

Delivering Better Lives



Letter from the Executive Trustee



July 2017

The Invisible Angels

I was taken aback over the past week with the publicity given to people working in the community space who hold important positions with big organizations and are paid very good salaries. This combined with the complete self focus of politicians could make one despair but there is so much good in the world that I am sure will win in the end. The people I refer to lead very large organizations who do a lot of good work, but they are paid handsomely for their efforts. While I do not begrudge them their reward, it made me think about the many thousands of people around the world who give of themselves to make the world a better place, with no reward sought or given - are these not the people who should be feted.

The selflessness of the small people is at one end of a continuum with selfishness at other. This reflection drove me to think about where I sat on this continuum and what I needed to do to move more closely to a position of complete selflessness. Where do you sit on this continuum?

Selfishness..... Selflessness

This period of reflection made me recall the many wonderful people we have worked with and met over the years who never receive publicity or reward for their efforts - and I must add they never seek publicity or reward - they do what they do because they can. I remember many of these people very well and consider myself the richer for having met them and worked with them.

In Pietermaritzburg in South Africa we met a wonderful woman running a refuge for the homeless and defenceless. With no money and no support she put a roof over their heads, food in their stomach and she made sure that the children went to school. We looked in the pantry and it was empty, we looked in the refrigerator and it was empty but she had belief and knew that someone had to help these people, she then quietly asked if we could help - we did.

In Mumbai in India, an elderly schoolteacher who saw children on the street and took them into her home - she had a very small one room home. Again she had no support and no money but knew someone had to help these children and there was no one else. She asked us for help - she now operates from a nice three story building.

In Guadalajara, Mexico a wonderful Spanish lady who moved to Mexico with the church and saw a need to assist children in the street. She left her calling for a greater calling and dedicated her life to the children she "saved". These children have been given a life because someone saw the need and responded.

There are many more people like these three wonderful ladies "Angels of the Street" but all have one thing in common - they do what they do because they can and do not seek anything for themselves.

They are truly selfless.

Glenn Mills

Executive Trustee

Delivering Better Lives.

New Projects Q2

Morad Al Amal

Morad Al Amar is a government licensed but privately operated Centre for children with Autism and other forms of special needs, operating in Amman, Jordan. The Centre is operated by a Jordanian NGO who depends on private donations which are inconsistent and often non-existent.

The Centre does not charge for the services they provide but accepts donations from parents where they have the capacity to donate.

The Centre operates in two shifts as it simply cannot accommodate all children at one time.

As with most facilities we encounter the building exists but is in a very poor state and requires therapy equipment, medical equipment, furniture and renovations.

Ain Shams Children's Hospital

Ain Sham Children's Hospital is in Cairo and is a full service children's hospital catering to people from all walks of life. It is a public hospital with a heavy emphasis on people from the lower socio-economic groups and many from ethnic Arab tribes.

DBL has worked with this hospital previously upgrading a major GI ward and implementing education programs within that ward. The former UTi team in Egypt have remained close to this hospital helping out whenever the opportunity presents or where a specific need is identified.



ment being implemented more effectively.

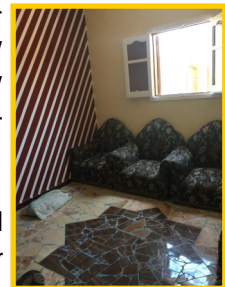
AL Fayoum Village Renewal

Al Fayoum is a village on the outskirts of Cairo that has grown over the years as squatters, itinerant workers and displaced desert tribes have congregated in the area.



The nature of the community results in heavy unemployment, homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse.

In 2015 DBL managed the redevelopment of some 20 homes to a acceptable standard, this was an extremely successful project with outcomes way beyond the upgrading of accommodation.



This proposal is to return to the Al Fayoum community and renovate or rebuild as required, 11 houses in one street.

Dennilton Children's Centre

Dennilton is a township approximately 2 hours from Johannesburg. The community faces all the challenges of a low socio-economic community including HIV infection, substance abuse and unemployment. Parents are often required to seek employment in Johannesburg and in doing so leave their children unattended at home.

The proposal in partnership with the Kindling Foundation, is to acquire an existing small home on a larger block of land and to expand that to run a community Centre, crèche and after school care Centre. The facility will feed twice a day some 200 children.

