

LifeNets Orphan Care Centre in Balaka, Malawi Opens October 7th

Our container to Malawi last year held six tons of food. While much of the food was allocated for people in Lilongwe and Blantyre, it was noted that nearly a ton was marked "Feeding Children" from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Chilopora and his nurse wife Esther who run Chizeni Clinic in Balaka decided to help orphans, mostly as a result of parents who died of AIDS in a nearby community. Not only did they feed them; they also gave them a regular medical assessment and gave lectures to their guardians about basic child care. The guardians were mostly grandparents and other relatives. The children loved the food. LifeNets now provides more



food and 195 orphans are now regularly cared for at Chizeni. Here is a letter sent to us from the orphan's guardians:

We are very thankful for the food that you have sent to us for orphans. Both we and our children are happy for your kindness. The food is very tasty and the children love it. We are very happy to see the health status of our grandchildren change. They are much fatter now than before. Please do not stop sending the food or our grandchildren will die. We sincerely greet you and thank you. We are your children of Mpulula Village. Thank you!

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"Passing on the Gift" First Calves Given to Zambian Neighbor October 12th

An increasingly important part of LifeNets service is not only to meet urgent needs and help people become self-sufficient but to help the beneficiaries become helpers and donors themselves.

Nearly two years ago LifeNets donors supplied the financial resources to purchase 24 heifers and two bulls for remote communities in the Mumbwa province in Zambia. These cattle replaced animals lost to Corridor Disease (carried by the wild African buffalo) three years before. The cattle restoration program has greatly helped the local people to plow their fields and provide protein in the form of milk.

Since the introduction of these cattle six calves have been born but two were stillborn, leaving two males and two females. We project that another six will be born before the end of the year.



Andre van Belkum (right) passing on pair of calves to the Chifwepa family in Mumbwa

The plan behind the program is to pass on these first calves to other farmer families who do not have cattle of their own.

The first two heifers were handed over to a local farmer and his wife on Sunday October 12. While villagers gathered around, Winter and Often Chifwepa were asked to come forward to receive the two calves. It was a simple ceremony but one which marked a milestone in the cattle restoration program. After the ceremony the villagers walked back to their homes singing songs of thanks for the blessings of additional calves and what that means for the Chifwepa family.

The procurement and supply of veterinary drugs is a component of the project that has made it so successful. A number of farmers have lost as much as 75% of their cattle due to various diseases. In comparison, our mortality rate is still only the two reported earlier.

—by Andre van Belkum and Kambani Banda

Support For Children's Camps in the Philippines, South Africa, Ghana and Ukraine



Abseiling at Glenmor camp in South Africa

Why is giving a camping experience to young people important? Camps are much more than play and recreation.

First of all, they are programs FOR the development of children. This may be the first time that they have left home or have met children away from their neighborhood. In

Ukrainian Transcarpathia, this is the first time that some children have left their village as their world expands immeasurably. Since 2000 LifeNets has given a camping experience to hundreds of youngsters in western Ukraine. Our biggest summer was 2001 when we sponsored five sessions of summer camp for 501 children. For



United Youth Camp in the Philippines

about \$4 per child per day we provide all that's necessary. Living in poverty, even these costs could not be covered by parents



Learning traditional music at "Romashka" camp in Transcarpathia, Ukraine

who would look to other priorities and exclude this experience. Volunteer workers helped run activities and chaper-

one. Camps for children in Transcarpathia are for eight to 12 year-olds.

In the Philippines we have supported United Youth Camps in Mindanao for the past three years with a

\$1500 to \$2000 subsidy each

year to help buy extra camp equipment and provide transportation for the young people.

In 2003 we helped three deserving campers come to camp in Glenmore South Africa near the Indian Ocean.

On the right is United Youth Camp held in Ghana. LifeNets provided toothpaste and other dental hygiene products being held up by campers as part of a dental hygiene class.



LifeNets also sponsors the Ozzie G. Engelbart Memorial to bring two young

people from overseas for a United States camping experience that becomes a special time never to be forgotten. This past summer the two students came from Belgium to Heritage Camp in Pennsylvania.

LifeNets will continue its commitment to give some underprivileged youngsters an opportunity that will change their lives.



Youngster having a great time jumping rope. Meeting new friends was a favorite activity

Chizeni "Heal Me" Clinic in Balaka, Malawi Officially Opens

In 1997 Dr. Sam Chilopora and his wife Esther started building a private clinic to serve the needs of Balaka but construction came to a halt because of currency devaluation and other financial problems. In 2001 LifeNets committed to completing the clinic and it started functioning in January 2002. A LifeNets container supplying medical equipment, supplies and food arrived from Cincinnati on August 2002. The clinic did not have electricity until 2003.

We visited the clinic on October 7th and found it to be 95% complete. On that day Dr. Sam Chilopora and his staff held a modest dedication with the orphans who are served by the clinic singing a celebration song. The clinic still needs final certification to operate 24 hours a day and that will hopefully come



Dr. Sam Chilopora and Victor Kubik celebrate opening of new clinic in Balaka, Malawi as staff and orphans sing



soon as we await the granting of two ambulances, one for the Chizeni Clinic and the other for the Malakia Clinic in Lilongwe, which we helped build in 2001.

