

December 19, 2007

Mr. Jerry DiCristoforo
8815 East Kemper Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Dear Jerry,

This year has been an exciting one for Millennium Promise, filled with important advances in the Millennium Villages, new innovative partnerships, and a great deal of progress made on our mission of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. You have contributed mightily towards this work and we could not have accomplished all we have without your support. I am pleased to reach out to you now, to provide an update on achievements to date and the critical challenges we face as we forge ahead with plans for further progress in 2008.

This past year, we saw vast increases in crop production, greater access to health care and improved water sources, successful launches of school feeding programs, and construction of new educational facilities. As we continue to work with a population of over 400,000 people in 80 villages across 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, we are eager to expand upon past achievements in a meaningful way. Entering its second year, the program will be expanded to include additional interventions in health, improved roads and infrastructure, and the development of business enterprise. To that end, we continue to build upon our critical partnerships in the Millennium Villages Project. For example, in collaboration with Building with Books, 10 new schools have been constructed in the Tiby Millennium Village Cluster in Mali, with plans to build an additional 32 schools in Mali and Senegal next year.

Additionally, earlier this year we embarked upon a groundbreaking partnership with telecommunications leader, Ericsson, who has committed to bring mobile communications and connectivity to each one of the Millennium Village sites. In the first phase of this partnership Ericsson will supply mobile and fixed wireless phones to all Millennium Villages, bringing the benefits of connectivity to the areas of agriculture, health, education and infrastructure. Ericsson has also co-developed a solar charger for mobile phones that will be provided to each village.

Our efforts have already produced remarkable results. Internet connectivity was just recently established in the Ruhira Millennium Village Cluster in Uganda, and the first e-mail was sent on November 22, 2007 using a low power computer (18 watts instead of the 170 watts for normal computers). Internet access was made available despite the challenge of mountains and a 31 km distance. A 30 meter tower was built on the highest point in Ruhira to provide internet access to 6 health units, 3 schools, a community store, and a grain store.

We also continue to make terrific strides in improving the health care services and equipment available to those in the villages. With the distribution of hundreds of thousands of bed nets and the donation of anti-malarial medications, there has been substantial reduction in malaria infections—one of the leading causes of preventable death in Africa.

Furthermore, in Ghana, 4,500 people were screened for eye problems and about 500 people were treated for various eye conditions or supplied with glasses. Another 159 patients, who were suffering from cataracts, had their sight restored this past July. All procedures were free, including post operation reviews, as well as periodic follow up visits. Historically, it has been common for people to stay at home rather than seek out medical care, as clinics may be too far away, inadequately supplied or understaffed. Providing quality, free treatment with follow up care reinforces the importance of seeking medical care when needed.

To reach our goal of improved and increased business development, Millennium Promise has been working in partnership with local private sector groups, business development experts, and local governments to encourage investment in African economies and highlight investment opportunities. Our initial work in this area has focused on generating support from U.S. companies for investment in Africa, and our first event, the Tanzania Investment Conference co-sponsored by Lehman Brothers, was an important first success in this area of activity.

The Tanzania Conference, held in September, brought private sector investors together with Tanzanian officials for an open dialogue on investment opportunities in the East African nation. *Tanzania: Open for Business* was attended by over 130 business and government leaders, including President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. Attendees learned of the country's extraordinary success based in part on its unique position as a gateway and hub for East Africa, as well as its social cohesion, diverse resource base, and history of democracy, peace and stability. This history of political and macro-economic stability, market access, geographical location and diverse opportunities have the potential to make Tanzania a region of great interest to prospective investors and business partners.

In the months ahead we will focus on innovative solutions to the challenges associated with creating long-term sustainability—particularly in the areas of agricultural and business development. We will be implementing new infrastructure projects to increase access to markets and the surrounding communities. By doing so, we can better deliver critical interventions in the most efficient and effective manner possible across all 14 sites. With our teams on the ground, we will work to further develop existing relationships with national governments and local networks—particularly in the health and education sectors.

Lastly, and perhaps most critically, along with the Earth Institute, we will launch a large-scale Monitoring and Evaluation program of the Millennium Villages Project. This program will include analysis of approximately 90 data indicators and will serve as a critical tool in measuring results in the Millennium Villages. Through such analysis, we can more accurately plan for the next stages of the program and will be able to better address the needs of the communities.

This past year was just the beginning of an incredible transformation in villages across Africa and we are eager to expand up this success. Thank you for making this change possible—we are inspired by your commitment and remain truly grateful for your continued partnership in the fight to end extreme poverty.

Warmest wishes for the holiday season,


Jeffrey S. Flug
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you
so much for your
help this past year!