



1000 Survival Garden Kits Project

*Empowering 1000+ Women to Water and
Food Security and Self Sufficiency.*

A collaboration of Canadian, American
and South African Rotary clubs and the
Roll a Hippo Foundation

Rotary
Club of Gibsons



PROGRESS REPORT - JUNE 2023

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Listen to Mbongeni Nzama tell her story on gardening for survival during the pandemic.

<https://youtu.be/oOzGDMkxmBc>

Thank You!

As we approach our goal of delivering **1000 Survival Garden Kits** to marginalized women in rural South African communities, we want to express our appreciation to the Rotary and Interact clubs, Rotary Districts, and individuals whose attention is focused on the most vulnerable populations in our current global chaos... women and children.

The beneficiaries of the hippo rollers and garden kits are all linked together through the smiles on their faces and the thankfulness in their hearts, as they are empowered with an easier way to collect their household water. The abundance of water improves health and hygiene and the garden kits assist helps create food security.

Thank you for making a substantial difference!

1000 Survival Garden Kits Committee

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A SHIFT IN PRIORITIES

Back in the 1500s, when the Europeans were colonizing Africa, they encountered men carrying spears and women carrying buckets of water on their heads.

It's now 2023 and the men carry laptops and cell phones, but the women are still carrying buckets of water on their heads. Don't you think it is time to shift our priorities?



Our Local Project Suppliers:



PROJECT OVERVIEW

IN MOST UNDERSERVED SETTLEMENTS in South Africa, women are the frontline workers. As the covid pandemic upset the familiar family and community routines, unemployment, business failures, and social isolation have become the new reality. With little income and sparse government assistance, women are faced with growing their own food to feed their families.

This Rotary-driven project is providing **1000 women with a Survival Garden Kit**. Each kit includes a hippo water roller and the basic tools, fertilizers and seedlings to start small homesite vegetable gardens. This is the most immediate and productive action we can take to help them create water and food security. Helping women establish food gardens has short and long-term benefits:

- Small homestead farming is doable and relatively easy (when water is readily available).
- While the need is immediate, a survival garden also creates food security for the future.
- Growing one's own food is not just self-sustaining; it's rewarding and empowering.
- While the covid pandemic was the immediate threat, its impact will be felt for years.
- A mother's drive to provide for her family is her core passion. What she needs is the 'how'.
- Basic tools and an easy way to transport water makes the Survival Garden Kit a viable option.



HIPPO ROLLERS & GARDEN KITS

THE HIPPO ROLLER IN 60 SECONDS

View this 3-minute video that will flip your thinking on water, gender equality, and women's rights:

<https://youtu.be/R0PfmYA9nY4>

- A hippo water roller is basically a re-invented wheelbarrow designed to transport 90 litres (24 gallons) of water – about 200 pounds – by rolling it on the ground.

- The roller is made from one solid piece of UV-safe polystyrene. There are no seams or welds making it extremely durable.

- The weight is distributed over a large surface area so it does not create wheel ruts which leads to erosion.

- The roller's bevelled ends allows it to be easily tilted to an upright position for access, cleaning and storage.

- The handle bearings are made from virtually indestructible polyurethane... They never wear out.

- The large fill cap allows for easy filling and cleaning.

- Using a hippo roller requires no training and the benefits are immediate. It does not require spare parts or maintenance and has a life span of 5-7 years.

- It's made from chemically-inert polystyrene making it safe for water and food storage.

- One trip to the water source using a hippo roller equals five trips with a bucket.



A Survival Garden Kit includes:

- Hippo water roller - Moves 5x more water with ease.
- A shovel, rake and hoe
- Watering can
- Seeds and seedlings
- Compost, fertilizer
- How to Grow a Garden Guide
- Soap and sanitizer
- Full day training

▶ DID YOU KNOW?

The hippo water roller was developed in South Africa in 1992 and manufactured in Johannesburg. Despite all of its benefits, it is still virtually unknown.

THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS - JUNE 2023

Number of participating Rotary clubs 121

Number of Districts involved 26

Amount of funds raised \$203,910.

