

Helps International (HINT)

2006 Annual Report

1. Tinshu selected for GSBI 2006 in USA

Monday 31st of July 2006



The Executive Director of Helps International (HINT), Tinshu Genesis was 1 of 17 World-class Social Entrepreneurs selected by Santa Clara University's Centre for Science, Technology and Society (CSTS) for the 2006 Global Social Benefit Incubator (GSBI) program in partnership with Leavey School of Business, July 29-September 30, 2006 at Santa Clara University, USA.

Held on the beautiful campus of Santa Clara University, the GSBI provides an intensive two-week residential program at

Santa Clara University that enables successful technology innovators to scale their endeavors and achieve sustainability. Presented by the University's Center for Science, Technology, and Society and the Leavey School of Business Administration, the GSBI offers the unique context of a Jesuit university dedicated to social justice combined with leading resources of Silicon Valley. The invited social benefit entrepreneurs have demonstrated their commitment to applying technology to address urgent human needs throughout the world and have achieved recognition through the rigorous selection process of the prestigious Tech Museum's Awards: Technology Benefiting Humanity, the World Bank's Development Marketplace, the City of Rome's Global Junior Challenge competitions, or as Schwab Fellows..

2. Joseph and Heather arrive in Buea from UK

Saturday 15th of July 2006



Joseph and Heather Talbot a couple from England have finally arrived Buea to work as volunteers for Helps International (HINT). Interestingly, Joe and Hev will be here for quite a while.

While here Heather will help us with our Community Health Projects such as HIV/AIDS awareness and training among Community groups and faith-based organisations; you will also be able to visit other health projects in Buea to have first hand information about the health needs of the area; you will equally be doing a pioneering work on our Community Health Centre.

She is a senior nurse at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, England. Read more about Heather.

Joe's main work will be to develop a brand new website for HINT as well as help develop curriculum for some of our advanced IT training modules such as HTML & CSS, photo editing, PHP,...

Joe is quite creative and able multimedia designer with an eye for design and a good understanding of Web technologies and Web-related usability and accessibility issues. He is experienced in developing standards-compliant and accessible online learning tools, primarily involving XHTML, PHP, MySQL and Actionscript. He has over five years experience of developing digital media projects in a University environment and is familiar with the challenges of delivering collaborative

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projects on time and on budget. He works at the Oxford University Computing Services at the University of Oxford, England.

3. Tinshu raises funds in USA for HINT



Friday 25th of August 2006

On his way to the USA, Tinshu met a cripple at the Douala International Airport and he was selling postcards. He bought a few to give to some friends and an idea came to buy a good quantity to use for fundraising. He then bought all of the man's cards. What a joyous day it must have been for this young guy. Previously, Tinshu had also bought some crafts from the "Marche de Fleur" in Douala for the same purpose.

Amazingly, during his one-month stay in the USA, Tinshu raised over US\$ 500 from the articles he sold during his time in the USA, plus a donation of US\$ 2,500 from Anthony Bettencourt (one of his GSBI Mentors), plus more than US\$ 3,000 in cash and in kind donated by Pastor Stuart Nice and His Church, Valley Life Centre, giving a total of about US\$ 6,000.

Many thanks to all our generous donors in support of the work of HINT.

4. Tinshu wins lone scholarship for GSBI 2006 in USA



Saturday 12th of August 2006

The Date is August 12, 2006. The GSBI is ending today and we have all been invited to the closing dinner offered by the University. University professors and staff of the GSBI and friends are present. The atmosphere is quite relaxed and everyone is feeling free going to the table for their food. The food is truly American and truly delicious.

Everyone now seems to have finished up with food. Prof. Jim, one of the major GSBI staff is up and has started awarding certificates and gifts to the Social Entrepreneurs. The award session is punctuated by much clapping as names of 'Social Entrepreneurs' are called. The session is over and each Social Entrepreneur now has a certificate of participation and a glass shield containing a group photo of the Social Entrepreneurs and the GSBI faculty. Jim is still standing up as though he still has some else to say. Then he begins: Dear friends, you for the past few years, we have been trying to establish a scholarship fund for the GSBI have not been successful. However, this year, we were able to get ONE scholarship for the GSBI and we have decided to award it to TINSHU GEMUH of Helps International, Cameroon. The scholarship will help him pay his flight from Cameroon to Santa Clara and back.

