

Delivering Better Lives



Letter from the director



December 2017

As everyone is aware, **DBL** has undergone some major changes in 2017. While these changes have produced many challenges, our work has continued unabated. To date this year we have approved over 30 new projects, all designed to deliver better lives to many thousands of disadvantaged people. While many new projects have commenced, we have also completed some wonderful work with the assistance of communities and hard working supporters around the world.

In November, I visited Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka. In all of these countries, I had the opportunity to visit current projects, review some prospective new projects and in some cases to visit with and speak the people who have benefited from past **DBL** projects.

In Thailand an old UTi colleague, Henk Van Asselt, (who with his team, have become strong **DBL** supporters) and I visited the Phattalung Temple School and inspected the work being carried and met with the teachers and others who make the school a reality. A new computer facility, a new elevated play ground (to avoid flooding) and a new infirmary have changed this school forever and have created a wonderful learning environment. One of the decisions that Henk and the team made was to elevate the work undertaken above the flood levels. How wise that decision was, as you can see from the photograph at right, this school is now in flood but our work is safe above the water levels.



After leaving Phattalung, I visited the team from Lorenzo's Home in Bangkok and was able to review a new project proposed project, that has now been approved by the board. This new project will provide, young men who are HIV positive a new home to live independently and complete their studies before commencing work, this home will be life changing in the extreme - imagine a new home when you have only ever lived in an orphanage.



In Malaysia I met with the team from the Lost Food Project, where our old colleague Mark De Battista is involved and where **DBL** had purchased a truck for the collection and distribution of donated food. I visited the wholesale fruit and vegetable market and was able to see the success this team is having in "saving" food that before their intervention discarded as garbage - an incredible team and an incredible outcome. The photograph to the left was taken with one of the vendors who is helping to collect food previously wasted and the truck purchased by **DBL**. The truck ensures collections, that food is not wasted and that people do not go hungry.

I then visited many projects in Sri Lanka with our old colleagues Danusha Gunawardena and Ali Yusuf and while I could speak of all the projects we visited, I was most taken by a discussion I had with the Principal of the Tissamahama Vocational College where **DBL** had undertaken major renovations in 2012/13. As a result of our work this college has increased its enrolments by over 100% to some 150. This does not sound much, but every one of those students leaves the college qualified and finds employment to support their family. Prior to this most individuals were only employed in low paying manual labour roles. The changes to the lives of these individuals is profound, they now have hope for a healthy happy future for themselves and their families.

Thank you to everyone who helps **DBL** to achieve life changing outcomes. To Mark, Henk, Onnucha, Danusha, Ali and the many hundreds of others who have embraced helping their communities with **DBL**, thank you helping us to keep pushing ahead and Delivering Better Lives in 2018.

Glenn Mills
Executive Trustee

New Projects in Q4.

DBL has commenced over 30 new projects in 2017 and is thrilled to be able to end the year with a real bang by approving 8 new projects . All of these new projects will commence in January and collectively they will Deliver Better Lives to many hundreds of thousands of people who are in need - this is what DBL is all about - giving people the opportunity to

Hoerskool Floors High School

Hoerskool Floors High School in Kimberley, South Africa is faced with many challenges, as is common in many communities. These include an influx of township and informal settlement students, consequential overcrowding, vandalism, and racism which result in poor educational outcomes.

This project will involve two stages, firstly to install burglar bars on all windows and doors. In a bid to hopefully overcome the issue of theft and allow teachers to focus on education rather than ensuring they have teaching resources to undertake the roles.

Secondly to create a computer facility with 10 desktop computers and printers, this will allow computer teaching to commence but is also part of a strategy to create more engagement of the students.



His House Children's Home

His House Children's Home is a facility in Miami, U.S.A that provides residential care, foster home placement, counseling, education and transitioning needs for children in crisis. The facility has large numbers of children who are caught illegally migrating across the borders into the USA.

Care is provided in a village environment with children in small cottage units living with carers. The facility has been operating for 28 years and in that time has helped over 14,000 children. It currently houses 232 children in 16 cottages.