Once the first stage of the plan is up and running the plan is to add a bakery and sewing Centre, similar to other successful developments undertaken by Kindling.

Completed Projects Q2.

Bangwhangin Playground

Bangwhangin School in Rayong Thailand has recently undergone work to establish a new playground. The playground is designed to provide specialized equipment for children with disabilities, allowing them experience the joy of play.

The playground was outfitted with flooring, fencing, roofing and painting as well as some amazing new equipment. The result is a fantastic play facility that is bright, stimulating and provide many opportunities to develop motor skills, social skills and simply to have fun.



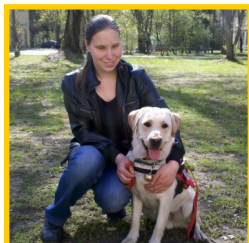
Guide Dogs for the Blind

Guide Dogs for the blind in Hungary provides assistance dogs for visually impaired individuals. They are the only organisation providing this service in Hungary and exist totally through the support of the community via donations.

are extremely high. This restricts the number of dogs the organisation is able to supply and therefore the number of individuals whose lives can be impacted by having an assistance dog. DBL supported this program ongoing over a number of years.

The costs involved in acquiring, educating, and training a dog, as well as educating the visually impaired individual to handle them

This project is now complete and has a significant impact on the lives of those involved.



Cervical Cancer Program

Cervical Cancer is the most common form of cancer in Zimbabwe and is responsible for more deaths than any other cancer. The Cancer Society of Zimbabwe aim to test 10 women per day over the age of 15 in certain target groups including street workers. This is an extensive program that requires significant funding.

DBL provided an outfitted vehicle to enable nurses to undertake field testing of rural communities.

Completed Projects Q2. ctnd..

Al Abrar Orphanage for Girls

This orphanage near Cairo was established and is operated by the Wataneya Society and caters for young girls from the neighboring area. The facility is government accredited.

The buildings are in reasonably good condition and it can be seen that the facilities and children are well cared for.

DBL upgraded the facilities within the building to improve the quality of life of the young girls residing there. The requirements included; drawers, one for each child, chairs, one for each child, a commercial oven to give the cooking capacity required, computers and printer and kitchen equipment

Slovo Day Care Centre

The Slovo Day Care Centre is run on land owned by the community in Johannesburg, South Africa and was established in 1990 but with limited funding. The facilities are in terrible condition but the commitment of the management to making a better life for the young people is something special.



The facility operates as a Day Care Centre but also provides a broad range of services to young people from pre school age to early teens.

DBL funded the construction of a new Day Care Centre. This involved demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new building plus toilet block.



All Ears

All Ears (AE) was established as an NGO in Cambodia over 20 years ago and is run today by the founder Glyn Vaughan. All Ears as the name suggests focuses totally on addressing hearing and associated problems with Cambodian people, people are treated regardless of financial resources, including the provision of hearing aids. Based on the caseload from 3 branches in 2017 where over 25,000 people were seen and treated the number in coming years will be in the hundreds of thousands.

All Ears has 13 full time employees and trains over 15 technicians per year for work in the community. The majority of their work is undertaken by volunteers and financially they survive on donations.

AE wished to expand their work to meet demand and wanted to improve technical capabilities. DBL supported them by acquiring a sound booth, Tympanometer and a rigid endoscope.



Lessons well Learnt - Part 2

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the lessons learnt from two wonderful people with whom we had worked. The first was Polo our young friend from Burundi who taught us the importance of fulfilled commitments, of always delivering on our promises. The second was a wonderful elderly lady in Peru who taught us the real value of caring and what it really meant to communities and people in need.

These lessons and many others help to build the organization that we are, and the people that we aspire to be. But there is one lesson we have learnt many times over from many many people..

This lesson is the power of persistence against all odds. Many thousands of people we have worked with and for over the past ten years have had poverty, homelessness, poor health and lack of education, as there constant companions. Notwithstanding these challenges, there are thousands of examples of success from these impoverished backgrounds, in all cases the one clear driver with all of these people was and is Persistence - the ability to see through all challenges and to work hard no matter how many times road blocks are put in the way - simply to keep going.

So three valuables lessons :

- never promise unless you can deliver
- remember the power of caring
- persistence, never ever give up.

More lessons to come in future newsletters.

Glenn Mills
Executive Trustee

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