The whole hall is cheering and one can read surprises on many faces. Tinshu stands up to go have a hand shake with Jim and he is completely overwhelmed with surprise as well as he never expected such an award.

5. The Joseph and Heather Talbot prize instituted

Saturday 30th of September 2006



Back Packs is a program organised by HINT once a year at the beginning of each school year to provide school supplies to needy children. In 2006, about 30 children were helped.

During Back Packs 2006, we instituted the Joseph and Heather Talbot Prize for Service to Humanity in honour of the Joseph and Heather Talbot, volunteers from London working for HINT who were present during the award ceremony. The prize was instituted to appreciate and promote their heart of sacrifice and voluntarism in Community projects.

The prize will be awarded each to a child in our community who has been noted by many to have a heart of a volunteer; one who is ready to serve and not look for a reward from men.

The 2006 prize was awarded to John Onofio of Government Primary School at Bonduma. John made sure that there was always clean drinking water at the HINT office. Each day, he would stop by at the office to collect bottles to fill with clean fresh water.

The prize has a monetary value of CFA 200,000 (US\$ 400, GBP 200) attached to it. The money will be used to cater for a child's entire education for the whole year including books, uniform, school fees, and health care.

We are now accepting donations for the 2007 prize. Donate online via PayPal.

Together we can help thousands of children and end up educating a whole generation

6. Backpacks 2006: HINT donates school supplies to needy children



Sunday 24th of September 2006

Back Packs is a program organized by HINT once a year at the beginning of each school year to provide school supplies to needy children. In 2006, about 30 children were helped. If you will like to help Children's education, please contact us at info@hintonline.org.

We help provide school fees, books, uniforms and other supplies as needed by the children. Together, we can make a difference. A donation of US\$ 25 (GBP 13) per month or US\$ 300 (GBP 154) per year will help provide all the basic needs for one school Child. We will send you information and photos of the child(ren) you are supporting and the child(ren) will communicate with you directly (if you wish). You can donate online via PayPal.

7. Joseph and Heather Talbot donate to HINT



Tuesday 19th of September 2006

Joseph and Heather Talbot, volunteers currently serving with HINT have donated 3 PIII computers, 7 UPS for power backup, 10 Table Chairs and assorted items to HINT Cameroon. This donation has helped to improve our technology input, both in quality and quantity at our ICT Training Centre here in Buea. HINT would like to say thank you to Joe and Hev.

8. HINT dedicates its first ever Health Advice & Counseling Centre



Helps International (HINT) has dedicated its first ever Health Advice and Counselling Centre in Buea, Cameroon. Witnessed by over 80 people, the occasion brought together community leaders including the chief of Wotolo Village where the Project is actually based.

Heather Talbot, a volunteer from England has been at the forefront of this project since arriving Cameroon in July 2006. Our initial goal was to set up a full Health Centre to serve about three villages but we were faced with government's very tough condition (a piece of land of our own and a building plan signed by a registered architect). These are very tough conditions and require several tens of millions of FCFA which we cannot afford at the moment. So, we decided to focus for now on health advice and counseling with a strong emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention.

9. Fundraising in UK for HINT



Saturday 23rd of December 2006

Two of HINT's UK supporters, Michael and Margaret Astbury who recently visited HINT Cameroon have organized a Coffee evening to raise funds for our Community Library Project here in Buea. About 80% of children in primary schools in Cameroon have 20% of the required text books while only about 20% have about 70% of the required text books. With this condition, learning for the children and teaching for the teachers become difficult. We have been trying to help this

situation by buying books for about 50 children for the past 2 years.

Based on a research conducted by Heather Talbot (currently volunteering for HINT) we have decided to set up a library to help provide textbooks to school children in Cameroon. We will buy and stock a large database of the books the children need and give out the books to them at the beginning of each school year. They will use and return to the library for other children to use and the cycle goes on and on.

Each child needs approximately 8-10 textbooks and each costs averagely US\$ 7 (GBP 3.6). The project will be formally launched in September 2007 when schools re-open in Cameroon.

