

Goat Changes Life Of Uganda Child

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family
Features Editor

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — The Iraqi War prevented Beatrice Biira from attaining a United States visa, but more than 750 Lancaster Countians attending Heifer International (HI) fundraising dinners this week heard how a goat changed Beatrice's life in Uganda.

"Some things in life are too important not to share," Ellen Baber, local contact for HI, said of Beatrice's story, which has been presented on the "Opra Show" and on "Good Morning America."

Beatrice was a 9-year-old girl growing up on war-torn Uganda, East Africa. She desperately wanted to attend school but her family was too poor. She had only one dress to wear and not enough to eat when her family received the gift of a goat from HI.

The goat provided milk for the family, and the kids were sold for profit. The manure was used for

biogas to create heat and light, and the leftover fertilizer nourished the family's garden plot.

One goat helped Beatrice's impoverished family become self-reliant for food and income. It enabled her to attend school. Now, Beatrice is 19 years old and plans to attend college in the U.S. to become a veterinarian.

Beatrice is only one of more than 4½ million people whose lives are different because of HI. For more than 50 years, HI has provided a gift of livestock and training on its care. Each gift multiplies because every recipient promises to pass on the gift by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need.

The program began when Dan West, a relief worker during the Spanish Civil War, was laddling out cups of powdered milk to hungry children. Sometimes there wasn't enough milk.

West realized that if a family had their own cow, they become self-reliant and not need to depend on handouts. In return, they could help another family



Rosalie Sinn of Heifer International said one animal can change a recipient's life from poverty to prosperous.

become self-reliant by passing on the first female offspring.

At first, West had his friends donate heifers with the concept, "Not a cup but a cow."

Since then, HI has provided many different kinds of animals depending on the country. These include llamas, rabbits, honey bees, chickens, ducks, and much more.

Heifer International supports 400 projects in 48 countries, including the U.S. that creates sustainable small-scale farm enterprises to improve nutrition and supplement income. Local community groups conceive and manage heifer projects, empowering them to solve their own problems and equipping the next generation to face challenges successfully.

"HI offers hope and love to counteract war and sadness," said Pamela Stone, HI representative.

For more information about HI, call (800) 696-1918 or visit the HI Website at www.heifer.org.

Wayne County Plans Spring Garden Expo

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — The Penn State Master Gardeners of Wayne County and Penn State Cooperative Extension are making plans for their second annual Spring Garden Expo at Lakeside Elementary in Honesdale, Saturday, May 17.



Keynote speaker Jolene Brown, West Branch, Iowa, is joined by chairman of the board Wilmer Hostetter, Oxford.

Banquet Speaker Dispenses Wit, Wisdom On Farming

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Recently MidAtlantic Farm Credit conducted a string of six annual stockholder meetings in Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The events included a continuation of the patronage program, a distribution of \$17.9 million based on last year's earnings.

Almost 600 people attended the meeting at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland.

According to Bob Frazee, chief executive officer, 436 new members joined the organization last year. He also highlighted that there were \$4.8 million in claims paid to purchasers of crop insurance.

Election ballots were also collected. Results will be tabulated after the final meeting.

Renae Bender, Cochranville, daughter of Roy and Ruth Bender, was recognized as one of three scholarship winners from Pennsylvania.

Other winners from Pennsylvania include Brent Landis, Quarryville, and Katherine Harwick, Kempton.

Keynote speaker Jolene Brown combined laughter and insight as she addressed the audience. She encouraged the group to "pause a minute and reflect on the good things in our life."

Brown highlighted her husband's grandmother, "Grandma Great," who delivered wisdom "wrapped in her old time sayings," according to Brown.

"If you are green you're growing, but once you're right, you start to rot," is one of her sayings that urge the listener to "learn something new, stretch and grow. Keep an open mind, look for new ways to see things," said Brown.

Another of Grandma Great's sayings is "beauty is only skin deep, but ugly goes clear to the bone," said Brown. She illustrated this by saying that "thoughts affect behavior, which affects habits, and hardens into character," she said.

In closing, Brown urged the audience to "celebrate the blessings we've been given, appreciate the people we have around us, and get some education along the way."

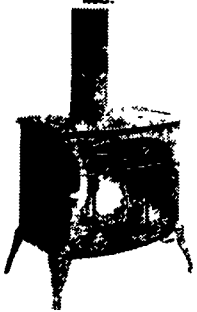
"It is not what has been given to you that counts, but what you do with what you have," she said.

Brown is active on her family farm crop operation near West Branch, Iowa. a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP), she has made numerous guest appearances on television and radio.



Heifer International representatives Pamela Stone and Umaru Sule hold a copy of "Beatrice's Goat," which tells how the gift of one goat from Heifer International helped her fulfill her lifelong dream to attend school.

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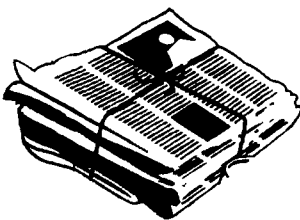
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