Challenges are compounded as the children come from 8 different countries. The current volume of children arriving cannot be catered for with over 1000 turned away in the past year.

The project will involve the renovation and upgrade of two cottages both inside and out including replacing bedding and soft furnishings.

This work will be managed and executed by Daniel Grimes and his team at ITN - another great example of how teams of people can make a real difference working together, with the support of *DBL*.

Ratchaburi Boys Home

This project is directly related to work *DBL* has previously completed at Lorenzo's Home, an orphanage for children who are HIV positive in Thailand. The orphans are directed to Lorenzo's by various medical and legal authorities and are left in the care of the orphanage. In 2015, *DBL* constructed a home for Girls at Lorenzo's Home and now there is a requirement for a new house for boys.

This proposal is to build a home for up to 12 teenage boys and two carers in the grounds of the Bethany Home for elderly ladies. The location has been selected as it is close to vocational schools, is where a number of sisters are located and allows the teenage boys to volunteer in the elderly care facility when not at school or studying.



Replacement Housing Project

This project is in liaison with Schencker in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam The project involves a family where the head of the family has been diagnosed with severe epilepsy and as a result is unable to work in any capacity.

He is the father of 5 children and was responsible for caring for his family financially. His wife is now his permanent carer and is responsible for him and their 5 children.

DBL will build a replacement home for the family to ensure they are able to live in a suitable environment while caring for the head of the family.

New Projects in Q4 ctnd...

All Ears Education & Outreach

All Ears was established in Cambodia to provide free services to all who suffer from hearing issues. *DBL* assisted All Ears previously by providing the funds to establish a second clinic that services many thousands of rural Cambodians who had previously been denied access to these services.

This proposal is to expand services to create a traveling education and clinical service. The program will visit villages across Cambodia teaching about hearing health and in parallel operating a children's clinic.



The program will be called LISTEN OUT LOUD and will be run by Glyn Vaughan an English audiologist who speaks fluent Cambodian. The program will aim to provide education of an issue which affects a very high proportion of young children in Cambodia, this problem leads to loss of hearing in adult years.



Saleheiat Alabad School

This project is put forward by Iman Hashem and the former UTi team in Jordan. This team have always been a strong supporters of *DBL* after being introduced to community work by *DBL*.

The project involves the complete upgrade of a lower socio economic secondary school and will have four separate phases. These phases involve building upgrades of classrooms, laboratory and the school kitchen followed by running workshops for children and working with teachers.

A very strong element of this program is the engagement of students from private schools who assist with the work and then work with the students at the target school in sports and other cultural activities.

Can Long Junior School

Can Long School has 14 rooms for 20 classes with some 650 students and 38 teachers—school runs in two shifts 6 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 6 pm.

The school like so many others is in a poor low socio economic area where subsistence farming is the primary way of life.

Four of the rooms in the school are collapsing or have completely collapsed and cannot be used and the school only has 7 toilets for close to 700 people. As in many countries governments put little focus on schools in regional areas.

The proposal is to demolish four rooms and build four new rooms much bigger, to construct a toilet block with some 10 toilets and to upgrade the grounds of the school to reduce the impact of flooding.

Tuyen Binh Village Junior School

Tuyen Binh Village is at the border of Cambodia and Vietnam and is in an extremely sad position. In addition to the low socio economic existence of the locals, many of the children in the area cross into Cambodia to work in the fields in the morning and come back in the evening, therefore not attending school. The school is overcrowded and cannot accept any more students, as the parents must go to work in the fields the children who cannot attend school must follow.

At night the border guards utilize the school buildings to try to teach the children to read and write.

In all there are 1300 Vietnamese children in the village under the age of 13 and 200 Cambodian children trying to attend a school with 6 rooms. *DBL* will construct 4 new classrooms and a toilet block.

Completed Projects in Q4

Al Baqa— Jordan

This Al Baqa Rehabilitation Centre supports Special needs children with Autism, Auditory deficits or Cerebral Palsy whose families have limited means to support their needs.

This centre serves the highly populated Baqa refugee camp which is home to around 100,000 short and long term Palestinian and Syrian refugees in addition to the low income Jordanian people. The Centre had little or no equipment which lead to limited opportunities to services and resulting poor outcomes.

