

Dear Friends of ASAP,

Spring – a time of hope and promise. ...a great time to focus your creative energy and become a part of ASAP's success story in Africa. We need your help! As a friend of ASAP, we are asking you to take the lead and become a part of ASAP Africa's first annual Summer Harvest of Hope! Help us raise awareness and funds for ASAP this summer by holding a fundraising event in your local area.

## Do Good! Have Fun! Educate! Invite everyone!

Anything goes.... a pot luck dinner featuring African music & foods, a concert, pizza party, silent auction, African Film viewing; get your children involved through a lemon-aide "Stand Against Hunger". Check out the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual <u>A Harvest of Hope in Newport Beach, CA</u> for some fantastic ideas for holding a home & garden event featuring organic gardening and sustainable living workshops. <u>Click here</u> for more ideas and resources to support your event.

The next step is to register your ASAP Africa Summer Harvest of Hope event - <u>Click here for a registration form</u>. Complete the form and email it to ASAP by Africa Day – May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to have at least one event in every state and raise \$100,000 between June 1 and September 30. Your event will be promoted on the ASAP website and prizes & recognition will be awarded in November. Remember, working together is the key to success; to increase local interest and involvement, consider combining your efforts to also benefit a well–known local organization in your area.

It is only through your active participation and support that ASAP is able to continue to bring hope to the lives of thousands in rural Zimbabwe and Malawi. ASAP Africa Zimbabwe is pleased to share the success story of Anah Muganiwa, Gladys Murinda and Jesimine Gawaza. Using the profits from their Kufusa Mari Internal Savings and Lending (IS&L) savings club, these three women have opened a profitable crèche (preschool) providing care for 65 children in rural Mutasa district.

Today, through the IS&L project ASAP has confidence in a winning formula: Access to capital + business skills + entrepreneurial spirit = Success! Recently ASAP Zimbabwe shared its IS&L expertise with Action Aid, Africare and Mercy Corps; according to Joseph Miti, ASAP Zimbabwe's Program Manager "we are still a small organization but we are doing big things!"

Collins Mutsvairo, the Project Manager of the five-year Bridge the Gap teacher training program that ended in Dec. 2009 is proud to report that 95.9% of the schools involved in the project showed improved trends when compared to the national average during the 5 year period. Please send us an email to request a copy of the full BTG report. info@asapafrica.org

ASAP Africa Malawi is pleased to announce a two year funding commitment for their IS&L program – Chimvano pa Chuma, from FIMA, The Finance Inclusion Malawi Project. This UN collaborative project is focusing on developing and implementing a national strategy for building an inclusive financial sector in Malawi. To read more about FIMA click here.

ASAP's successful partnership with Total Land Care in Malawi has been extended for another year. Along with IS&L training, ASAP Malawi is promoting sustainable farming techniques; conservation farming and organic practices to rebuild depleted soils. In addition, ASAP Malawi will distribute an additional 200 Treadle Pumps provided by TLC at subsidized prices to Chimvano pa Chuma member communities.

Your support makes ASAP's work possible. Take the first step today; plant the seeds for your Summer Harvest of Hope event now and watch them grow and blossom into something beautiful!

Elizabeth Bara ASAP Executive Director