



Seeing Hands

Massage Therapy Livelihood for the Visually Impaired

Juba, South Sudan

Grant Proposal

Prepared for: NorCal Grants Program Chair: Marilyn Hyde (marhyde@cruzio.com)

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Proposal Contents: Introduction, NorCal Required Information, Organization Budget

Introduction from RPCV Virginia Williams

My name is Virginia Williams and I have worked on and off in South Sudan for the last two years. It's the world's newest country, raised from the rubble of decades of civil war, famine, and a non-existent infrastructure and educational system. Here, even for the most able-bodied, life is a struggle. But many citizens are making a remarkable difference despite great challenges, like those at Seeing Hands.

Seeing Hands is an organization that helps blind and visually impaired men and women earn a living while providing a service to the community via massage therapy. I learned about them first hand when I came in with tired, aching muscles, and left not only relaxed and renewed, but with a warm heart-- overwhelmingly inspired by the people who run this organization. They are dedicated professionals, who seek to expand their business so that they can share their skills with other visually impaired people, and also provide a great service to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this organization's proposal for funding from the NorCal Peace Corps Association.

NorCal Grant Program Requested Information

Name and address of the organization:

Equatoria States Union of the Visually Impaired (ESUVI)

Contact information: James Pitia Gore (Manager) jamespitia84@gmail.com and Father John Barth: JBarth@Maryknoll.org

Local name, address, and phone when organization is overseas:

Off Ministries Road, 400 m south of Sudan Embassy, Juba, South Sudan

NorCal RPCV knowledgeable of organization and project:

Yes, Virginia Williams. Please see above introduction.

General description of the organization, including goals, purpose, a brief history of previous and current work, and source of funding:

ESUVI, founded in 1984, is a membership organization of blind South Sudanese. Their goal is to train and rehabilitate blind people in South Sudan, and to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities for their right for education. ESUVI receives limited funding from donors such as Handicap International, and formerly from Christian Blind Mission International and the State Ministry of Gender and Social Development - Central Equatoria State. ESUVI also receives rental income from several tenants renting space from them.

Project title and detailed description:

Computer Adaptive Technology Training for Blind South Sudanese.

How project meets Selection Criteria:

This project is very in keeping with the spirit and idea of Peace Corps. RPCV, Virginia Williams has demonstrate commitment to this organization by providing personal monetary contributions, as well as organizing a “GoFundMe” crowdsourcing campaign for their training, which raised \$1,740, \$1,500 of which went directly to this project goal to train the entire team in Nairobi. She organized a Juba film crew to film footage of the Seeing Hands team and work from which she edited a video for the Gofundme campaign. It can be viewed here: gofund.me/seeinghands

Key personnel and their responsibilities for the project:

Father John Barth, Maryknoll Missionary from New York, will handle the funds collected and pay the Kenya Society for the Blind who will purchase the computer and software on behalf of ESUVI.

Project budget in detail:

Equipment Needed:

1 HP laptop, Intel Processor, 2 GB Ram

1 15.6 " monitor, with Windows Operating System, and Microsoft Office; Norton Anti-Virus software; Type Ability Version 4.3 Software; JAWS Version 1.5 (single user license).

Total cost: 225,000 Kenya Shillings, which at 90 Ksh to 1 USD = \$2,500

Amount and purpose of funding requested from NorCal:

Seeing Hands requests \$2,000 towards the purchase of one laptop with adaptive technology software for blind students enrolled in the Rajaf Educational Center for the Blind in Juba.

Ultimately, the 8 employees of Seeing Hands would like to attend training in this adaptive technology with the computer so that they are able to write their own funding proposals, further empowering them to remain economically independent as individuals, and promoting sustainability of the organization itself. Their wish is to grow the organization so that they can help more and more visually impaired South Sudanese to take advantage of this livelihood opportunity.

Organization Annual Budget

ESUVI budget

(Note: in South Sudanese Pounds - as of today 7/18/15 1SSP = 0.17 \$USD)

Income per year:

Rental Income per month: 3,250 ssp	x 12 months =	39,000 ssp
Handicap International per year		14,000 ssp
Total Income	53,000 ssp @ 3.2 ssp to 1 USD =	\$16,565 USD

Expenses per year:

Salaries (5 staff)	1,650 ssp / month	x 12 month =	19,800 ssp
Office supplies			3,000
Meetings			4,000
Visit to members in need			3,000
Transportation (fuel, car repairs, etc.)			9,000
Generator and spare parts			6,000
Fuel			3,800
Engine oil and lubricants			1,245
Communications			2,955
Total Expenses	52,800 @ 3.2	=	\$16,500 USD