

December 2007 Participate Now!

December 18, 2007

Hi everyone,

Many of you know how passionate I am about my work here in Zanzibar. I love the people and admire the resilience and strength that they have and I want to keep helping to empower them to raise the quality of their lives. I am working on the ground every day to make sure that the projects I initiate and manage are successful and sustainable. I always find that the benefits far surpass anything that I could have imagined. The kindness and generosity that is shared by people here in Zanzibar brings wealth to all of us.

First I would like to thank all of you for your love and support during this past year. And yes this is an email asking for your help again in 2008 (along with the many others that you are receiving during this month of "giving"). I have been very fortunate to have worked with the Clinton Foundation and they were kind enough last year to allow donations to be sent directly to me (I raised over \$22,000.00). **I'm excited to let you know that this year I have decided to start my own non profit organization based in Connecticut called Participate Now, Inc.** The monies raised will be used for my work here in Zanzibar and below is my mission statement explaining exactly what that work will be and then of course there are some photos showing you exactly what I have been experiencing here on this beautiful exotic island.

Please help me to continue the work that I am doing. If possible please send a check to:

**Participate Now, Inc.
424 Riverside Drive
Fairfield, CT 06824 USA**

Mission Statement:

People in developing countries are often dependent on donors for more than money – they frequently rely on donors to identify and solve their problems. Participate Now, Inc aims to empower people to become active participants rather than just recipients, attain self respect and dignity that are so necessary for all human beings. This is accomplished by providing financial education and small business training to help people gain marketable skills to be able to provide for themselves and their families. This will be done by living amongst the people, listening and learning to what is needed, providing assistance to getting those needs met. We will be working to build on existing economic and social systems rather than introducing new ones, inspiring and influencing to affect change that is effective, efficient and sustainable while raising the quality of life for those who are often disadvantaged.

Operating Values:

- Provide basic training to develop business management skills and leadership qualities
- Focus on small scale projects to attain the highest rate of success – break the projects into modules to be chronicled, measured and replicated
- Monitor donor funds closely for effectiveness and efficiency
- Conduct pilot projects as learning exercises and use that knowledge to further development
- Share project result information with participants to utilize results as a best practice to continue to build on the successes and learn from mistakes to deepen problem solving skills
- Build relationships between local people, organizations and international donors to ensure sustainability

- Provide people with the resources to recognize business opportunities and to develop and capitalize on their own ideas and innovations.

How to carry this out:

- Assist in developing and monitoring rural water and conservation projects
- Assist in developing and mentoring a private sector teaching farm for nutrition training
- Promote local business links, expertise, and communication through small business trainings, workshops, and mentoring
- Provide micro-finance training, facilitation, monitoring, and supervision in order to promote sustainable growth and business capacity
- Empower individuals with HIV/AIDS to attain self-respect and dignity by providing these individuals with access to existing economic and social systems

I have been an integral part of many positive initiatives here in Zanzibar in the past three years and I would like your help and support to continue my work. Below are some of my photos of living results.



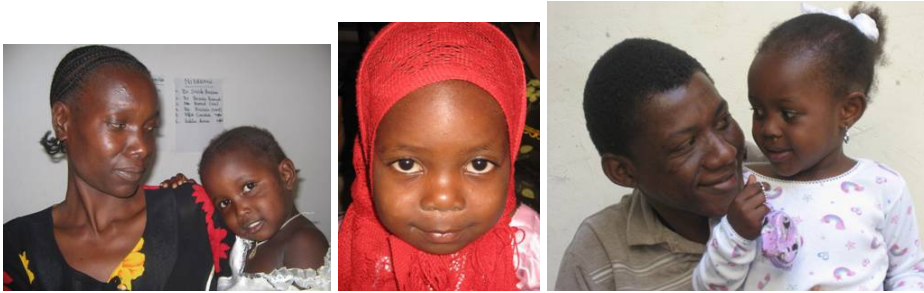
Access to ARVS, a visit by President Clinton, having a beautiful place to meet, can allow those living with HIV/AIDS to live with dignity and self respect – please help me to continue this work!



A well dug in a rural village in central Unguja that has changed the lives of the surrounding villagers, especially the women. Access to water can make a huge difference to many people.



Good nutrition – a cooking project managed by women and men who gain knowledge that will benefit themselves and their children in a sustainable way! “We now have a purpose!”



And of course the children – orphans, children who are HIV+ and trying to survive, families learning how to move forward and fortify their children to face a difficult life.

I am designing a database, managing an entrepreneur/micro loan project, and we plan on starting exciting new water and agricultural projects in some rural villages. I am networking and linking locally and internationally to help local people gain opportunities. If you would like more information about past projects, please e-mail me and I would be more than happy to share my experiences with you.

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This organization is in the process of applying for an IRS charitable tax exempt status which is pending. All monies will be held in escrow until the final approval.

Thank you for all of your kindness and support

Kathryn

*Kathryn Sutton
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