

## **JIRANI MWEMA (GOOD NEIGHBOR) NGO, SONGEA, TANZANIA**

### **\* HISTORY**

- ✚ **Situation:** Poverty, social disintegration, effects of malaria and the HIV/AIDS pandemic
- ✚ **Need:** 7,528 orphaned, vulnerable, most vulnerable children (OVC/MVC) in Songea area
- ✚ **2008:** Songea Lutheran Parish began providing limited community-based care to 62 children in Mshangano Ward; strategic plan projects care for additional 53 OVC
- ✚ **2009** *Jirani Mwema* registers as independent Non-governmental Organization (NGO); builds small headquarters building for matron's work in Mshangano; hires staff for orphan care and oversight
- ✚ **2010-11** *Jirani Mwema* begins formal partnership with Songea's Kids; opens management office in Songea city center; recruits diverse Board of Directors; expands scope of services
- ✚ **Mission** is to provide OVC with basic rights in their lives:
  - ✚ The right to experience a good life (food, clothing, and health care) and not feel discrimination from other children
  - ✚ The right to educational and psychological services and training for employment
  - ✚ The right to security and to participate in social life, games and sports.
- ✚ **Guidelines:** Ensure Songea's OVC/MVC are protected from harm and able to get access to essential services using guidelines from:
  - **United Nations General Assembly** Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS)
  - **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**, Millennium Development Goals
  - **Tanzania's Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan** (MKUKUTA)
  - **Tanzania's National Coasted Plan of Action** (NCPA)

### **\* SERVICES & PLANS**

#### **Holistic services without discrimination to children identified by Songea Child Welfare Dept.**

- ✚ **Food** and nutrition
- ✚ **School** fees, uniforms, shoes, exercise books and pens, tutoring
- ✚ **Household items** (bedding materials, cups, plates, bowls and cooking pans)
- ✚ **Increased support** to the children
  - Community Health Fund (CHF) Cards for medical care; treated anti-malaria mosquito nets
  - Monthly meeting of Children's Clubs (support groups with fun/sports activities)
  - Strengthening of the economic conditions at the household level
- ✚ **Maintenance and repair** of some caregivers' homes
- ✚ **Well for Mshangano** (completed 2010)
- ✚ **Vocational training** for children who do not pass exams to enter secondary school
- ✚ **Caretaking and parenting training** for foster parents, staff and professionals
- ✚ **Development** of owned 12-acre Mshangano site into Hope Village—self-sustaining residential care for most vulnerable children, dispensary, nursery/pre-primary school, vocational training school; use green, appropriate technology, provide jobs for local community; model for other villages
- ✚ **Income-generating projects** that will also create employment for the OVC
  - Stationery Services Center - printing, photocopying, and other computing services
  - Internet Center - reliable, high-speed internet services available for a fee
  - Computer classes for OVC and other youth to prepare them for higher education
  - 100-acre site to raise crops to feed children and sell for income