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Family Empowerment Program - Mercy Childcare Ministry, Uganda

If you empower the women, you empower the family, and then you empower the community.

One of the goals at Mercy Child Care Ministry is empowering families and the community by empowering women, so that the Kingdom of God can be impacted and Uganda can be changed for the better.

This program was started to do just that; to help people get on their feet so that they can do more for their kids while bettering their situations. The Family Empowerment Program was birthed out of this passion for women; MCCM saw that a woman's heart is for her family, so when you empower the woman, you're also empowering her children. To MCCM, it's not just about the women alone, but about the children that are being raised by these women.

The Family Empowerment Program consists of several different moving parts; Microloans, Financial Training and a Vocational Program. Each program focuses on teaching the women different skills that will help them in their businesses and their homes.

Over 150 women are currently a part of the Micro-Loans Program. The goal for this program is to reach these women through financial literacy. MCCM trains the women for two months, does an assessment on their businesses and home, and then provides them with a small loan to boost their business and help it grow. We have the women in groups for encouragement and accountability - they are held accountable to each other for paying the money back.

The Financial Training Program gives women the opportunity to learn how to budget, save and plan financially. Before this program started many women did not know how to do any of these things, and because of that they were stuck in the slums and in bad financial situations. In this training, MCCM teaches them about saving, budgeting and planning, as well as how to manage their businesses and their customers. MCCM has seen great success through this training. Women are saving their money to buy land with the hope of getting out of the slums. It is encouraging to see these women experience breakthrough and financial freedom.

The Vocational Program empowers women through hands-on training by teaching them different skills such as how to make paper beads and paper bags. By teaching them these crafts, they are able to make extra money. MCCM is currently



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teaching them how to make necklaces, but the goal is to eventually teach them how to make bags, books and anything that will help provide more money.

Each week, the different groups meet for about two hours. This time is an opportunity for them to be encouraged and to learn more life skills.

Great success has come from the Family Empowerment Program, and the ministry has grown tremendously. Women are moving out of the slums, buying land and are able to put their kids back in school. It has been very encouraging to see these women go from hopelessness to hopeful, and MCCM has even bigger goals for these women and for this ministry. In the future, the goal is to have a vocational center and to be able to offer larger loans. For the Vocational Center, MCCM hopes to identify and train women who really have a passion for learning; equipping them in things such as hairdressing and tailoring.

The Lord is truly at work in these woman's lives, and it is exciting to be a part of it. There has been breakthrough, there has been freedom and success, and children are benefiting from this empowerment program. We are so thankful for what is happening in the lives of these women and their families and look forward to all that's ahead for this ministry.