DBL provided the centre with equipment, computers, furniture, toys and tools to enable teachers and therapists to undertake the appropriate therapies and psychomotor activities.

This project was suggested to *DBL* by Iman Hashem the former UTi team leader in Jordan. The work is managed by Iman and her support crew.

HIV Orphans— Thailand

Lorenzo's Home is run by the Camillian Sisters in Bangkok on donated land. The centre provides accommodation and care for orphans from rural eastern and central regions of Thailand who have lost both parents. The children are aged from birth to 10 years and all children are HIV positive, with some also having physical or intellectual disabilities. The sisters provide all Anti Retroviral medication to maintain the children's health.

DBL supported and managed an education program for 12 young adults at the home which provided them with vocational skills to assist in gaining employment.

Hau Giang Pre-School— Vietnam

The Village in Hau Giang has no permanent preschool/kindergarten but was conducted in a building borrowed from the local Primary School that could only be used outside school hours and only catered for 100 children. The current demand in the area is for 250 children to attend.

Like most of these communities in Vietnam the local people are subsistence farmers with very little income and no capacity to provide funds. The local commune provided land for a kindergarten and *DBL* constructed a new four room school building.

This project was suggested to *DBL* by Thao Huynh the former UTi Airfreight Manager, Thao has been a wonderful supporter of *DBL* for many years and has led many valuable projects in Vietnam.



Kusimayo Partnership— Peru

DBL has worked in partnership with Kusimayo in Peru on previous projects involving agriculture, housing and Kindergarten Feeding Programs. Kusimayo is a Peruvian based NGO that specialises in projects for the poor ethnic Indians in the high Andes.

This project was similar to a previous agricultural project and is designed to increase the range of products grown and the yields by constructing hothouses, establishing orchards and improving animal husbandry. The aim of these is to improve diet and general health and create a surplus for trade and barter.

DBL funded the roll out of this program to ten families in a new community creating the base for peer driven wider expansion.



Amis Youth— Spain

Amis is a youth support organization located in Madrid that was assisted by *DBL* with a small project in 2012. Amis provides a broad range of counselling and support services to young people between the ages of 14 and 22, a substantial focus is on refugees in this age bracket.

Amis has operated from the same premises in Madrid since 1998 but has recently had their lease terminated and have located to a new property that requires significant work.



DBL funded the preparation of the building; including painting and provision of equipment and furniture.

This project was suggested to *DBL* by Juan Manuel Santos formerly a senior executive with UTi and a wonderful supporter of *DBL* for many years.

Completed Projects in Q4 ctnd...

Mirame Corporation— Chile

Mirame Foundation provides services to families with children with Autism who due to socio-economic circumstances cannot afford treatment.

The staff at Mirame are professionals who volunteer on a rostered basis. In 2015 **DBL** worked to provide Mirame with a permanent base from which to undertake their work. This saw the establishment of a container based facility, that is now in use.

DBL has once again worked with Mirame to allow them to continue and expand the services they provide with the assistance of

support animals such as dogs and horses. This will allow the Foundation to better provide the therapeutic services needed by the community.

This project was suggested to **DBL** by Jorge Anaconda formerly of UTi Chile it is a wonderful opportunity to partner with passionate people who are changing the lives of children with Autism.



DBL Spain now a reality.

Over the past year Juan Manuel Santos and his supporters in Spain have been working hard to create a legal entity of **DBL** in Spain. After complying with the legal requirements this is now a reality allowing the team in Spain to begin developing a support base and generating income. This further expands the **DBL** world increasing our footprint and ensuring we Deliver Better Lives to more people.

DBL seeking new Corporate Partners.

The success of **DBL** will in part be determined by the strength of our corporate partners. If your company would like to partner with **DBL** please contact Glenn Mills and he will be only too happy to meet with and present to anyone in your organization.

*Everyone on this planet has a right to a roof over their head,
food in their stomach, an education and basic healthcare.*

Contacts

Glenn Mills- Executive Trustee:
gmills@deliveringbetterlives.org



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