

First Quarter in Brief

We can finally feel the spring is around the corner. This winter has been tough. Time after time we have had to dig out our clothes collection boxes from under the snow. A few times we have even knowked off ice with hammers to be able to open the doors. And of course one week's nightmare with frozen pipes in Guerrin and cars getting stuck on the driveway. Now we have the spring rains and mud season and the driveway is even worse to drive on. But we know how this place is during the summer, and we know it will be here soon.

The last quarter has been marked by a lot of coming and going.

In January our first Fight Poverty team arrived at the project in Cansanção after having traveled for one month in Brazil. They have started the work at the project and will return to IICD in May.

In February, we got the August team well off to Mozambique, Zambia and Angola. At the same time, we started two new teams; The February Africa team and the second Fight Poverty Team.

Development Instructors from last year's February team returned from Mozambique, Zambia and Angola and



One month ago!

have shared all their experiences with everyone here. It is always a great encouragement and underlines the perspective of why we are here.

The November team is one month away from leaving and they are busy with their final fundraising and specialization for their jobs in Africa.

New volunteers joined IICD - four in the clothes collection and six in promotion.

We also welcomed a new teacher - Jennifer Kraft, who has been a Development Instructor here in 2005-2006. She is the teacher for the Fight Poverty teams.

So at the moment we are 33 volunteers and 8 staff at IICD and 25 volunteers in Africa and Brazil. In May, we will start a new Africa team with 15 participants.

In the first quarter we also moved the library from the small room in Guerrin into one of the class rooms, where there is much more light and space and we have prepared seedlings and seed beds for our small garden farming.

The guys in the clothes collection have done an awesome job and collected 462,380 pounds of donated clothes. A warm thanks to everyone who in spite of the winter cold came out to donate.



April 1st!

We send many greetings to all readers and wish to thank you all for your support. Happy Spring!

The Fight Poverty Teams

After 2 months preparation period and one-month travel and investigation in Brazil, the Fight Poverty Teams start the 4 months project period. They work two and two with 25 poor families. They start by interviewing each family to identify the needs following a list of basic standards to be achieved and then plan step by step how to achieve the set standard. There are 25 standards defined - for example:

- The family has a vegetable garden
- The family has fruit trees
- The family has access to clean water
- The children attend school
- The family has access to regular health check up

An extract of Wongyu's midway report:

The gap between the rich and the poor is getting bigger worldwide. So, I thought that I should contribute to the development in deprived areas and to help find solutions. That's why I decided to become a Poverty Fighter. For the first 2 months in Brazil, our team has carried out many tasks. First of all, we interviewed our families face to face. My workmate and I have 24 families. We asked them about the number of family members, occupation, income, living condition, problems, health, etc. Some of our families are much poorer than I expected.

They need electricity, stable water supply system, health care, and education for their children.

Our first task was to make vegetable gardens. Each family was able to choose between 5 square meter of vegetable garden and 5 chickens. Among our families, 6 wanted a garden. We planted lettuce, tomato, carrot, etc. This area is semiarid so the families need to take good care of the crops.

We also distributed the chicks to the families. Almost all of them are doing well.

And we planted seeds of fruit trees in a small nursery. We will distribute 5 seedlings to each family.

From the second month, we have been making holes to manage trash in our communities. The idea is like this; we dig a one-cube meter hole for each family. They dump and collect trashes, which will be recycled like plastics and glass bottles. Every month, they can sell them to the recycling center located in the town center for their own benefit.

I am really enjoying my life here, and satisfied with taking part in this project. I like to meet my families and I respect the passion of our area leaders.

At first, I had problems communicating with the families. Still, I cannot speak Portuguese fluently, but much has improved since then.



"Some of the families are much poorer than I expected"



Once a month we have a common action in the community. Here we have a cleaning action.

