



# HGI Newsletter

*Helmer Global Initiatives exist to promote a culture of generosity by using our resources to engage our people to their highest level of capability in order to provide aid in justice to the poor and vulnerable.*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

JULY 22, 2010

## SUMMER OF SERVICE IN AUGUST:

August 9

**Password Community Mentoring**

August 21

**Special Olympics**

For more information see the Summer of Service bulletin areas. Interested participants should fill out a request slip located in the Summer of Service bulletin area for their manager to approve. Please turn approved request slip in to Penny Witzke.

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## Indy Reads

*Written by Cara Fry*

June 9, 2010 Tonja White, Carolina DeLeon, and I had a wonderful opportunity to help promote the Indy Reads organization. This was our first experience with Indy Reads, and we were excited to hear about their program. We were also astonished to hear the statistics regarding illiteracy in central Indiana.

Indy Reads is an organization located downtown Indianapolis on Meridian Street. The Greater Indianapolis Literacy League, DBA "Indy Reads" is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It was founded in 1984 as the Greater Indianapolis Literacy League (GILL) by several librarians and a group of community activists. The name was changed in 1998 to Indy Reads. It is an independent, non-profit organization. They receive no direct government funding. Financial support is through individual donors, corporate contributions, and grants. Indy Reads serves adults 18 years of age and older in Central Indiana who read at or below the sixth grade level, or who are learning English as a new language.

The Problem: Adult Illiteracy is an educational, health, economic, and family issue. The National



Assessment of Adult Literacy estimates that 100,000 adults in Marion County are functionally illiterate. They can't fill out a job application, read a prescription, take a driver's test, or check their child's homework. Illiteracy impacts the individual, and the family: it is difficult to work, and near impossible to be self-sufficient. Illiteracy is linked to poverty, criminal activity, poor health and early death. A parent's literacy level accurately predicts a child's future academic and economic success. Reading for pleasure isn't even an option if you're illiterate. This is about reading for survival.

The Helmer crew had the great occasion to visit the Indy Reads office and an IPS facility that is dedicated to adult learning. Our mission was to help assemble packets of information promoting the Indy Reads program and a

special scavenger hunt event. We then went door to door to local businesses downtown, and distributed approximately 700 brochures, posters, and post cards. We were extremely pleased with the overwhelming response of the local business owners and managers that were excited to help with this great cause.

Indy Reads still needs our help! I have left a packet of information with Penny Witzke regarding volunteer opportunities with their tutoring programs. They also accept financial contributions.

*Indy Reads*  
2450 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

HELMER  
Summer of Service

# Shepherd Community



Helping the Shepherd Community Center build a playspace at the Jireh building

*“The opposite of gratitude is taking things for granted”*

Written by Brian Pickering

It was an ominous start to the day. Dark clouds lay pregnant with impending rain on the horizon. As we drove towards our destination, the Jireh Sports Center—a ministry of Shepherd Community Center, in Indianapolis, we wondered what would happen if it were to rain. Armed only with knowledge that we would be cutting wood in order to build a playground, none of us were sure exactly what to expect.

As we pulled into the parking lot we saw a group of men busy unloading a dump truck full of sawhorses and various other bits of equipment. We were soon directed to a large dance studio and introduced to Adam and Bobby, the two coordinators from Kaboom (kaboom.org).

Kaboom is a national non-profit organization that is dedicated to saving play for Amer-

ica’s children. They have many programs designed to help communities build playspaces for children of all ages. For this project they were helping the Shepherd Community Center to build a playspace at the Jireh building. The main build of the playground we learned was going to be done by 200+ volunteers that Saturday, but in order to be able to build the entire playground in a single day, which is the goal;



they needed two days of preparation. This was the first day. There were many volunteers about, most associated with Shepherd, others from Clarian—another partner in the build, and even a group of football players from Lawrence North.

The theme of the day was to prepare as much as possible for the Saturday build. We would be unloading the playground equipment from the truck and organizing it, cutting all of the wood for the various benches, trash cans, and tables that would be around the playground, and prepare the ground for the installation.

The rain held off, the sun crept out from beneath the clouds and it turned into a beautiful day. Everyone worked together to complete all of the projects that Adam and Bobby asked of us, even with some rather humid weather and a burned out miter saw. Exhausted, sweaty and dirty, but happy to have helped we went on our way. Harry returned to help with the final build on Saturday and got to see the fruit of our labors. Thanks to all of our Helmer volunteers for a great day in helping the community!

## Meet Natasha

Meet our newest team member Natasha Mazur. She arrived to the US about a month ago and is going to intern with Helmer Global Initiatives till December 2010.

Natasha was born in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, when it was still part of the Soviet Union. She got to learn about market economy as she grew professionally. Her educational background and work experience covers a variety of fields including

Organizational Management, Journalism and TV Broadcasting, English and Spanish Linguistics, Simultaneous Interpreting and Communications. Natasha is well travelled, loves photography, music and adventure. She is most passionate about living a meaningful life and sees her US experience as a great asset in the process of personal and professional growth.

