

Results of 2018 Trip

A video recapping the results of our 2018 trip can be found here: https://youtu.be/KEoXhzU_DOW

The 2018 trip occurred from February 14 to March 22 and had three volunteers going back to Nkungi Village. Gary Blumanthal, a veteran of these trips, completed his 13th trip, Bill Pavlisick finished his 4th trip and Dan Dahle his first.

The work for this year's trip centered around three projects pre-approved by the Africa SMILE Board.

1. Adding a duplex residence at Chardeleco for people afflicted with leprosy
2. Completing the second side of a tenant duplex at Chardeleco so that it could be rented out and provide a much needed income source to help support the Charedeleco Community, and
3. Constructing a foundation for a new teacher's house at the Nkungi Primary School. The duplex itself will be finished on a future trip.

In addition, over the past year, AfricanSMILE has been focusing on other initiatives vital to the region:

- Feeding the hungry. 21 tons of corn were donated by Community Of Hope (Wilsonville, OR) and Christ Community Lutheran (Lebanon, OR). While most of this corn was used to feed the poor, 1/2 ton was designated for seed corn for next year's crop.
- Replacing the Iambi well pump that had been installed in 2016. A three phase pump originally installed burned out due to faulty wiring. Because we came in under budget for the main (3) projects described above, the team made the decision to go to Arusha to buy a new pump, which was installed and is fully operational.
- Funding eye surgeries. An agreement with Haydom Hospital was revitalized that will bring an eye surgeon to Iambi Hospital four times in 2018 to do eye surgeries for those with leprosy.
- Strengthening AfricanSMILE's relationship with local leaders. Gary and team met with the new Director of Iambi Hospital, Pastor Manasa. They reported a strong relationship has been established. Bill and Gary also met with Nkungi Village leaders twice. The main concern expressed by the leaders was better access to clean water and keeping existing wells repaired and in good working order. Future funding and projects will likely help address concerns here.