The History of The Outreach Program: The Four Promises

Outreach, Inc. is a nonprofit organization built through social entrepreneurship and hard work. Outreach provides food, safe water, medical care, and education to rural Tanzania. Outreach meals are provided to those who face hunger insecurity here at home and internationally.

In 2003, after retirement from successful business careers, Floyd Hammer and his wife Kathy Hamilton planned to enjoy retirement and sail the world. As chance would have it, a friend invited them to go to Nkungi Village in Tanzania, East Africa, to remodel an old leprosy hospital and build an AIDS hospice. Since Floyd owned a construction company, and other successful businesses, he was a perfect fit.

Floyd and Kathy made their first trip to Tanzania to the remote Nkungi Village in 2003. Once there, Floyd and Kathy were shocked at the desperation and hunger of the people. In 2004 when they saw the 5th little child die Kathy cried to Floyd, “We have to do something, we can’t allow these children to die like this!”

Floyd purchased two truckloads of maize (white corn), and the people in the village were told they could barter for the maize. Floyd and Kathy knew the villagers had almost nothing with which to barter. Floyd needed simple things people could provide, sand and aggregate for the construction project, and Kathy needed charcoal for cooking. The local pastor suggested bartering for baskets. Floyd and Kathy were stunned the next Saturday morning when they saw a long line of women rushing with their beautiful hand-woven grass baskets to the bartering location. One by one, they traded baskets for maize. Since that time Outreach has purchased over 50,000 baskets!

In 2005, Kathy asked the leaders and elders of each village what they needed to make their villages sustainable. Kathy asked for a prioritized list, the response at each village was Safe Water, Food, Medical Care, and Education. These cornerstones have become The Four Promises of Outreach.

In 2013, Floyd and Kathy were invited to the White House to receive the 5,000th Daily Point of Light Award presented by President Barack Obama and President George H.W. Bush. In 2015, Floyd and Kathy were also inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame. Outreach received the Global Empowerment Award by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Artist and Athletes Committee in 2013. Outreach has also received Charity Navigators Four Star rating for three consecutive years, and a GuideStar Silver Participant rating. Outreach is also a proud member of the Alliance to End Hunger and a partner to Universities Fighting World Hunger.

Floyd and Kathy didn’t retire; they repurposed.
The mission of Outreach is to provide safe water, food, medical care and education to children and those in need, both at home and abroad.

The Promise of Safe Water

- Water filtration units
  - Point of use units
  - Portable (micro finance) units
- Drill and repair bore hole wells
- Chlorine generator
- Ultraviolet sterilization unit
- Solar powered components

The Promise of Food

- Engage corporations, schools, civic, and religious organizations
- Involve volunteers in meal packaging events
- Meals designed in conjunction with Iowa State University’s Food Science Department

Our Nutritious Meals include:
- Mac & Cheese • Spanish Rice
- Rice & Beans • Cheesy Rice
- Pasta with Italian Tomato Basil Sauce
- Apple Cinnamon Oatmeal • Minestrone Soup

The Promise of Medical Care

- 18 pediatric medical missions to Tanzania since 2004
- Over 1,200 volunteers have joined Outreach medical mission teams
- Assisted in developing the 1,000 bed Singida Regional Referral Hospital
- Port-a-Doc mobile unit that treats 800-1,200 patients each month

The Promise of Education

- Gunda Secondary School
  - Library and computer lab
- Singida and Manyoni Children’s Centers capacity to provide for over 1,900 school children a day
  - Lunch served daily during the school year
  - School uniforms and safe playground
  - After-school tutoring program
- Shallom Farm
  - 8,000 acre research based demonstration farm for livestock and agricultural business development
  - Long term goal to transfer modern farming and ranching practices

Over 500 million meals packaged since 2004!