

IFHE-US Development Fund Grant Making Report  
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The IFHE Development Fund Committee has recommended the funding of two proposals for the 2012-2016 grant-making cycle. Each will receive \$5000. One grant is to the Henvanvani Community Radio Station in Garhwali District, high in the Himalayas. Along with Lady Irwin College in New Delhi, staff, faculty and students will develop a health education campaign to educate women about health issues and health care access. A pre and post monitoring effort in 20 villages will help determine the reception and use of the health messages.



The second grant is to the Department of Home Economics at the Federal College of Education, Umanze in Anambra State Nigeria to develop computer software to teach pattern drafting. Faculty at Umanze feel that students at the secondary and tertiary level of education resist home economics majors because of the work entailed in pattern drafting and sewing classes. Computer assisted drafting would greatly enhance the appeal of such home economics classes and serve the field to improve clothing construction output. Announcements of these grants will be made at the IFHE Congress in Melbourne.



**During the 2008-2012 funding cycle, four grants were dispersed. Each has completed their plan of work and reported appreciation for the monetary support.**

1. The kiln building project in Kenya involved 20 women with the skills of making energy saving and smoke reducing fire-place liners. They built a community kiln for firing the liners within Ng'iya community and involved the women in popularizing the energy saving jikos and fireplace liners and marketing them on their own. 611 fireplace liners



were installed in local homes. The group became enthused for such fund raising efforts and is now working on a community gardening project. The group that was supported by this grant is composed of those who are HIV positive and so the income they get assists them to go for drugs regularly in which case they are able to adhere to the treatment regime.

2. The Hay-Box Cooking Project was conducted by The Don Bosco Educational Projects (DBEP), a collection of schooling and skills projects serving the poorest located in and around Ennerdale, about 30kms South-West of Johannesburg, South Africa. Training in the use of the hay-box for cooking took place at Lawley Church once a week for 12 weeks. Women living in this area face lack of access to electrical power, either because it is non-existent or a huge drain on their meager income. Six women received training as trainers, and working together with 60 other women, learnt how to use various materials-- cardboard boxes, insulation stuff, scrap cloth and the like, to make a "Hay-Box"! They were taught how to prepare food by placing it all in a pot with water and bringing it to the boil, switching off the power and placing the pot (with lid) into the "box" and insulating it so that the meal continues to cook. One participant noted, "I don't believe you can cook without a fire! I come home from work and do not have to start cooking! It is done in the box!" Children in two elementary schools also received the training.



3. A grant was made to the Dago Dala Hera Orphan Feeding Program Improvement Project in Kenya. The Dago Dala Hera community-based organization provides a daycare feeding program for local orphans and is working toward a boarding program for the most vulnerable orphans with no acceptable home option. The monies from this grant were used to have school tables and benches constructed for dining. Children had previously been eating while sitting on the ground or cement floor. Because children are now eating seated at the tables, they can be taught table manners. Older children are helping younger children, so that all are being taught helping and courtesy skills. A second aspect of the project was to improve the facilities such as constructing a rain water catchment tank and gutters to collect clean rain water for cooking, cleaning, hand washing, and teeth brushing. This prevented the collection of water from unclean water



sources, and the need for children to help collect water. A hand washing and teeth brushing station was also constructed including a 200 L water tank with tap for clean hand washing water, and steel stand with soap holder. Children now wash hands before and after eating, and brush teeth after eating. All of these efforts support the teaching of good hygiene practices, manners, and helping skills. They also taught their community

volunteers nutrition and sanitation knowledge so that better nutritional education and health practices could be provided in the 30 or more homes that care for orphans in the community.

4. The final grant, the school gardening project in the Virgin Islands involved five schools-- Gladys A. Abraham Elementary School; Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School, Lockhart Elementary School, Ulla F. Muller Elementary School and Addelita Cancryn Jr. High School. As the purpose of the gardening effort was to teach nutrition and encourage the consumption of vegetables, the project conducted pre and post tests with the elementary school children. After the six week program of nutrition classes the youth showed improvement in their nutrition knowledge. However, the significance of this project went beyond nutrition gains; (1) children and school staff were excited about gardening and healthy nutrition; (2) the children at one of the schools sold their vegetables and seedlings at the annual food fair which was held at the end of April—this school won the first place for the best display of vegetables three years in a row. The money that they made from this project went for purchasing new plants, seeds, etc. for their garden; (3) another elementary school took their vegetables and learned to cook them in various ways; and (4) one school produced peppers and children learned to can the peppers and sold them to profit their garden project. Project coordinators noted that, “It is very exciting to see children and school staff so involved and excited about what they are doing. The teachers are using the garden to teach math, science, and family and consumer science concepts.”



The IFHE-US Development Fund Committee wishes to thank all of you for your support of the Development Fund that makes grants of this nature available to our colleagues in developing countries of the world.