

LifeNets Wheelchair Project in its 14th Year

We started a wheelchair program in 2000 to match people who needed wheelchairs with those who donated them to us. Initially we posted stories on our website at www.lifenets.org/wheelchair in order to solicit donations. We had modest activity for a few years. Then all of a sudden, for yet unknown reasons to us, when people used keywords "donate wheelchair" in search engines they would come to LifeNets as a place to donate their wheelchair. We then started a service on a separate website www.lifenetswheelchairproject.org. People could list a chair that they wanted to donate and people needing a chair could see what was available. This has worked wonderfully since then and each year we match almost 100 wheelchairs from donor to beneficiaries. We are on track to surpass 100 wheelchair matches before the end of the year.

Here is one of the success stories: This is from Thom and his request is:

"I am a disabled veteran with spinal injuries acquired while serving our country. I have been waiting for some time for a

chair through the VA but there seems to be a long wait for my name to come up. I have a chair that is on its last legs and can



Thom with wheelchair and ramp donation.

not find parts for it. The chair you are offering would make life so much easier not just for myself but for my family as well. And the ramp would open more doors for me as well. If you choose me I would be very appreciated by far. Thank you kindly for your awesome generosity to our Craigslist community. God Bless you and yours."

After he received the donation he wrote:

"The chair and ramps are indeed perfect for my daily needs. I'll get a picture sent to you as soon as I can. I won't forget. Thank you for all you do. I wish there were more people and non-profit organizations like you. You are a Godsend for sure."

Hydroponics Provides Food Security in Urban Guatemala

LifeNets has helped develop an organic hydroponic infrastructure (the cultivation of plants by placing the roots in liquid nutrient solutions rather than in soil) in urban Guatemala City. From May 13 to May 22, 2012, Jonathan Magee, Milan Bizic and Sarah Bizic from Cincinnati, Ohio traveled to Guatemala to assist in this project. The ongoing project is being led by Francisco Solorzano, who has worked as an agronomist for several decades.

He has organized four groups of five individuals who wish to learn about the hydroponic process and begin their own gardens.



with him to produce seedlings at the facility, before they are transplanted in the individuals' own garden

The teaching facility that was constructed in May is located on the roof of Mr. Solorzano's house, allowing him to maintain it regularly. Everyone involved is excited about the project and the potential of expanding it to the surrounding areas. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in some way for helping improve the quality of life for those involved.

In 2013 we plan to organize a larger group of young people to go to Guatemala to take this procedure to places throughout Guatemala.

At the same time, Mr. Solorzano is overseeing a planting program for those who would like to participate. It will allow them to work

Updates on this project will be made at <http://lifenets.org/guatemala/YouthCorps2012/march12-2012.html>.



LifeNets

1227 Woodchase Trail
Batavia, Ohio 45103
513.201.8850

fax: 317.536.3388
e-mail: info@lifenets.org

LifeNets is a 501(c)(3) corporation that helps people in need and promotes self-sufficiency. Contributions to LifeNets are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

How to Effortlessly Double Your LifeNets Donation

Many companies will match their employees' and retirees' charitable contributions. Check with your personnel office, and they will provide the necessary forms and instructions. Then send LifeNets the completed form. Thank you very much!

Scholarships Still Our Biggest and Most Effective Program!

Giving young people scholarships to study for a lifelong profession is our best value in the developing countries we work in. We currently give scholarship to more than 60 students in Latin America, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Armenia, Ukraine and a few other places. Our total outlay for scholarships exceeds \$75,000 annually.



Gift Chikwera graduates with a degree that qualifies him to teach in Malawi.



Gabriella on left studying to be dental technician in Ukraine.

We are asking our scholarship recipients to study in curriculums that will have the greatest likelihood of success in practical fields such as medicine, dental, accounting, computer technology, teaching etc.

We are greatly satisfied by those who graduate and who have a position in the field of their study.

Come visit our scholarship section to see inspiring stories of a few of the students that LifeNets helps around the world at www.lifenets.org/scholarships.



Ani in Armenia studying modern languages.



Steve K. in Malawi with March 2012 degree in Journalism.

2012 LifeNets Project to Complete Dunya Orphans School

LifeNets likes to help ongoing projects where people are struggling to make ends meet. We then like to help them become successful. This is what happened with the Dunya Orphans School in Kosele, Kenya. Dunya is a small, remote community in Western Kenya that is comprised of a population struggling with AIDS. Orphans and single parent children living there often struggle to find food prior to reaching the age where government run education starts.



Happy beneficiaries of the Dunya Orphans School in Kosele, Kenya.

A small group of widows and adults have been running the Dunya Widows and Orphans Project which provides area preschoolers with a daily meal and a kindergarten education. They plant and raise crops with which to feed the children as well as teaching them to read and write.

The school is operated by Joseph Onura. He has provided for widow projects as well as the school for the orphans. The school has 56 orphans, 32 of them are total orphans, meaning they have lost both parents. Concerned individuals in the

United States have been providing about \$100 a month in aid for them. This goes towards school supplies and providing a meal or two per day. Jim Morgan of Tennessee and Merrie Elliott of Arizona have been instrumental in fund raising for the school.

LifeNets became involved with a \$6000 need which included the following:

- \$4500 for plastering, cement floors, security windows and lockable doors.
- \$1000 for desks, chairs, books and teaching materials.
- \$500 for farming implements to assist them in providing food for the children.

By June 3rd we had the entire \$6000 which we were able to send on to Kenya to complete the building. A major part of this was raised by concerned young people in Michigan. Thank you!

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