

Humanity in Action - Building Hope through Partnerships

**A Project of the Rotary Club of Bellingin in
Partnership with Possible Dreams International**

Construction of a House in Swaziland - the project began in 2012

The completed House:





IN THE BEGINNING.....

In 2012, a special person came into the life of Bellingin Rotary

Mandy Hubbard from Kalang, a Swazi-born mother, was invited to speak to the club about her volunteer work with Possible Dreams International. Possible Dreams International is a non-Government not for profit organisation which partners with rural and remote communities in Swaziland, South Africa to empower families and individuals living in extreme poverty.

THE BACKGROUND.....

Possible Dreams International works in 32 remote and rural areas of Swaziland.

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a mountainous, landlocked nation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At least 70% of the country lives in extreme poverty and a further 84% of these people live in remote and rural areas.

Possible Dreams International provides emergency aid relief in the form of medical care, food and housing as well as sustainable development solutions including water access, agricultural support and micro-enterprise projects.

Their team is comprised of local Swazi people as well as international volunteers.

THE PROBLEM.....

Swaziland has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world and at least 10% of the population of Swaziland are orphaned children under the age of 15. Most of these children live with a grandparent or in child-headed households (children raising other children).

In the rural areas of Swaziland there exists an insidious cycle of extreme poverty, lack of education and HIV/AIDS leading to the world's lowest life expectancy and fastest death rate with approximately 38% of people HIV Positive. Many poor families living in Swaziland lack adequate housing and have no social or financial backup for anyone sick and unable to work.

Most houses are made of mud and stick and are extremely vulnerable to storms and extremes of weather.

Mandy spoke of the "Go-go's" - grandmothers in Swaziland who look after and raise their grandchildren after their parents have been lost to HIV. The families are often affected by malnutrition, endemic disease and homelessness and are challenged by very limited access to healthcare, transport, medications and food.

THE SOLUTION.....

PDI's empowerment packages not only provide a beautiful brand new house for these families but also a five thousand litre water tank to establish water access, income generation planning and home agricultural projects to help the family feed themselves.

Houses are built to PDI standards of excellence and builders are all derived from the local community and often come from impoverished backgrounds themselves.

THE PARTNERSHIP.....

The club decided to partner with Possible Dreams International, to raise funds to build a house for one family living in extreme poverty.

THE PROJECT.....

- **Stage one (November 2012)** - involved a series of discussion with Mandy and a further presentation by Mandy to the club to discuss the concept, confirm the project costing, the process to be taken, the usage of the funds and for the Board to determine and implement an action plan
- **Stage two (January 2013 - October 2014)** - saw the implementation of the clubs action plan involving a series of club and joint partnership fund raising activities and ongoing discussions with Possible Dreams.
- **Stage three (November 2014)** - culminated in a final Emakhaya 4 Gogo (Homes for Grandma) fund rising community twilight reception and fund raising activity, in conjunction with possible Dreams, which raised a total of \$15,000 (twice as much projected) including Rotary's fund raising donation of \$4,500.
- The culmination of this and other events provided enough funds for two Swazi grandmothers and one Swazi grandfather caring for HIV/AIDS orphans with new homes.
- **Stage four** - saw the commencement and completion of construction of a home and water tank provided by Rotary for one Go-go and her family. The water tank is an important component of the project as this enables this family to grow food and supplement their meagre income.

None of this would have been possible without Mandy's visit to a Rotary Meeting back in 2012 when the club decided to support this extremely worthwhile project. The club had been raising funds since Mandy's initial visit culminating with the club donating \$4,500 to Possible Dreams International in November 2014 specifically for this purpose.

THE PRESENTATION.....

On the 15 November 2014, the club presented Mandy Hubbard with a cheque for \$4,500 as its contribution to the building of a home for one Go-go and her family.



THE FAMILY.....

Go go Katherine and her Family who now live in the home



THE NEXT STAGE.....

This is an ongoing partnership, with fund raising activities continuing by the Rotary Club in support of this very worthwhile purpose.