

Five Talents News

Welcome to our Newsletter. In this issue...

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Thika



Staff member Anna Pienaar recently visited our partner in Thika, Kenya, and was very impressed by the project staff. Mary and Lilian are project workers with Five Talents' partner Thika Community Development Trust (TCDT). Mary has over 15 years experience in the field of microfinance, and works alongside Peterson Karanja (the project leader) in managing the finances and logistics of all the savings groups. Lilian recently completed a masters degree in economic development, and is pleased to be putting everything she has learned into practice. Her role is field-based, overseeing each of the savings and credit groups and forming strong relationships with each group's Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer to ensure everything is running smoothly. TCDT currently boasts a 100% repayment rate, and by the end of 2008 the 1,242 members have saved a cumulative total of 226,394.42 US dollars which they are lending to their own members.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Five Talents, why not **subscribe to our RSS feed** at <http://fivetalents.org.uk/rss/news.rss.php>. **Read more about the Thika project** at <http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/page-kenya-thika.html>.

Felix is happy

Felix (above) took his first loan of £50 from Five Talent partner CCT for his welding business in Cainta, Manila. He is now married to Rufina and he now employs 3 people.

Felix says: "Business has been tough, especially with the steel price rise, but things are improving now thanks to this small loan. Read more at <http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/page-philippines.html>

Conferences — help needed

Please consider helping at the following conferences:

- Spring Harvest in Minehead (4-19 April)
- Keswick Convention (11-24 July)
- New Wine Shepton Mallet (24 July - 8 Aug)

Just a short lot would be great. Contact the office to volunteer. Go to <http://www.new-wine.org/summer/Summer%20Conferences.htm> for more information about New Wine.

2009 plans

Five Talents supported more than 20,000 people in 2008 with business training and small loans. Indirect beneficiaries (employees and family members) are at least 200,000. This is simply staggering! Thank you for all your support. In 2009 Five Talents plans to support new projects in Darjeeling and Burundi, with new branches in Peru, Tanzania, and Sudan. Please go to <http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/page-how-to-give.html> to **donate and support this work**.

New Project in Bolivia

Five Talents is now supporting a new partner - **Semillas de Bendicion**. This project is based in the town of Tarija, southcentral Bolivia, and also reaches rural communities in the surrounding regions. Read more at <http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/page-bolivia.html>.

News from Indonesia



Rachel Millward and Hye-Jung Park (HSBC) met with the "Pandanwangi" womens' group in Jakarta before Christmas (photo above). They have had some basic business training from Five Talents partner GERHATI and have just received their first loan of £40 each. There are 13 women in the group, each with a small business selling things such as snacks, fruit, and vegetables, top-up cards etc. Some of them are illiterate and signed the loan agreement with a thumb-print! Go to http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/images/general/Indonesia_Philippines_Trip_Report_Nov08.pdf to **read the full trip report**.

Sharing your talents

Five Talents is looking for volunteers with skills in journalism, design and marketing. We have various overseas trips planned. Call 0203 326 0426 if you are interested. For more information about opportunities for volunteer service abroad, go to www.fivetalents.org.uk/page-volunteering.html