As an HGI intern, Natasha will be learning more on corporate culture and contributing to

successes of HGI. Also, she will closely cooperate with HGI partners, such as Mission to Ukraine, Loving South Africa, Global Relief and Development Partners, and others, mainly focusing on helping enhance communications and fundraising programs.

Natasha would love to use this chance to get to know everyone at Helmer and learn more about the company, as well as share about her culture and life experiences.



Natasha Mazur, new HGI intern

# Creating a Bigger Future for Rwanda

Article is based on materials from [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org), [grdpartners.org](http://grdpartners.org)

The Republic of Rwanda, known as the Land of a Thousand Hills, is a landlocked country located in the Great Lakes region of eastern-central Africa, bordered by Uganda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania. Rwanda has received considerable international attention due to its 1994 genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed. Since then the country has made a recovery and is now considered as a model for developing countries. In 2009 a CNN report labeled Rwanda as Africa's biggest success story, having achieved stability, economic growth (average income has tripled in the past ten years) and international integration.



In April 2010 David Helmer, CEO of Helmer, and Bruce King, CEO/COO of Helmer, visited Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, representing HGI in cooperation with Global Relief and Development Partners (GRDP), [www.grdpartners.org](http://www.grdpartners.org). They joined in the vision of GRDP to inspire and strengthen promising entrepreneurs in emerging countries, as well as to build creative partnerships between experienced entrepreneurs in the United States and established entrepreneurs in Rwanda. This leads to business growth and increased employment for local people.



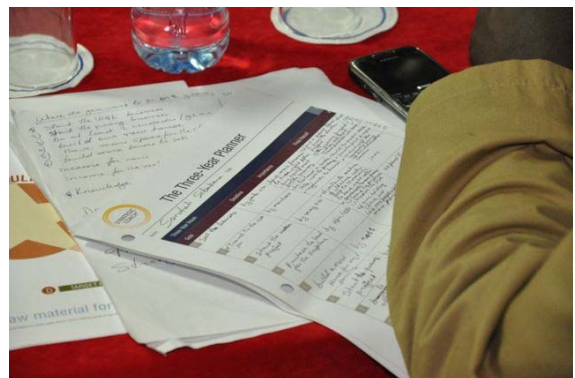
**Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda “Creating a Bigger Future”**

During their visit, David, who is also a board member of GRDP, and Bruce took part in one-on-one coaching and a full-day workshop for 30 Rwandese entrepreneurs participating in GRDP's *Creating A Bigger Future* program. David spoke about leadership, which results in impact. He highlighted the importance of healthy leaders, the value of purpose in the lives of employees, and concluded with a practical nine-step process for implementing servant leadership. Bruce, in his turn, bridged the important aspects of planning and execution from an operations perspective. He demonstrated how important it is in planning to understand from a customer perspective what the priorities of the business need to be. He gave very practical advice on building a financial "dashboard" of key business metrics, and showed how financial reporting helps an entrepreneur make fact-based decisions about growth and investment.

The GRDP one-year program, which consists of individual coaching sessions and 4 workshops is now approaching its 3rd workshop. This will take place on August 11.

This time the HGI team will consist of Rick Witzke, Director of Manufacturing at Helmer, and Natasha Mazur, an HGI intern. They will be joined by a good friend of HGI and a successful entrepreneur from Kyiv, Ukraine, Pavel Patyuk. The main discussion and topics will be experience transformation and the elements needed to build a strong brand in order to compete in the East African Common Market.

Let's wish our HGI team a safe trip as they will be leaving to Rwanda on August 6<sup>th</sup> and will travel 30 hours to Kigali, returning on the 13<sup>th</sup>.



**“Rwanda has received considerable international attention due to its 1994 genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 people were killed.”**



## HELMEr Summer of Service

**Match your capability to the needs of the community!**  
**Get your family & friends involved for a project!**

To participate in **Summer of Service events** in August interested individuals should fill out a request slip located in the Summer of Service bulletin area for their manager to approve.

Please turn approved request slip in to Penny Witzke.

# Summer of Service Calendar - August

**2 Summer of Service events** have been added to the August calendar. Please see the Summer of Service bulletin areas for additional information.

Interested participants should fill out a request slip located in the **Summer of Service bulletin area** for their manager to approve. Please turn approved request slip in to Penny Witzke.

August 9

### **PassWord Community**

#### **Mentoring**

PassWord staffs professional mentors to serve children that are in a family crisis, behavioral crisis, in school parole, near homelessness, etc. PassWord will be offering a Back to School event for families they serve to receive free supplies and preparation for school, learning opportunities and resources, and healthy refreshments and activities.

On this day, volunteers will assist the Password staff with registration, assisting at each station giving guidance and supplies, and having fun with PassWord children.

August 21

### **Special Olympics**

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

On this day, volunteers will assist athletes by being their golf caddies for the tournament. Caddies will have up to 4 athletes for 3, 9 or 12 holes. Caddie experience is not necessary. Responsibilities include carry golf clubs for golfers, record scores for all players in your foursome and cheer for the golfers in your foursome.



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:

[pwitzke@helmerinc.com](mailto:pwitzke@helmerinc.com)