

THANK YOU!!!

Completing the Women's Center: Thanks to several generous churches (Presbyterian of Los Gatos, CA; Trinity Presbyterian, Cherry Hill, NJ) we are almost ready to welcome orphans & open the dorm for sewing school students who live too far away to commute. As soon as the space is ready, FEBA will apply for government permits for an orphanage. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, Friends at Los Gatos & Trinity!!!

Alas! With the COVID-19 pandemic, opening doors is indefinitely on hold. But not our **THANKS!**

FEBA'S FARM



FEBA's farm is expanding! The pilot market garden has been a great success, so FEBA has added several hectares to the farm & rented a tractor to plow. Chickens & rabbits are doing well; baby bunnies have arrived & the stock is being built up. Avocado, papaya, citrus, & moringa trees have been planted, with eucalyptus on the perimeters of the farm.



Papaya (above) & avocado (right) trees mean fruit will come!



Spring Fundraiser: A Farm for Uvira Women

In the Kivu, where violence is endemic, women risk their lives to go to their farms in the forest. Many have suffered rape & death. Three months ago, six more women from Munene, just outside Uvira, S. Kivu's main city, were ambushed, gang raped, & held for ransom. One died of her injuries, the others were hospitalized for weeks, all their families were beggared to pay ransoms.



With our partner non-profit CENEDI, we have helped 100 Munene women start a small farm on rented land near the village. It is now producing its first harvest! We want to assure the continuation of this project by buying land for the women. Two pieces are available for purchase; in the village, so close to a big city, it is expensive. The total asking price is \$14,000 (reduced from \$14,500 as a result of good African bargaining).

Thank you for your generous gifts last fall to begin this campaign. We have \$2000 of the total needed. And now we have two exciting plans to reach the goal!

We are doing a **J&J Caring Crowd** fundraiser next month with the goal of \$6,000. J&J will match every gift one-to-one up to \$250/ person. The project will run through April 30. **Starting April 1**, you can celebrate Mother's Day with a special gift to the mothers of Uvira! THANK YOU SO MUCH, J&J!

<https://www.caringcrowd.org/take-action-safer-future-kivu-women>

AND our generous friends David & Susan Lidstone have pledged \$5000 – a one-to-one match for each gift that you give! THANK YOU, David & Susan!

Join us to give hope & food to the women of Munene: your gifts double-matched!

WOMEN'S EDUCATION, WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Every second Thursday the women of FEBA gather (as many as possible, given the difficulties of transportation). On March 12 the day was planned as food for mind & body. The 72 women & girls who were able to come were divided into four groups for guided reflection on women's rights & how to claim them.



The basis of discussion was two scripture passages. Numb. 27:1-11 concerns the daughters of Zelophehad who ask Moses for their father's inheritance since he had no sons. Moses takes the question to God, & this leads to the rule that daughters may inherit. Gen. 19:30-38 tells the story of Lot & his two daughters who chose the wrong way to solve their problem. The participants shared their reflections, as they were led to consider how they might/ should address problems.



They learned that women can act for themselves to seek legal justice; & that there are different ways, some good & others not. At FEBA, women's education & women's rights go together.

The women then had a nice surprise: a good meal & some farm produce to take home: for many, this meant they would eat for another week. Now, with pandemic stay-home orders, there will be no more 2nd Thursdays for a while, but the women carry with them what they have learned & shared.

Challenges & Trials

COVID-19 Like the rest of the world, Congo has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently Kinshasa is the center, with more cases each day, originating with people coming from Europe. Measures common elsewhere have been implemented. Schools are closed; FEBA's sewing students must stay home. (Plans for starting the restaurant school are on hold indefinitely.) Businesses, except those selling food, are closed & FEBA cannot sell its sewing school creations. Strict limits have been set on public transportation. Panic has brought skyrocketing prices everywhere.

As this newsletter goes to press, Kinshasa has just been cut off from the rest of the country. You can imagine what this means for getting supplies of food: FEBA's farm is a distance outside the city... many more may die of hunger than the virus.

Weather East & west, weather has been a serious problem. Rains swept through "dry season" & now are unpredictable in "rainy season." Floods have ravaged Uvira on the shores of Lake Tanganyika. Farming is precarious: too much rain or too little, extreme stormwinds. We are extremely grateful for the pick-up truck which you so generously funded last year for FEBA, to aid in getting water to new plants when rains fail as well as bringing harvest to market. We are also deeply grateful that the Uvira women's pilot project farm (in a valley) has been spared the worst winds, though many of their homes have not. (We have sent aid for essential repairs.)

CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via Stripe at www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/donate .

Please designate "Restaurant School" or "Women's Center Orphans" or "Farm Needs," or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the following address:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance
attn: John McGlaughlin, Treasurer
25 Alexander St.
Princeton, NJ 08525

Volunteer: Contact Cheryl Ciaranca, Community Outreach Coordinator, at cciaranca@gmail.com or 215.292.3290 to discuss ways to partner with Woman Cradle of Abundance.