Number of Survival Garden Kits delivered 971

Number of communities assisted 20

Number of immediate beneficiaries 971

Total number of people impacted 7768



PARTICIPATING ROTARY CLUBS - JUNE 2023

District 5040

> Project Lead: RC Gibsons

Bowen Island
North Vancouver
Pender Harbour
PG Yellowhead
Powell River
Prince George Downtown
Prince Rupert
Quesnel Rotary Club
Richmond Sunrise
Sechelt
Smithers
Squamish
Steveston (Richmond)
Sunshine Coast Sechelt
Vancouver Mountainview
Vancouver Sunrise
West Vancouver
Whistler
Whistler Millennium
Williams Lake Rotary

District 5010

First City Rotary
Anchorage International
Anchorage South Rotary
RC Ketchikan
Stika

District 5020

Sooke

District 5030

Seattle Rotary Service Foundation

District 5050

Meadow Ridge
Langley Sunrise
Chilliwack Fraser
Chilliwack Fraser Roteract Club

District 5060

RC Kelowna
Penticton Sunrise

District 5080

Coeur D'Alene Sunrise
Columbia Center
District 5080 Passport Club
Moscow Rotary Club
Nelson Daybreak
Ponderay
Radium Rotary Club
Radium Hot Springs Sunrise
Richland

Rossland
Castlegar
Castlegar Sunrise 2000
Colville
Cranbrook
Cranbrook Sunrise
Creston Valley
Grand Forks
Golden
Invermere
Kimberley
Nakusp
Nelson
Pasco-Kennewick
Rossland
Spokane Aurora NW
Trail
Waneta Sunshine
eClub Waneta Sunshine
District 5080 Charitable Fund
District 5080 District Grant

District 5100

RC Camas-Washougal
Camas-Washougal Foundation

District 5180

Pocket-Greenhaven

District 5300

Victorville

District 5360

Calgary Centennial
Calgary Chinook
Calgary Heritage Park

District 5370

Edmonton Whyte Ave
Morinville Sturgeon

District 5470

Snowmass Rotary Club
Snowmass Rotary Foundation

District 5550

> Project Lead: Winnipeg Downtown

Minnedosa
Nipawin Passport
Regina Eastview
Winnipeg - Charleswood
Winnipeg - St. Boniface-St.Vital
Dauphin
Saskatoon Downtown
Saskatoon North
Saskatoon Riverside
Gimli
Selkirk
The Pas

Watrous
U of M - Rotaract Weyburn

District 5960

White Bear Lake

District 6330

St. Thomas Railway City
Goderich

District 6360

Delton Area Rotary

District 6450

Homewood Rotary

District 6400

Livonia Rotary AM
Westland

District 7040

Ottawa Stittsville

District 7070

Ajax
Bowmanville
Colborne
Cobourg

District 7080

Oakville
Guelph
Shelburne

District 7090

St Catharine's Lakeshore
RC Hamilton AM
Waterdown
Waterdown Interact Club
St. Catharine's South

District 7815

Halifax Harbour
Sussex Regional HS Interact

District 1260

RC Royston

District 9370 - South Africa - Lesotho

> Project Lead: RC Hillcrest

Rotary E-Club of South Africa One
Melmoth Ulundi
Kwa Dukuza Zimbali
Klerksdorp
Gately
Flamingo Welkom
Ficksburg
Phoenix
Port Alfred

FUNDRAISING & CALL TO ACTION

Rotary clubs are designed for this type of impactful **International Community Service**: a collaborative project that leverages our global network of local clubs – wherever they are – to deliver sustainable community service and betterment.

Come Join the other Clubs and Support this Empowering Project!

EASY WAYS TO JOIN IN!

- Make an immediate donation.
- Schedule a club presentation on the 1000 Survival Gardens Project and see the difference this innovation makes. **Simple idea. Massive need.**
- Make a commitment for your club to sponsor 1, 3, 5, 10 or more Survival Garden Kits. **It's easy and impactful.**
- Make it a larger club fundraising project. Leverage media for events that focus water, gender equality, etc. **It's empowering.**
- Share the project with Interact and Rotaract, schools, churches, social organizations, businesses and individuals. **Share and include.**
- Apply for a District Grant. Or a Global Grant.
- Post the project on your social media pages.

A Survival Garden Kit costs
US\$200.

Your donation includes delivery of the hippo roller and garden kit into the hands of an appreciative woman.

Our International Partner, the Rotary Club of Hillcrest, South Africa manages all of the Survival Kit purchases and delivery logistics.

DONATE NOW!

[CLICK HERE](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PROJECT - Help Nelly Roll 200 Hippos



When **Nelly Nkosi** was asked why she started wearing her traditional headdress, she replied, *“Now that I do not have to use my head to carry buckets of water, I can use it to wear my headdress!”*

Nelly Nkosi is a vibrant community activist who strives to create a better life for the women in her community. She lives in Roosboom, South Africa, a rural community about 14 kilometres from the small town of Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal. Nelly was one of 150 marginalized women who received a **Survival Garden Kit** and specialized training on how to start a homestead garden last December. Nelly was so awestruck by the sheer power of the hippo water roller to improve the well being of her community, that she mobilized 200 of her neighbors who are now also eager to embrace the gardening kits and training in food security.

