



Above: A Participant at Beacon of Hope Produces a Rug

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Network Update: Business Cluster Exchange

On October 27th and 28th 2011 six Africa Rising partners gathered at Beacon of Hope in Nairobi, Kenya. Top leaders from each of the participating organizations chose to travel from as far away as the northwest corner of Tanzania and Kampala, Uganda to come for the gathering. The topic for the exchange was business for non-profits. Jane Wathome, the Founder and Director of Beacon of Hope, offered to share with the gathered organizations about the lessons of running and growing Beacon of Hope over the past ten years. The wealth of her experience was eagerly anticipated by the Africa Rising partners.

Each participant was able to choose a program to spend part of a day visiting. Due to the breadth of Beacon of Hope programs, the choices included: comprehensive healthcare; technical skill and business training for women and youth; craft production and marketing; running a pre-school; youth mobilization; sustainable

gardens; and micro-finance. In addition to the hands-on learning the participants experienced in their program visit, Ms. Wathome also shared directly about program sustainability, local fundraising, working with corporate donors, and program replication.

As with all of the Africa Rising cluster exchanges, this gathering allowed our partners to learn from one another in practical and exciting ways. We are eager to see how the management and business insights shared will have ripple effects in the communities impacted by each of our partners through the ideas generated and implemented.

Partner Update: TULIP

TULIP has reinvented itself as an organization. TULIP began in 2002 with the mission of transforming the lives of underprivileged, vulnerable teenage girls in informal settlements in Nairobi. For many years the dedicated staff and leaders of the organization provided discipleship, education, and life-skills training to some of the most vulnerable girls in Nairobi. And the wonderful and encouraging news is that this work continues today.

Over the past several years, it became clear to the board of TULIP that the organization needed greater stability in leadership and infrastructure. Rather than closing the doors and giving up in the face of the challenges ahead, the leaders of TULIP creatively and courageously found a solution to reinvent the organization. An agreement was reached to operate TULIP under the umbrella of Lifespring Chapel in Nairobi. This arrangement would provide the needed stability and infrastructure to allow the organization to continue operating. It would also require a move from Korogocho, the home since the founding of TULIP, to the informal settlement right near the church.

Great care was taken in making the transition. All the girls who were participating in the TULIP programs before the move were admitted to boarding schools and will complete their high school education. On school holidays, they have families to stay with who provide mentoring and career exploration opportunities.

The new location is proving extremely successful as well. A relationship has been built with a boarding school next to

Lifespring Chapel where the new girls participating in TULIP will attend school next year. The school has asked and agreed to Lifespring Chapel providing a discipleship program for the entire school, including the TULIP participants. In addition, the girls in the program will integrate into the vibrant youth program at the church where they can access a computer lab and library.

Mentors have already stepped up through Lifespring Chapel who are eager to engage with the girls and provide assistance in any way necessary.

Future plans for TULIP in the near future include hiring an Executive Director, starting income generating programs with the parents and guardians of the girls in the program, and responding to interest from businesses in the community for financial support.

It is a joy to see the successful transition that has allowed TULIP to continue to meet the needs of vulnerable girls in Nairobi. By holding strongly to the core mission of TULIP, and being flexible and open to radical changes, the organization has continued to thrive. The future promises to be very bright and hopeful in providing a positive impact on the girls in the program as well as the wider community. Africa Rising looks forward to our continued relationship with TULIP and reporting on their continued success. Through the network of Africa Rising, other organizations in East Africa will be able to benefit as well from the lessons learned by TULIP in undertaking this successful transition.



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