# GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:CULTIVATE AND CARE REPORT

## What we achieved half page summary

Our team implemented the Go Make A Difference Project at Jairos Jiri Mukuwapasi Chidrens Home for the Disabled focusing on boosting nutrition and empowerment. We bought material for and constructed a chicken coup designed to fit 50 layer chickens. We bought the necessary refurbishments including chicken feed containers and water dispensers. We bought and delivered 50 layer chickens accompanied by feed enough to last for 3 months. After these three months the home should have gained enough income from selling eggs to buy more feed.

Alongside this we established a nutritional garden with a variety of vegetables such as carrots, butternuts, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers and cabbages. We took part in the gardening activities alongside the children teaching them how to take care of the garden in the long term. To ensure sustainability we conducted a training session with the children and staff answering any questions that they had and teaching them how to maintain both the poultry and the garden.

On our last visit to the home we carried snack packs consisting of a drink, biscuits, sweets and sherbet for the children to enjoy as we said our goodbyes. This reinforced the spirit of community and care that guided our project.

The impact of the project has already taken shape as the chickens have been laying eggs and the garden crops are growing. Staff have reported a boost in the morale of students as they are eager to take part in activities related to the garden and chickens.

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1. **How do you think you made a difference**

We were able to make a difference by kick-starting a project that has continued to help the children post our departure from the site. By starting the garden and bringing layer chickens we were able to supplement the children's diet with eggs and vegetables. On top of that, giving each child a small goodies hamper made the final day more enjoyable for them and served as a fitting reward for their assistance with the planting and watering.

2. **What have you achieved**

We managed to put together a project that was both useful and meaningful. We planted vegetables, brought in chickens and fixed up the chicken coop so everything could be properly set up. One of our main objectives, teaching the children how to take care of the garden beds was one of our chief achievements. Alongside elevating their diet, we were able to equip the children with gardening skills that will help them in both the present and future.

3. **What are you proud of**

We are proud of how the project was able to help in more than one way. It was not just about bringing things to the home, but also about creating something the children could be part of and benefit from over time. Seeing them take part and learn simple gardening skills made the experience even more rewarding for us. By ensuring that the children who could communicate both verbally and using sign language stood in front of those who could only use the latter, we were able to impart knowledge to all the children, showing no impartiality.

4. **What the enduring successes of the project have been**

One of the best things about the project is that it did not end when we left. The vegetables are still growing well, and the chickens are also there as part of something that can continue helping the home. The follow-up pictures taken after the project show that the work we did is still having an impact.

5. **How the project made a difference to the people you were aiming to help, what impact has it had on them**

The chickens have been laying eggs while the garden is providing seasonal vegetables for the children. The children now have access to a wider variety of vegetables giving them access to more nutritional meals. Beyond nutrition the project also instilled in the students the confidence that they too can provide for themselves. It has reduced their reliance on sponsors allowing them to gain a form of independence. They revealed that the project has started for them what they hope will be a reminder that they too can contribute meaningfully to their community and future.

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## 6. How the project made a difference to you and the project team

The project made a difference to us and the project team as we gained practical experience in project planning and execution. For us as the team the project was a powerful learning experience. We gained invaluable lessons on teamwork, project planning and management. The project strengthened our bond as a team and reinforced our commitment to be agents of change working to make a difference in the communities we inhabit. More importantly we developed an appreciation for community service and the importance of addressing basic human needs such as nutrition.

## 7. Where the money was spent

Funds were carefully allocated towards the following for the successful completion of the project:

| Item | Amount in USD |
|---|---|
| Transactional costs | 160 |
| Transport for the team | 130 |
| Chicken transport | 93 |
| Chicken coup construction | 150 |
| Layer Chickens | 550 |
| Chicken feed containers | 60 |
| Chicken feed | 420 |
| Vegetable seeds and seedlings | 25 |
| Gardening tools (Hoes and rakes) | 40 |
| Watering cans | 48 |
| Snacks | 52 |
| Small cage for transporting chickens | 45 |
| Builders Wage | 40 |

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## 8. Lessons learnt

We learnt that involving beneficiaries in daily care is crucial for sustainability as it builds ownership and responsibility. Implementing the project with the children at Mukuwapasi being active participants proved to be rewarding as this made them inherit ownership over it. They were very keen to help out and remind us if something was missing. This taught us a valuable lesson on involving beneficiaries as we go forward to do different projects.

## 10. What we would have done differently

We would have expanded the garden to include fruit trees for long term nutritional diversity and developed a crop rotational plan for the crops to maintain soil fertility and project sustainability. We would have also documented the project in a step by step guidebook so that future teams can easily replicate it.

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