped to design and strategize the foundation of the Community Approach that we use today. We are

pleased to announce and celebrate her engagement to George Musabandesu project manager and a key leader in Seeds of Hope. Her willingness to lay down

her life to wholeheartedly serve the vision of Seeds of Hope has been a lavish expression of practical love that continues to inspire and encourage community members in Ndola and supporters around the world. Erin has recently left Zambia to start a new job as an environmental engineer in the Maryland! She will be very much missed here, but we wish

her and George all the best in this next season of her life. THANK YOU, Erin!



PEDALS + PARTNERSHIPS

This June the culmination of Mountainbrook Community Church's 2012 SENT Campaign will bless us with a shipping container packed full of over 400 mountain bikes! These bikes will be repaired and sold



affordable and stronger than what is currently available in Zambia so they will be an incredible blessing for everyone that purchases them. Just having a bike can give people a step towards

in Zambia with income being used to support many of the unfunded projects and operations at Seeds of Hope. The bikes are more

breaking poverty. Seeds of Hope Bike repair and sales shop is an important project that can help bring self-sustaining income into our work in Zambia, so we are incredibly thankful for the continual and creative support of our friends back in the United States.

Throughout the years the people at Mountainbrook have shown to be joyful, excited givers by donating a drill rig, 5 water wells, and 431 BioSand filters. By cheerfully giving what amounts to just a few dollars a day they are giving Zambia families the ability to have - clean drinking water year after year! Not only is Mountainbrook helping provide clean water, but this shipping container will be the third container they have hosted and helped pack full of donated goods! Long term partnerships like Mountainbrook has modeled is key to successful community development. A sincere THANK YOU to Mountainbrook Community Church for helping to reverse the downward spiral of poverty in Southern Africa!