



**Community
Breakthrough
Support Mission (CBSM)**

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The Kimilili community members would like to express their gratitude to the following persons for offering their time freely and their services for free:

Millicent Aswata (elected treasurer)
Mary Munanda (leader of the women co-ops)
Lia Hadley (project manager)
Maysun Kellow (graphic designer)

For more information about the Community Break-through Support Mission please go to our website:

www.benando.weebly.com

CBSM People and Practices

Community Breakthrough Support Mission (CBSM) is a community of people helping to educate and care for 250 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Kimilili, Kenya. We are concerned with eradicating poverty and improving the quality of our children's lives by improving the livelihoods of the widows and guardians who care for them. One of the focuses of our work is creating practical solutions towards reducing poverty by setting up small-scale businesses that generate stable household incomes. To succeed, we need your expertise and financial assistance to set up and successfully run these projects.

In 2009, we held three best business and sustainable gardening training workshops. These workshops were made possible through private donations. The instructional material was collected from reliable online platforms. The trainers were Business & Economic university graduates who volunteered their time to train our community members. Two highly engaged community elders supervised the formation of various business co-ops and continue to support these initiatives.

The participants of the workshops have successfully set up two Village Phone Salons (micro-financed businesses) and formed five small-scale gardening co-ops. This document highlights one of our small-scale businesses – Janerose's Village Phone Salon to show you,

- the people behind the business
- how the self-help women's co-op work together
- a list of small-scale businesses or materials you could finance

We do hope the information contained in this document brings you closer to the Kimilili community and inspires you to support positive change in the lives of its members. Through collaborative work within the community, through the supervision of community elders, and through your willingness to offer practical and financial assistance, we are enabling people to improve their lives and move towards a better future.



Entrepreneur Profile: Janerose Kuya

Janerose Kuya is the business leader in one of our Village Phone Salons (VPS) situated in Baraki Area at the Kuywa Junction about 20 kilometres away from Kimilili, Kenya. She and her husband are the main caretakers of their nine children and four grandchildren. They have four acres of land; half of which they plant with maize and beans for livestock fodder and to sell in the market five kilometers away. The other two acres they use as a homestead and kitchen garden. They also keep cows, sheep, and a few goats.

Janerose started in June 2009 the self-help women's co-op to improve women's incomes. They opened up their VPS with the help of a private micro-loan (150 USD). In the first six months, they experienced many challenges and successes as local Village Phone Operators (VPOs). The initial challenges resulted from the nation-wide drought, since people did not use phone services when they needed to use what money they had to pay for food. It was also difficult for the VPS to establish regular customers due to strong competition.

Yet there have also been many successes. Janerose's co-op was able to pay off their micro-loan early. They received enough income from the VPS that all of the co-op members' families were given sufficient supplies of milk during the famine months. Since the harvest late last August, there has been a steady increase in the number of regular customers and, as a result, an increase in income for the co-op members.

Janerose has become a role model of a successful businesswoman within the community. She is now a group leader in a women's gardening co-op. She has not only discovered new friends through this venture, but she has also achieved a new standing within the circle of community elders.



Janerose's VPS Women's Co-op

The members of Janerose's women's co-op are:

- Janerose Kuya
- Elika Mukuyi
- Mary Mukanda
- Rose Machani

All the members of Janerose's women's co-op participate in the day-to-day running of the VPS, as well as various secondary businesses that they run parallel to increase their household incomes.

Through the donation of funds from private donors, the CBSM issued a micro-loan (150 USD) to Janerose's co-op for the purchase of a mobile telephone and an inventory of pre-paid scratch cards to sell in their VPS. The co-op members attended the CBSM's first best business training workshop, where they received instruction on how to run a successful business, as well as technical training on how to install and use their phone.

Upon acceptance of the micro-loan, the co-op members obligated themselves to attend weekly meetings. In these meetings, they made their weekly loan repayments to the elected treasurer and discussed the next week's duties and timetable. The women worked very hard and were successful in repaying their loan within five months, seven months sooner than stipulated in the loan guidelines.

Janerose's co-op has now received a contract at a local state-run school to buy and supply foodstuff for this school. The principal of this school was impressed with the resourcefulness and industriousness of the co-op members and thus offered them this new business opportunity. Janerose has applied for another micro-loan (100 USD), so they can buy and store bulk produce to be used in this venture.

Supporting Future Small-scale Businesses in Kimilili



Rev. Wasike Wilberforce Walubengo, organiser of the CBSM, Nairobi, Kenya

Rev. Wasike Walubengo and the elected officials of CBSM have dedicated themselves to helping community members set up small-scale businesses with the help of funds we receive from international donations. Since Kimilili and the surrounding area is a strong agricultural community and there is an urgent need to combat the conditions arising from the persisting drought, many of our business models are focused on establishing new sources of water, installing drip water irrigation systems, and diversifying from mono-culture to poly-culture growing methods.

We believe that by offering our fledgling entrepreneurs proper information, education, and materials to set up their new businesses, we can help them increase their household income. All potential entrepreneurs take part in best business training workshops that we hold with the help of Business and Economic university graduates. They also form self-help co-ops, so they can work in collaboration implementing the new gardening techniques. The funds they receive are either in the form of micro-loans (to be paid back to CBSM with a 5% interest) or they are given tools or materials (e.g. drip irrigation kits) for their use with the proviso that they contribute a percentage of their yields or profits to CBSM school to help feed the children over a two-year period of time. When loans are repaid, CBSM elected officials lend the monies forward towards setting up new businesses.

The following is a list of small-scale businesses and materials and their costs (in USD) our community members need funds for to help them on their way towards self-sufficiency:

- Treadle foot pump for pumping water to garden co-op plots (140 USD)
- Diverse seeds for a three acre poly-cultural gardening project (200 USD)
- Family drip irrigation kit (200 litre) for the use of household garden (200 USD)
- Quarter acre drip irrigation system (1000 litre) for garden co-op (600 USD)
- Small scale poultry business (800 USD)
- “Explorer” Hand Drilling System to drill numerous wells (>50ft) in Kimilili and surrounding communities (900 USD)

If you are interested in helping us practical assistance or financing a small-scale business or donating funds towards needed materials, please go to our website (www.benando.weebly.com) where you can make a PayPal contribution, or you can contact either Rev. Wasike Walubengo (cbsmkenya@yahoo.com) or Lia Hadley (cbsmkenya@gmail.com) directly to receive further information about our projects.