Vinogradov Street Children Program Finishes Second Year of Operation

In August 2001 we met Vasil and Irina Polichko in Ukraine, who were struggling to help 40 street children in Vinogradov, a Ukrainian town near the Hungarian border. The couple had big and open hearts along with a long history of helping many people in Transcarpathia. They wanted badly to help these children whose parents abandoned or grossly neglected them. The parents are often alcoholics. These children wander the streets with no care or supervision. The Polichkos lacked the resources to help these children. The government is sympathetic but doesn't provide finances for any programs. The government did, however, donate a very old building to use as a soup kitchen. The rundown building dated back to when Vinogradov was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



We could not turn away from this need and their will to help the children. When we wrote about this need on our website, a number of families came forward with the financing to provide a meal and love for 40 children daily in the building that



they remodeled. Not only are they fed, they hold Bible Studies and sing. Our LifeNets Director in nearby Khust, Ivan Yurishko, has helped provide transportation to give these children field trips to castles and other recreation in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains.

Thanks to those who give these wandering children hope, dignity and joy.



Twenty-ton Container Leaving for Chernobyl from Indianapolis

It's taken almost a year of collection and preparation to send this much-needed load of beds, medical equipment and supplies to Chernihev, Ukraine. LifeNets chairman Tom Peine took the responsibility to store and prepare the shipment from Peine Engineering in Indianapolis where he is vice president. There is a tremendous amount of work and commitment in putting a container together. In the past seven years of working in the Chernobyl area this is our fifth such shipment to this area alone.

On it will be 50 beds, multiple boxes of medical supplies and a wonderful donation of developmental toys for the "Revival" Center for the rehabilitation of disabled children in Chernihev, Ukraine located about 40 miles east of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. This area of Ukraine has a higher than normal incidence of children with nerve-related diseases

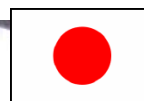


Volunteers Tom Peine, Malcolm and Jonathan McClure help with shrink-wrapping load for Ukraine

such as cerebral palsy. The container will be leaving about the end of December and takes about seven weeks to get to its destination. Shipping cost is provided by the US State Department.

LifeNets Affiliate in Japan Supplies 200 pairs of new eyeglasses for the Philippines

Dr. Yumi Yamamoto, an ophthalmologist, has established an affiliate of LifeNets that will operate from Kochi, Japan located on the island of Shikoku. Dr. Yamamoto has visited us in Indianapolis, Indiana and has been very enthusiastic about helping where she and her friends can in Asia. Our first project was her generous shipment of 200 pairs of eyeglasses to the Philippines.



Dr. Yamamoto at her Kochi home with the eyeglasses about to go to the Philippines.



the reading glasses they received from LifeNets Japan and send their thanks.

Florante Siopan in the Philippines reported to us that the eyeglasses were distributed on October 12th to people gathered at Iloilo City. They greatly appreciated



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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 or Triple 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!

If you would like for us to put a friend on the mailing list, please let us know via email at: newsletter@lifenets.org or write us at the address above.

What is Still Needed?

What you have seen in this newsletter are only some of the programs that we maintain. It's been a great year but we need to continue helping people get on their feet, in some cases literally! Some of our projects are ongoing and need continued support. Overseas in developing countries we get a lot of "bang for the buck" and often provide \$20 of benefit for every dollar donated. Contributions to LifeNets support:

- Medicines that we buy for as little as 2-4 cents on a dollar that have immeasurably improved the quality of life and have saved lives in Malawi and Zambia.
- Scholarship programs in Latin America, Africa and Ukraine.
- Clean water wells for drinking and also irrigation in Africa
- Livelihood Development programs that we greatly desire to expand in Africa. These will be implemented as we have the funds to do so.
- And much more!!

We work directly with those who receive the aid. All work is done on a volunteer basis by people who want to make a difference. Check our website for more details or give us a call at 888 821-0095 and ask what you can do. Thanks to all who care and continue to help!

Wheelchairs Bring Mobility To Disabled in the US and Overseas

Since we started our wheelchair program three years ago, we have received dozens of wheelchairs from people who reach LifeNets through our website. Included have been some almost new electric wheelchairs. On the right is Steve Westerviller from Columbus, Ohio who received a particularly valuable chair valued at over \$20,000 through a donor in northern Indiana.



Half a dozen pediatric wheelchairs are going to Ukraine on our next container shipment from Indianapolis.

Recently we received a particularly good assortment of wheelchairs from the Chicago Department of Human Services, Community Services Division whom LifeNets had earlier helped with a wheelchair for an indigent child cancer victim. They now reciprocated by giving us four wheelchairs in excellent condition.

One of our more interesting stories is about SFC Blake Rubie serving in the US Military in Caracas, Venezuela. He contacted us through our website and requested a wheelchair for one of his staff who became paralyzed from a fall. He asked us to deliver a chair to Ft. Gillem in Atlanta where it would be flown by military transport the rest of the way to Venezuela. That was easy enough. Then he asked for another chair for Pablo shown in these photos. He is 60 years old, paralyzed, and moved by dragging himself around on the ground. So we sent another chair the same way. Then it had to be taken on a 20-hour bus ride to where Pablo lives. Pablo is now overjoyed to be mobile!



Before



After

Linus Blankets for LifeNets

Because LifeNets once donated to Linus for blankets to people in Afghanistan we received a call from Mitzi Koons of Linus Project Morgan/Hendricks County of Indiana.



They donated 170 brand new hand-made blankets to LifeNets. These blankets will go to Ukraine where they will be greatly appreciated during the coming cold winter! Beverly Kubik shown on left with the wonderful gift!

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