

Executive Summary

History

In 2001, Dr. Bill and his wife Barbara Peters began building the first of eleven multi-use community centers that serve as places of worship, daycare and education in some of the poorest black townships in Gauteng Province, South Africa. By 2004, they recognized that their multi-use centers were not addressing a major humanitarian crisis in Africa being created by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The fact that as many as 35 million children on the African sub-continent will have lost one or both parents to AIDS by year 2010 called for a greater commitment to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). In response, the Peters founded a not-for-profit corporation called International Children's Aid Network, Inc. (ICAN). In July, 2005, ICAN began to address the orphan crisis directly by raising funds to found a brick-making business that could not only provide materials to build the first of many Children's Villages, but eventually could also become self-supporting.

World Bank Study

In 2004, the World Bank completed an in depth study of the OVC crisis in Africa, concluding that there was no blueprint for scaling up interventions. After a thorough review of available data, ICAN finds itself in agreement with one commonly held perception: that every intervention on behalf of orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa is overwhelmed. ICAN's Children's Village concept is practical, repeatable, and scalable. ICAN's action plan and business model call for measures that would also generate many positive returns for the funds contributed.

ICAN's Mission

Our mission is to create the blueprint for effective intervention in Sub-Saharan Africa, where over half of the world's orphaned and vulnerable children live, and where the scourge of AIDS has more than doubled the ratio of OVCs to all children during the past decade. ICAN Children's Villages are designed to provide shelter, food, clothing, education, and medical assistance to orphaned children. Each Children's Village will provide a loving, nurturing environment for at least 100 orphans. Land for the first two Villages has already been donated in the townships of Soweto

and Zakaryya, Gauteng Province, South Africa. There are over 12 million orphaned children on the African sub-continent at this time.

Guiding Principles

ICAN is committed to the philosophy of nurturing displaced children in a family environment. We believe that moral as well as physical health are necessities if the orphans we care for are to realize their true potential in later life. To that end, we have structured ICAN's Children's Village campaign in three progressive phases in order to assure unity of purpose, accountability, integrity and teamwork in accomplishing our mission:

1. Phase One will be dorm-style living to re-create a sense of security and family stability for the children. While protected and secure, ICAN Children's Villages will not be isolated institutions, but community-connected "youth hostels" dedicated to the restoration of family living for orphans.
2. Phase Two will be cottage living where up to eight children share a mother and father figure in single family dwellings. This will ensure continuing quality control of family, healthcare, education, and vocation with life skills training in each area.
3. Phase Three contemplates a return to living, learning and working in the community through the auspices of a for-profit ICAN Community Development Corporation, the ultimate function of which is to create businesses and employment opportunities for OVCs.

Gauteng Province

ICAN has chosen Gauteng Province, South Africa as the launch point for its Children's Villages for several reasons. Aside from the fact that there are thousands of OVCs in the Province and surrounding areas, Gauteng Province alone is classified as Africa's 4th largest economy (behind the countries of South Africa, Egypt, and Algeria). It is also the economic hub of the sub-continent. As such, the Province is a major trend-setter for African economic and social development and fertile ground for establishing our blueprint for successful intervention on behalf of OVCs.

Education and Healthcare

ICAN, through its sister organization *Worldwide Children's Aid Network of South Africa (WeCAN)*, has purchased Heartwood Independent School. Heartwood has the required Section-21 registration and Department of Education number, allowing it to sanction satellite schools in all of ICAN's South African Children's Villages. These schools, in turn, will pursue South Africa's highly valued NQF accreditation.

A medical clinic will be set up in each of ICAN's Children's Villages. Nurses and paramedical personnel will manage the clinics full time, while visiting and local doctors/healthcare professionals regularly rotate through.

Support and Implementation

Fundraising is and must be ICAN's basic source of support. Other recurring revenues to operate Children's Villages will come through foundations, grants and South African government subsidies that are available for orphans.

We believe that access to the marketplace will ultimately provide jobs for ICAN's orphaned graduates and, therefore, is key to our success in building a model for others to follow. Accordingly, we are setting up a for-profit business to provide building materials not only for Children's Village construction, but also for sale to the trades. Note that a number of ICAN's directors, officers and advisors are experienced in international business and real estate development.

Beginning with one Hydraform™ machine, we will manufacture bricks to build our first Children's Village in Soweto, Gauteng Province, South Africa. These machines will be used to create an ongoing business of brick-making and construction that will train many of our children in skilled trades. The brick-making and related spin-off businesses will also generate growing streams of income to support Phases Two and Three in ICAN's three-phase strategy.

This is the blueprint for victory which can be propagated throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, and elsewhere, in the worldwide war to save OVCs.

ICAN