

# Voices for CHANGE



>>> DONOR NEWSLETTER >>> FALL 2016 >>> OXFAM.CA >>>

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## Message from Julie

I'm so excited to share this issue of our newsletter to fill you in on some of the life-changing accomplishments you've helped make possible through Oxfam. In Zimbabwe we're seeing the incredible results of our donors' efforts through the Threads for Change campaign. And we're seeing our major initiative, Creating Spaces, come to fruition taking action on violence against women.

Thank you for helping Oxfam to partner with women's rights organizations and local communities to decrease the social acceptability of violence against women, while empowering women and their families!

Julie Delahanty

*Thank you for your continued support of Oxfam Canada's work.*

## Improving Equality and Livelihoods: Grace's Story



Grace Aciro

Grace Aciro's family was used to eking out a small living on their subsistence farm in northern Uganda. Grace has seven kids and a husband who believed that a woman's role was limited to the household.

*"When we had just started living together he told me that he had married me to do all the household activities,"* says Grace. But after training with Oxfam's partner in Uganda, her and her husband's attitudes shifted as they learned about women's rights and the importance of a woman's role in economic empowerment.

Now their days consist of shared household and

farm chores. In doing this, they've increased their farming yield dramatically and are lifting themselves out of poverty.

*"Before the training we didn't even know the importance of farming. We practiced it on a small scale level where we would sell just a little bit of our yields to buy things like soap, sugar and salt. This training has turned our farming into a profitable economic venture."*

Today the couple are true partners in family life and business, making farming decisions together and budgeting for school fees, food and medical bills. Grace and her husband are happy to share what they've learned with friends and neighbours.

Through your support and Oxfam's new Creating Spaces program, you'll help families in Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh and the Philippines challenge the social norms that devalue women. Together we can help more families, like Grace's, build better lives.

Photo credit: Julius Ceaser Kasujja/Oxfam

# Quilt Stitched With Hope and Encouragement Arrives in Zimbabwe

Through Oxfam's recent Threads of Change campaign, donors pulled together to raise \$103,000 and created a quilt of inspirational messages that made its way to communities in Zimbabwe.

We brought the quilt to one of the hardest hit drought areas, Umuguza district, where we met with a group for women's economic empowerment. With your help, Oxfam is working with the women of a self-help group addressing issues such as child protection and sexual reproductive health rights. The women are also learning marketing skills, opening their own businesses and creating a pot of money to help each other's business ventures grow.

The program is part of a larger program raising awareness of HIV & AIDS prevention while increasing access to treatment. These women are even creating a health clinic where they can get HIV screening and health checks they currently can't access nearby.



Photo credit: Sam Cunningham/Oxfam  
Our donors' Threads of Change quilt in Zimbabwe.

Countless women shared with us their heartwarming stories of the way their lives have changed thanks to donors like you.

Senzeni Ndlovu told us she's now providing for her children and has been in for cervical screening. Her goal now is to, *"sell popcorn and airtime and to build a new home and tuck shop within the next year."*

Meanwhile, Sithabile Mpofu started a soap-making business to help her sick daughter.

**"Through making the soap, we can get the medicine my daughter needs for her blood transfusion."**

## A BETTER BUCKET

**TIGHT LID:**  
Keeps water in and debris out.

**RUGGED:**  
Made of durable UV-treated plastic.

**CLEAN CURVES:**  
Makes it easy to clean.

**SPIKE FREE:**  
Other buckets usually have a sharp plastic spike on the bottom. We removed this so people can carry it on their head.



**CAPPED OFF:**  
Built-in cap so people can pour water in without taking the lid off, helping to prevent contamination

**SIZED JUST RIGHT:**  
At about 3.7 gallons, this bucket is not too heavy.

**STACKABLE:**  
It's easy to stack so it's cheap to send out in bulk.

**WATER ON TAP:**  
The tap means people can get water without dipping dirty cups into it.

We know that clean water saves lives, but in order to access it, people need to be able to safely transport and store it. That's why Oxfam's award-winning bucket makes all the difference.

