More than a Handout

It is the season of giving, but will you be giving in vain? While any gift to a charitable cause is a compassionate gesture, some gifts will go much further than others. The old Chinese proverb—“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”—is a reminder that gifts that sustain the recipient are more effective than gifts that merely provide temporary support.

Such sustainability is what INMED’s Adaptive Agriculture Program featuring aquaponics is all about. Aquaponics, a highly intensive food production technique that combines fish farming with soilless crop production in a closed system, offers poverty-stricken farmers and communities the opportunity to raise enough food to feed their families and to generate income. The program is making all the difference to famers who are struggling with dwindling water resources, changing weather patterns and inhospitable land for agriculture.

INMED recently installed a full-scale aquaponic unit for disabled farmers in the Mubvumoni village in the Venda region of South Africa, near the Zimbabwe border. There are no shops or grocery stores in this remote village. Residents must drive over crude,
muddy dirt roads to reach the nearest town, which is nearly 40 miles away. And since most don’t even own a car, shopping in town is not an option. All of which means the residents must rely on their own crops to survive.

For the members of the Thabelo Disabled Persons South Africa Group, growing their own food can be extremely challenging. The members each have physical disabilities, such as missing, deformed or wasted limbs, some a consequence of polio, which make bending to dig, plant or harvest difficult if not impossible. Aquaponics is particularly suited to the needs of the physically disabled, as the units are situated at waist height and require minimal physical effort to maintain.

The unit in Venda is one of many aquaponic systems INMED has installed in South Africa, Peru and Jamaica to make sustainable farming a reality for families in need. INMED has also installed this innovative technology in schools to supplement children’s school lunches with a nutritious food source and to teach future farmers this revolution in farming that uses 80% less water and consumes 75% less energy than traditional farming methods.

**Give a donation that has a lasting effect**

Lend your support to this ground-breaking technology and bring food sustainability to a family in need! Any amount will make a difference and your gift is tax deductible. When you give to INMED Partnerships for Children, you can be sure your gift will make a difference to a struggling family.

[Click here to donate now!](#)
Back from the Brink

Homelessness can happen to anyone, even in the United States, and it especially hurts children. And when a family loses their home, they usually lose their safety, health and social connections. That’s why INMED works to prevent families from ever becoming homeless by providing them with the tools they need to support themselves.

In Northern Virginia, INMED has provided needy families with a way back to security and self-sufficiency. With educational classes, goal setting, budgeting, employment assistance, emergency financial aid and other services, INMED helps these families regain stability.

Please click here to donate online to help a family need. Your gift will help make a positive, lasting change in a child’s life.

INMED has received The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence and has a four star rating with Charity Navigator, so you can be secure in knowing that your donation will be used wisely to help children. Thanks for your support!