

The sewing Machine Project

In Cameroon, Nido di Speranza helps women access micro finance loans so they will be able to start small business ventures to enable these women especially Aids widows, orphans and child headed families to earn a living to support them and their families. In rural communities of Cameroon, women have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. Nido di Speranza helps these women acquire skills training to be successful; one skill is learning how to sew. The women go to school to learn the trade and then use the sewing machines to make clothes to sell in the market and for their families. The money they earn goes back to pay for the education and to provide for their family and themselves.

But there is a profound reality that for every twenty or so women, there is only one sewing machine to share. In other words, once they have the skill to support themselves, these women have a very difficult time starting a profitable business.

These women have suffered greatly because of the violence that has ravaged so much of the African continent and Cameroonian society as a whole. In most cases, these women are widowed, have been abandoned or violated, and are often powerless and voiceless and several factors make it difficult for women in Buea to achieve their full potential. Limited schooling is one factor, along with a high rate of pregnancy among women entering child-bearing age. Women are also affected by domestic violence and by the disintegration of families; fathers are absent in 60% of Buea households, leaving women as the sole responsible person for maintaining the family. These factors contribute to the deterioration of health, housing, and economic conditions of the household. For women having to support their households, a reliable source of income is crucial. If you think about that for just a minute, it seems unreal. Can you even imagine trying to survive on one dollar a day? It seems impossible, doesn't it?

To us, this is not acceptable and I hope you would also agree.

So what can we do to help these women?

Context

We will initiate a project to help single mothers and widows to get skills through training in dressmaking to help them integrate into the textile industry. We will start by renting a center in Buea where 16 widows will be trained per session of six month on how to use sewing machine to make dresses. Those who will graduate from this program will be benefiting from taking contracts with schools by making uniform for their children as well as making dresses for sale to the general public. The result of this project/Program will compel us in the future to propose a project that would benefit 300 single mothers in a single year.

How can you Help?

Located on the Nido di Speranza's website under the toolbar, click on our projects to take you to the projects home page. You will see "Sewing Machine Project". Clicking here will take you to a page with much more information about how you can assist, and additional information about Nido di Speranza.

RESOURCES

The local materials contribution will include:

- Eight manual Sewing machines and accessories
- Workrooms for the women.
- Fabric, thread and other materials
- Financial help for the shipment of 50 sewing machines to Cameroon

Nido di Speranza needs support to buy 50 sewing machines more of which 25 will be electric and 25 manual. We also need salaries for three (3) teachers for one year.

Total Amount : 16000 USD

NB: We've formed a planning committee to explore the many ways we can raise funds to provide sewing machine kits. Over the next months, we will be putting together several fund-raising events and we need your ideas and your help. Feel free to contact us at info@nidodisperanza.org directly by phone or by e-mail. You can also keep up with our progress by following us on Nido di Speranza's Facebook page and Twitter.

If, like us, you feel that this situation is just not acceptable, join us in making a difference in the lives of the women of Cameroon. **Donate to this Project**