When asked about the role of the hippo water roller in her vision for the community, Nelly replied, *“I like to teach women to make gardens. They must grow food and learn about nutrition for their family. Water is a problem but the hippo roller makes it easy to collect water. When we have abundant water, we can focus on our gardens. When you use your hands, there can be no poverty. The hippo roller makes you use your hands. We are not using our heads to carry water -- it’s in our hands to help ourselves.”*



“ I like to teach women to create gardens so they can grow their own food and learn about nutrition for their families. Water is a problem but the hippo roller makes it easy to collect it. When we have abundant water, we can focus on our gardens. When you use your hands, there can be no poverty. The hippo roller makes you use your hands. We are not using our heads to carry water – it’s in our hands to help ourselves.” Nelly Nkosi ”



PROJECT - **Lily of the Valley**

Up to 120 children and young adults are cared for at **Lily of the Valley in Mophela District of KwaZulu Natal**. The children range from 6 months to 21 years. Each child shares a home with up to 5 other children and are looked after by a House-mother.

"In addition to providing life and educational skills, we would like to teach children from our young age to be self-sustainable, to give them the skills to be able to grow their own food. This is a skill we would like them to be good at so that when they leave the village one day, they could either grow their own food or even sell food that they have grown."

Thanks to the donation from the **Rotary Club of Calgary Chinook**, 10 houses will have their own small door sized garden right next to their home. Each house would be responsible for their little garden.



PROJECT - Hillcrest AIDS Center Trust



The **Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT)** is dedicated to saving and transforming lives. As one of the first NGO's in South Africa to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, HACT has established a reputation for making a significant and meaningful impact in the lives of people impacted by the disease.

Their work and services continues to grow throughout KwaZulu-Natal, primarily on serving the semi-rural and disadvantaged communities of the Valley of 1000 Hills region of KwaZulu-Natal, one of the epicentres of the global HIV/AIDS epidemic with HIV infection rates of up to 40%.

Thanks to the generous donation of the **Rotary Club of Calgary Chinnook**, 38 women received hippos rollers and survival garden kits to enable them to provide food for their families.



PROJECT - **NOLUKHANYO TOWNSHIP**



In celebration of **World Food Day**, **District 9370 Governor, Gavin Jepson** was on hand to assist the **Rotary Club of Port Alfred, SA** with a handover of Survival Garden Kits to the Qhayiya Primary School vegetable garden project in Bathurst, Eastern Cape.

Local club advocate **Tori Stowe**, demonstrated her expertise in her facilitation of some 80+ vegetable gardens in the area which inspired the RC Port Alfred to assist her and the gardeners she is training and mentoring. The club fundraised and sponsored gardening tools, seeds, compost and and hippo rollers to the garden workers at the local school. Such rewarding results!!



PROJECT - EAST COAST LIONS CLUB



The **East Coast Lions Club in South Africa** collaborated with the **Rotary Club of Hillcrest** for a first-ever **1000 Survival Garden Kit partnership** between these two global service organizations. *As reported by Rob Campbell, RC Hillcrest, Durban, SA:*

“It was a bad start to the day! – these was no coffee, due to load shedding – but our day brighten when we arrived at **Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust (HACT)** to find their coffee machine brewing away!

Soon the group of East Coast Lions members, under the guidance of their **President Perry Chetty**, arrived to assist with the delivery of the survival kits.

Candace Davidson, the CEO of HACT introduced us to Phindiwe, who took us out to Inchanga in the Valley of 1000 Hills where the kits were handed over to the community.

We met with the Community Coordinator who guided us to our first delivery to Mrs. Dumeleni Kunene, who met us with a broad grin and was overjoyed when she saw us unpacking the kit. She was soon proudly displaying her homestead garden and answering everyone’s questions.

We then departed to deliver Mrs Khanyisile Gumede. She burst into song when we arrived. Curious neighbors soon joined us as we were led to her garden where she boasted her chilli and garlic plants and generously handed out garlic seeds (with planting instructions) and shared her chillis with everyone.

Arriving back at HACT, everyone enjoyed some chai, lunch and great fellowship – with the **East Coast Lions** determined to support the project going forward!”



