

Update on

# Racecourse Community , Zambia

January to March 2016

**HANDS AT WORK IN AFRICA (CANADA) SOCIETY** *in partnership with*  
Bragg Creek Community Church

“The nature of providing a support structure to the most vulnerable communities across Africa often brings challenges. Therefore, Hands at Work is firmly committed to strengthening the capacity of local Care Workers to provide effective care to children. In 2015, it came to light that there were challenges in the leadership of the Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Racecourse. In response, the Regional Support Team (RST), under the leadership of Levy Mwenda, drew closer to the community in the latter part of 2015 and in 2016 to engage with the pastors in Racecourse.

Hands has a strong relationship with these pastors from efforts over the last 2 years to challenge and encourage them to take up the Biblical mandate to care for the orphan, widow, and outcast through supporting the work of the CBO as they reach out to the most desperate families in the community and by welcoming these families into their church, showing them love, acceptance and care. The pastors, who have played a key role in the CBO, supported the wider leadership team to support them through the challenges they faced. The result has been to strengthen the leadership and to empower the management team to work alongside the coordinator. The RST has been encouraged by this show of community ownership by the pastors and by the response of the wider leadership of the CBO. Hands at Work visits Racecourse at least twice per month to continue to support Care Workers in Holy Home Visits, in programming at and management of the Care Points where children come daily, and in raising up leaders within the local communities.

Tiamika\* is the second-born of four children and they live with their mother. Tiamika's family was visited



Care Workers  
stepped in  
to help

three years ago when a local pastor was doing Holy Home Visits in their community, Racecourse. Bridget, Tiamika's mother, shared her story about how she was divorced by her husband. Bridget supports her four children alone which she finds very difficult. Bridget told the group that sometimes they go to sleep without eating anything if she has not sold any charcoal, her only source of income. She rents the house they stay in and the small packs of charcoal she sells by the roadside provide her with just enough income to keep them in their home, with very little left over – certainly not enough to provide food for every day, much less fees for the government school.

Made aware of Tiamika's desperate situation, Care Workers in Racecourse stepped in to help. They have demonstrated God's love by regularly

visiting the family to support and pray for them. The impact that the Care Workers have had in developing Tiamika's character is evident in the way that Tiamika shows concern and love for those around him and for the healing that is slowly happening in Tiamika's spirit. He even seeks to help his mother take on responsibilities at home like washing dishes and sweeping the house.

Tiamika talks of wanting to become a doctor one day so he can help people. As time goes by, his health is steadily improving with the daily nutritious meals he now receives.