About US \$ 578.8 (GBP 308) has now been raised so far for this project. However, we need US \$ 13,875.53 (GBP 7,191.63) to be able to set up a library with 2000 books to serve about 300 children in the 3 pilot schools we are working with. This is a very exciting and innovative program and we are inviting you to invest in a child's life today. The fulfillment of this project means that parents can save more money for childrens' health, nutrition, etc...

You can contact Mike and Margaret through the Quay Church website to join them in supporting childrens' education in Africa.

OR

donate one or more books today to change a child's life.

10. Valley Life Centre USA supports HINT

Thursday 21st of December 2006



Valley Life Centre, a Church in Santa Clara (Silicon Valley) has indicated their commitment to supporting the work of HINT through web hosting. This was made know to us at HINT recently by Pastor Stuart Nice who is Senior Pastor of the Church.

As we train web designers, the need has always been hosting the websites done by our students. Valley Life Centre will pay for hosting these websites and the benefits of such generosity will

flow back to HINT and to our students bringing about real social and economic change in the lives of our trainees.

Valley Life Centre is also helping to collect used or new technology equipment and any other useful items for subsequent shipment to Cameroon. To make a donation in-kind or cash to HINT, please contact Pastor Stuart Nice of Valley Life Centre.

A big thank you to Pastor Stuart and all the wonderful and lovely people at Valley Life Centre.

11. Joseph Talbot Trains his first group of 7 web designers

Wednesday 20th of December 2006



Since after arriving from the UK, Joe has spent time researching and writing a web design training manual.

He conducted the first training session from October 30 to December 17, 2006 with 7 students in class. The students received a thorough foundation on HTML and CSS. With the knowledge, the students can then be able to design and maintain websites and this creates employment opportunities.

We need help with volunteers who can help develop curricula for the following advanced training modules (online or on-the-spot here in Buea):

- ❖ Networking
- ❖ Hardware Maintenance
- ❖ Desktop Publishing
- ❖ Photo editing

Access our volunteer application form to let us know if you can help.

It cost only 100,000 FCFA (US\$ 200, GBP 101) to equip 10 unemployed youths with web design skills so they can do web design jobs for a living. You can donate online via PayPal to help train 10 youths. Thank you for your help.

12. Michael and Margaret Asbury visit HINT from England



Friday 8th of December 2006

Michael and Margaret Astbury (parents of Heather Margaret Talbot, currently volunteering with HINT in Buea, Cameroon) recently visited HINT and some parts of Cameroon November 20 to December 2 2006.

During their time here, we were able to show them around some of our projects including our ICT Training Centre in Bonduma, and a building we have already acquired to host a Community Health Centre and a Community Education Library. We also visited the three Pilot Schools we will be working with on the Library/Literacy Project.

Helps International

(HINT)

Cameroon

Our Mission/Purpose Statement

To improve on the social and economic well-being and health of the poor through education, skills development, and job creation.



NGO Registration No.
022/G.37/D.14/1/vol. 8/022/OAPP/98
with the government of the Republic of Cameroon.

1. Who We Are

Helps International (HINT) is a community-based non-profit NGO that was founded to help improve on the social and economic well-being and health of the poor through education, skills development, and job creation without discrimination of race, color, religion, political beliefs, gender, national origin, or disability.

2. Our Objectives

- To fight poverty and unemployment by providing marketable skills in ICTs, agriculture, and business set-up & management.
- To provide interest-free loans to jobless and poor youths for business start-ups, thereby reducing unemployment.
- To improve on the health condition of the poor by setting up Health Centres in poor communities.
- To contribute to the fight against the rampant transmission of HIV/AIDS and other STIs through education and development of self-reliant projects for jobless adults, and vulnerable youths.
- To provide education, health care, clothing, and feeding assistance to orphans, street children and very poor children from subsistence farming homes.
- To contribute to community development through projects such as wells, portable water, health units, schools, Electricity...
- To offer emergency relief to victims of natural and/or man-made disasters when need arises.
- To HELP anyone in need whenever we have the resources to.

3. How we are organised

HINT Cameroon is led by an Executive Council comprising an **Executive Director** who works in close collaboration with an **Administrative Assistant, General Secretary, a Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Communication Manager**. A **Board of Directors** provides overall guidance.