PROJECT - Villages of Mophela and Driefontein

Many thanks for the fundraising efforts of the **Rotary Club of Chilliwack Fraser** for their sponsorship of hippo rollers and garden kits to these two villages!

In May of 2022, 26 hippo rollers and survival garden kits were distributed to Mophela, near Mpumalanga Village, and 19 rollers and kits to the village of Driefontein, near Ladysmith, in the KwaZulu-Natal area of South Africa.

The women who received the rollers are currently involved in a **Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Program**. Not only are they trained to grow vegetable gardens, their training also provides improved food security and resilience in crises like drought, increased income by selling produce, and influencing neighbours who are not part of the program. To achieve ultimate sustainability, they are encouraged to transfer to others the knowledge and skills they are learning.



PROJECT - Roosbloom, Kwa-Zulu Natal



“Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow”

A collaboration between the **1000 Survival Garden Kits committee and the Roll a Hippo Foundation**, brought 30 women and men from Roosboom, outside Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal, to participate in a Water and Food Security Training Program, which provided each beneficiary with a survival garden kit.

Weaving the standard program to bring a deeper emphasis on **World Food Day**, the group learned about minimizing waste, the impact of pollution, soil and water management, and how to grow indigenous foods for a healthy tomorrow. This group will continue with their training this month, with an intake of an additional 30 participants in November. Each participant receives basic gardening training, a hippo water roller, garden tools and seeds to start a garden!

Such joy to hear the ululation, witness the dancing, and see the deep appreciation as the participants rolled their hippos and kits home!



PROJECT - **Umgibe Farming Organics**

In late spring we delivered 25 hippo rollers to **Umgibe Farming Organics**, a small-scale agricultural development enterprise that aims to build and support thriving agricultural cooperatives of small-holder and women farmers, who are able to produce and sell sustainable quality agricultural products, by providing individuals with access to the Umgibe Farming System and Co-Operative Network and assistance to market gardens.

They take great pride in educating young and old on the benefits of organic farming. and their impact is felt by the over 40 co-operatives in their network and the thousands of people trained in their program.

Umgibe's **Stop the Hidden Hunger** campaign addresses and responds to the challenges experienced by school children, in particular girls. It provides solutions to hunger challenges in schools. It facilitates and promotes self – sufficiency in schools through various agricultural programs.



PROJECT - Hillcrest Aids Center Trust

“

On behalf of the team here at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT), I would like to thank you for your recent donation of 109 Survival Garden Kits. These much needed supplies will go a long way to helping local families in need within our surrounding communities during these challenging and unprecedented times by supporting improved food security.

**Candace Davidson,
CEO, Hillcrest AIDS Centre
Trust**

”



PROJECT - Phephile Primary School



“

Some of our Grade 4 students with our beautiful new hippo rollers. They all enthusiastically help getting the garden ready for planting.

Three months after the gardens had been planted, Happy Gabela, the school Principal at Phephile Primary School, reported that they had their first harvest of spinach and green beans and have sold R250 worth of produce. The R250 will be put back into the garden by way of seedlings so that the garden can be expanded.

Jessica Rich
Innovative Methology NPC

”



PROJECT - Zero2Five ECD



“

Thank you kindly for your continued support of our Early Childhood Development schools. With Covid, food security is a massive threat and these hippo rollers and food garden starter kits are an impactful add-on for sustainability. Home-grown food for the children at these centres is a huge bonus.

I cannot stress this enough: it is not only the donation that is of importance here, it is also the thought and care behind this project. I applaud my team when they tell me the stories of appreciation and hope they hear from the ECD teachers. It creates an immense amount of hope and positive energy for them to know there are local people, and people from as far away as Canada and the USA, who know our plight, and care enough to help.

Julika Falconer
CEO, Zero2Five

”



PROJECT - **The Village of Taweni**

In September 2021 a delivery of 75 hippo rollers and 25 Survival Garden Kits were distributed in the **Village of Taweni, Mpondoland at the Wana Johnson ECD Learning Centre.**

Comments from **Rotarian and CEO of Learning Centre, Khaya Mposula:** *"It rained all day yesterday but the weather cleared today and we had clear skies as we prepared the food for the handover of the hippo rollers and garden kits. Some of the women arrived early with hot beverages and sandwiches. The delivery truck arrived at 11 am and everyone pitched in to unload the kits. Afterwards we took a walk-about in the school demonstration garden and provided the women with training that covered companion planting, crop rotation, mulching and natural pesticides."*



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST
A CLUB PRESENTATION:

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