Na Young from the August team sends news from Mozambique

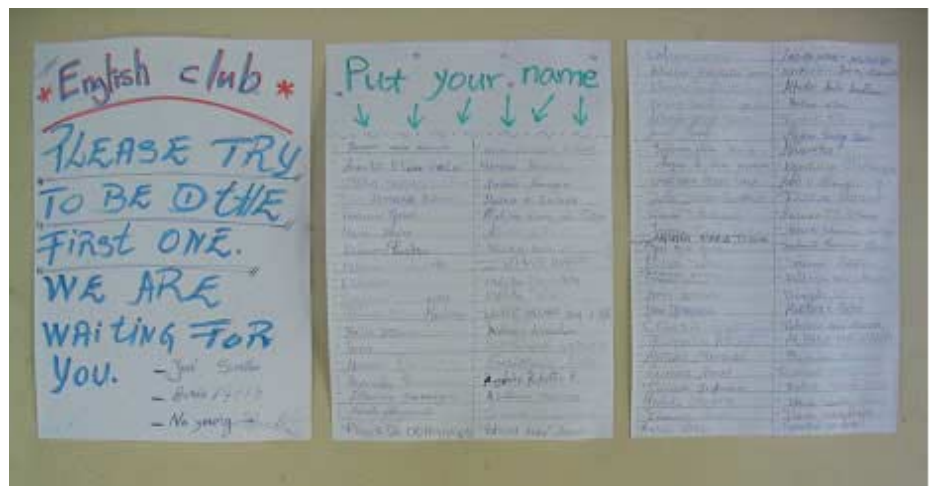


I am in Gaza EPF in Mozambique 3 hours far away from Maputo.

EPF = Escola de Profesores do Futuro - The school for the teachers of the future is one of Humana's 8 teacher training colleges in Mozambique. Annually over 3,500 primary school teachers graduate from these colleges.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, I am going to primary schools with students from EPF Gaza - by bicycle. It takes 1 hour or 1½ hour to get to the primary schools. The students have a 5 month period where they are learning how to teach in the morning and have studies in the afternoon. It is very good to be with them and see how they are teaching and discuss good ideas. And going by bicycle in the nature is really awesome. My buttocks are burning because of the bad roads though.

I also started an English club here. Actually I am not perfect in English. But I thought that was something I could do with my not fluent Portuguese. Surprisingly many people wanted to join the English club. It's almost half of the students here. And they were very happy to learn English. When I asked why they wanted to learn English, they said "for my future and I want to teach the children for the future of Mozambique". Don't you think they are so awesome? I am so happy that I can teach them English.



Now, everything is still very new to me. I am very good and I miss all of you guys. Thanks. Na Young.

Next destination: Guatemala

In 2010, IICD will expand with three more Fight Poverty Teams, who will be going to Guatemala. Humana People to People will start projects similar to the ones in Brazil. Guatemala is one of the most beautiful countries in Central America. Half the population is indigenous people of Mayan origin. Guatemalans live in one of the most inequitable societies in the region. Poverty is particularly widespread in the countryside and among indigenous communities. Illiteracy, infant mortality and

malnutrition are among the highest in the region, life expectancy is among the lowest and, in common with many of its neighbours, the country is plagued by organised crime and violent street gangs. It is a major corridor for smuggling drugs from South America to the United States. We are looking forward to stand should to shoulder with poor families in Guatemala in the fight against poverty.

We start teams in March, July and November. We are looking for teachers for these teams!

Coming Up

APRIL

We hope to welcome an additional teacher. Opposite Malumbe from Zambia is in the process of getting his work visa to the US. He has been a teacher and project leader for over 15 years and we are looking very much forward to have him here.

We will have a spring cleaning action in the clothes collection. All of us from IICD will wash and spot paint the boxes and hand out newsletters to our site hosts.

The second Fight Poverty Team will leave for Brazil to start the one-month travel and investigation period from Sao Paulo to Bahia.

MAY

We will welcome Amanda Hatchard from Canada as part of the staff for a period of 4 months. Amanda has done the Development Instructor program and is now studying to become a nurse, and will spend her holidays helping out with what is necessary.

We will send the November team off to Africa and welcome a new team - the May team.

We will make a building project, where we will put down a new wooden floor in the common room and dining room and we will renovate Denise Dion's office - our accountant.



The Spring Boom is here!

Cyndi Rebelo, American, who has been with IICD for almost 2 years has returned from Angola and will join the staff with special assignments in professionalizing fundraising, promotions, partnerships and be there for all of us in all the little daily things that needs to be organized. We are very happy to have her here.

Development Instructors and Poverty Fighters will return from Africa and Brazil.

JUNE

We will welcome the third Fight Poverty Team.

We will have a one week action with everyone at IICD where we will produce 150 study tasks for the teacher training colleges in Mozambique and Angola.

We will get serious with our garden and park areas, start our weekly work at Caretaker Farm, paint Bella Vista inside and outside and get started with removing the barn that collapsed during the winter. Anyone who wants to join us in the weekend 19-20 of June are most welcome.

And then of course, we will continue with morning courses, studies, evening programs, hands-to-work, fundraising, action weeks, cooking and cleaning, café evenings, collecting clothes and all the hundred other elements and activities that are part of life here at IICD.