Through your support you help provide buckets, clean water and sanitation facilities to people around the world. Thank you!

Refugees in South Sudan receiving buckets and soap.

Photo credit: Ruby Wright/Oxfam





Photo credit: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam

You're helping provide clean water, toilets and hygiene classes to children in Port Loko's Educaid Primary School. The facilities include a solar powered water pump, tap stands and toilet blocks for male and female students.



Photo credit: Michelle Curran/Oxfam

Brother and sister Kapr and Isatu Kargbo are both Ebola survivors who received buckets, soap and water purification tablets thanks to your support.



Photo credit: Bekki Frost/Oxfam

A boy in Sierra Leone washes his hands. Thanks to donors like you Oxfam is helping Sierra Leoneans improve public health through better access to safe and sufficient water sanitation and hygiene services.

# Leaving a Gift for the Future

I'm lucky.

I have my health, meaningful work and a great family.

I'm mostly lucky because I was born in a wealthy, democratic country with opportunities.

And because I've travelled extensively, I've seen firsthand that many people have not been as lucky.

Social scientists have discovered that "chance" plays a greater role in life outcomes than most of us imagine. I recognize my luck and privilege and that's why I am committed to Oxfam's mission.

The greatest challenge of our time is closing the gap between the rich and poor. That's why I'm delighted to be able to make a gift in my will to Oxfam – the world's leader in fighting poverty and injustice.

Of course, I've provided for my family in my will and because I believe I'm part of a greater global family I've also made a bequest to Oxfam. It was easy to do. And I know this gift will provide opportunities to hard working families in developing countries, a gift that will live on beyond my life. That's meaningful to me. I hope you'll consider joining me, and leave a gift in your will to Oxfam to fight poverty and injustice.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your will, please contact Leslie Turcotte at (613) 237-5236 extension 2210.

Harvey with his wife and children. From left to right: James, Harvey, Ian and Marcia.



# One of Oxfam's Most Dedicated

At Oxfam, people are our greatest gift. And long-time supporter Orval Chapman is one such person.

Orval and the longstanding Richmond Group of Oxfam volunteers have organized countless community fundraising events, from walks to concerts to information displays – all in the name of making the world a better place.

As Orval puts it, “I support Oxfam Canada because of its

*good development and relief projects, its efforts to tell the root causes of poverty and to pressure governments or groups which can try to reduce poverty.”*

Over the years, the group has raised funds for emergencies such as the Syria refugee crisis and the food crisis in Africa. Thank you Orval and the Richmond Group for devoting countless hours of your time to ensure that Oxfam can continue to fight poverty and inequality around the world!



Photo credit: Oxfam

Orval, back row, centre, with the Richmond Group.

To learn more about hosting a fundraising event for Oxfam, please visit [Oxfam.ca](http://Oxfam.ca).



Photo credit: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam

## Make Women Count

Oxfam's research shows that a few actions could make a huge difference to the lives of millions living in poverty – in Canada and around the world.

Our latest report “Making Women Count” explains how fair taxes can help people in poverty, how investment in health care and child care will empower women, and how supporting women's rights organizations will help us build better and stronger economies.

Oxfam volunteers have played a substantial role in advancing this agenda. From marching in the Toronto Pride Parade to joining an Oxfam Youth Delegation to the World Social Forum in Montreal, volunteers are helping to end inequality.

A fairer economic and political system IS possible. We can build a world where men and women are equal and where the economy works for us all – not just for the few. But we need people like you behind us. To read our report and help Even it Up, visit [Oxfam.ca](http://Oxfam.ca).

## New Accreditation for Oxfam!

Oxfam Canada has received prestigious accreditation through the Imagine Canada Standards Program for excellence and compliance in nonprofit accountability, transparency and good governance. Oxfam Canada will now display the Trustmark on our website and fundraising materials, letting friends like you know that we continue to grow our existing compliance and accountability commitments.

