

BENEFICIARY STORY



Grandmother Rebecca, pictured (left) is over 70 years old and through the training and experience she has gained from the Kipsitet Widows group, she has been able to renew a long lost passion, tailoring. She is one of the many widows and grandmothers who have been struggling to make ends meet. She is the mother of nine children and over twenty grandchildren. However she has had to bear the burden of supporting and feeding two of her children and seven grandchildren and due to the severe famine and disease spread in the area. When Rebecca heard Kipsitet Widows group was training widows and Grandmothers on how to make a livelihood through empowerment she immediately came and joined the group. “I have never felt so much joy,

doing what I love and using what God has placed in my hands to make a livelihood” Rebecca jubilates. Back in her youthful days she did enjoy tailoring and sewing up clothes for her siblings and children as well. But due to lack of a proper education she never got the chance to advance this passion. But now she enjoys the better part of her day stitching and knitting women’s clothing, men’s African tops and lovely decorated milk gourds.



Rebecca (Center-sitting) with the rest of the Widows of Kipsitet Widows Group



Through the building of the Kipsitet Grandmothers and Widows Center Rebecca strongly believes that widows and the grandmothers will get a chance to tap on their potential as women. It will generate women of change in the area because change is what our society needs. Rebecca has not only rediscovered her passion but has also inspired many widows alike to take up the art of tailoring. The widows of the group are able to design, stitch and repair clothing and in turn earn them a fair and humble living, but with the introduction of the Center they believe that they can achieve more knowledge and skill through empowerment set-up(s) such as training workshops and seminars.

Rebecca sewing a gourd, and displays the finished product.

PROJECT PROGRESS WOMEN'S CENTER IN KENYA

Phase II of the project which is the ground floor officially kicked off on the 10th January 2015, with major suppliers delivering the raw materials and equipment. A major concern for the constructors who were to start building on this phase, was the scarce availability of water in the area of Kipsitet so the first priority was the Water tank. This water tank would be able to hold 10,000 liters of water and would be able to serve the needs of both the constructors and the volunteers involved in the project. Despite a delay in the delivery of the water tank other raw materials such as sand, cement, wood planks and building blocks did arrive as planned. Most of the work that has been done on the ground is ground clearance. Major construction has not begun yet and will begin this February due to the delay in supplies and raw materials.



A key factor that has also slowed down this construction phase, is the unavailability of the contracted construction workers who have been occupied in government driven tenders including construction of schools and trade centers around the region. However we have taken necessary steps to make sure construction will begin this February. The head engineer had signed a memorandum of understanding with us that stated the implications that would arise if construction would not be done on time. We are hopeful that construction will begin and continue as scheduled. A second consignment of raw materials is expected to be delivered to the compound this week (5th Feb 2015) which would include steel bars, cement and wooden planks for construction of the ground floor of Phase II.

Photos from construction site.