4. Our Projects/Strategies

i. Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs)

1. Community ICT Training Centres
Provide **access** to and job-oriented **training** in Computers, Internet, secretarial administration, web design, Networking, Computer Maintenance, Desktop Publishing, Photo Editing.
2. Computers for Development (ComDev)
Provision and installation of Computers in Schools, Community Centres, Non-profits ...

ii. Education

1. *Child sponsorship*
Providing, textbooks, fees, and uniforms to orphans and children from poor families.
2. *Community Education Libraries*
Ensuring that children in primary and secondary schools have the textbooks they need to be successful in their studies.
3. *Community Education Centres*
Providing orphans and children from poor homes the opportunity to still have a dissent education despite their poor backgrounds.

iii. **Health**

1. *Community Health Centres*

Making it possible for the local community to have access to low-cost and affordable health care services.

2. *HIV/AIDS*

Sensitisation/awareness, Training Community Educators, Prevention, Counseling, support for PLWHA.

iv. **Economic Development**

1. *Micro-finance*

Providing interest-free loans to young enterprising youths for business start-ups.

2. *Research Institute for Social Entrepreneurship & Technology (RISET)*. RISET will provide a two-year intensive entrepreneurial training to youths between the ages of 17-30 who have a passion to transform communities through Social Entrepreneurship. In the meantime, we run short seminars for young business people.

v. **Community Development**

1. Providing clean drinking water to underprivileged communities.
2. Providing electricity in underprivileged communities through Solar Energy.
3. Emergency Relief.

5. Achievements

- More than 600 youths have been trained since 2003 to be able to effectively use the computer and the internet.
- We currently run 2 IT training centres located in Buea, Cameroon equipped with over 30 computers.
- More than 50 children have been helped to attend school.
- More than 25 unemployed youths have been trained as web designers. With their new skills, they can generate income that will help them overcome poverty in their lives.
- About 12 people have so far received loans for micro-businesses.
- More than 60 community leaders have been trained to become HIV/AIDS Educators within their communities.
- HINT is a certified training partner with Kabissa's "Time to Get Online" Training program. Kabissa is a Washington-based NGO.
- HINT won the Global Junior Challenge competition in 2004 in Rome.
- HINT was a participant at Africa Source II, which ran from Jan. 8-15, 2006, in Uganda, organized by Tactical Technology, Netherlands.
- HINT's Director is a graduate of the 2006 class of the Global Social Benefit Incubator (GSBI) program at Santa Clara University, USA.
- HINT has been congratulated by Cameroon's Minister of External Relations with a letter dated Jan. 24, 2005 and referenced 000219/DIPL/D3/SDCNG/ONG

6. Our Financial Policies

Integrity, financial accountability and transparency are our guiding principles in financial matters. At the end of each year, we audit our accounts and we send a financial report to all our donors.

7. Some urgent needs

- Computers, Laptops, Digital Cameras, Cell Phones, Computer Parts, Printers and Fax machines, Office Stationery, Scanners, Photocopy Machine
- Clothes
- Shoes
- Toys
- Wheelchairs
- Medical Equipment
- Educational Books For our Library
- Sewing Machines
- Carpentry Tools
- Farming Tools
- Public Address System (Microphones, speakers, amplifiers, ...) for seminars, etc
- We accept any kind of useful equipment.

8. How You Can Help



Volunteer your skills.



Make a secure online donation via PayPal through our website at www.hintonline.org Consider supporting us regularly



You can also make a direct bank-to-bank transfer into our UK or Cameroon Bank account. Contact us account details.



You may also donate any of the items listed in section 8 above.



You can organize an event to raise funds for our work right where you are.

9. Some of our current/past corporate donors:

Several individuals, families, and corporate bodies have supported of our work. A few of them are listed here:



Oxford University,
England



Kidlington Baptist
Church, England



University of Buea,
Cameroon

TACTICAL
TECHNOLOGY
COLLECTIVE
Tactical
Technology,
Netherlands



Valley Life Centre,
USA



Santa Clara
University, USA



Kabissa,
Washington, USA



Digital World
Foundation, Italy

“Never underestimate the power of a clear path”