

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



PROGRESS REPORT - JULY 2024

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Listen to Mbongeni Nzama tell her story on gardening for survival during the pandemic. <u>https://youtu.be/oOzGDMkxmBc</u>

1121 Thanks!

We have surpassed our goal of delivering **1000 Survival Garden Kits** to marginalized women in rural South African communiities! We are so appreciative of 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. *We're now focused on delivering the next 1000!*

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

Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Canada Strini Reddy – <u>sereddy@shaw.ca</u> Rotary Club of Gibsons, Canada Luke Vorstermans – <u>lvorstermans@gmail.com</u> Rotary Club of Hillcrest, South Africa Rob Campbell – <u>rob@campbellscargo.co.za</u> Fred Kroone – kroonef@gmail.com eRotary Club of South Africa 1 Khaya Mposula – <u>agmposula@gmail.com</u> Roll a Hippo Foundation, Canada Linda Ryan – <u>linda@rollahippo.org</u>

SHIFTING PRIORITIES

In the early 1500s, when the Europeans were colonizing Africa, they were met by men brandishing spears and women carrying buckets of water on their heads.

It's now 2024 and the men carry laptops and cell phones, but the women are still carrying buckets of water on their heads. It's time to shift our priorities!



Our Local Project Suppliers:









1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT **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.



THE HIPPO ROLLER IN 68 SECONDS

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

In a Man's World

• 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 polystrene. 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 fork, trowel and hoe
- Watering can
- Seeds and seedlings
- Compost, fertilizer
- How to Grow a Garden Guide
- Soap and sanitizer
- A training session

DID YOU KNOW?

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

1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT THE PROJECT IN NUMBERS - JULY 2024

Number of participating Rotary clubs145Number of Districts involved27Amount of funds raised\$242,495.Number of Survival Garden Kits delivered1121Number of communities assisted28Number of immediate beneficiaries1121Total number of people impacted8968







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PARTICIPATING ROTARY CLUBS - JULY 2024

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 Ketchican Stika

District 5020

Sooke Port Hardy

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 5100

RC Camas-Washougal Camas-Washougal Foundation

District 5180

Pocket-Greenhaven

District 5300 Victorville

District 5360

Calgary Centennial Calgary Chinook Calgary Heritage Park Canmore

District 5370

Edmonton Whyte Ave Morinville Sturgeon Lloydminster

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

Stratford Rotaract Club of Stratford St. Thomas Railway City Goderich

District 6360

Delton Area Rotary

District 6450 Homewood Rotary

District 6400 Livonia Rotary AM Westland

District 7010 Barrie Huronia

District 7040

Ottawa Stittsville Carleton Place Lake Placid

District 7070

Ajax Bowmanville Colborne Cobourg Etobicoke Oshawa-Parkwood

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 Sackville (NB) 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

1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT FUNDRAISING & CALL TO ACTION

Rotary clubs are designed for this 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 \$225.

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



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



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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www.1000survivalgardens.com

1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - **Qiko Settlement**

Qiko is a deep rural area, 50 minutes from the nearest town of Scottburgh on the South Coast. Their main water source are pumps strategically placed in areas near schools and churches but no taps in the entire area. Women and children are seen carrying buckets of water from various water sources and back to their homes, often a 3-5 kilometer trek.

Upon our arrival, the women were busy clearing and burning weeds, waiting in anticipation for the hippo rollers and garden kit delivery. Asked one lady: "We have one question but feel a little scared to ask: Is this ours to keep? Or is it for the church to keep for people to use?" One of the ladies raised a fist of empowerment, acknowledging the life transforming kits!

As the delivery truck doors opened, there was further ululation and excitement as we packed out the hippo rollers and tools. This was a beautiful roll-out, a reminder of sheer South African Ubuntu hospitality!







"Thank you , thank you so much! We are so happy. We spend so much time collecting water. Now our lives will be easier. It is a difficult life here but we are always grateful. This is like a miracle!"

1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT -VILLAGE OF DOLOPHINI





Dolophini is a remote village of Taweni in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa. Of its population of 3500, 80% of working-age residents are unemployed. The main source of income is government social grants, which has created systemic issues that contribute to persistent poverty in the community.

Project Lead, Khaya Mposula, assisted in the delivery of 20 Survival Garden Kits which the **Rotary Club of North York** sponsored. They were delivered to an enthusiastic group of women and men in Dolophini, South Africa.

Khaya will provide the recipients with garden training over the next three months to en-



courage home gardens that will extend to the larger community gardens in the town providing food and additional income from selling excess produce to local markets.

1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - The Hope of Africa, South Africa





The 1000 Survival Gardens project implemented by **The Hope of Africa**, **South Africa**, under the Foundations for Farming project has been received with much joy and excitement by the beneficiaries.

After receiving their hippo rollers, training and gardening equipment, the beneficiaries saw a much needed improvement in their gardens, such that some even extended their gardens.

29 out of 30 participants reported that they have received questions from fellow community members inquiring how they can also get the hippo rollers as they seem to be useful in water collection and gardening.

One of the participants on a survey noted that they really appreciate the tools and they are really helpful and they make farming easier for us.

The hippo rollers have allowed our emerging farmers to spend more time in the gardens than going to fetch water form the streams.

29 of the beneficiaries reported that they have already started preparing gardens for the next crops at the beginning of March.

- Submitted by Brigitte Turner and Musa Ngubane

More people need to know more about gardening strategies like using the hippo roller!



1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - Nkehlamandla & Malageni

These two communities were selected for the life-changing 'rollout' which includes the receipt of hippo rollers, tool kits, and a training session on starting their own garden to transform the communities where they live.

1. Nkehlamandla, Umzumbe nestled in a rural establishment around 45 km from the small town of Scottburgh on the South Coast of KZN. Part of the Ugu District, this is a poor community with a population of 139, 000. wNkehlamandla and the surrounding villages have a population of about 30 000 people.

2. Malangeni is situated 15 km inland from the town of Scottburgh, a@rural area extending across the highway. Our roll-out was close to a river.

Both communities use the river as their main source of water collection. There are no taps, boreholes, or water pumps.







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - Fulton School for the Deaf

The **Fulton School for the Deaf** has been an institution in South Africa since 1959. The school is located in Gillitts, north of Durban, KZN.

The school staff is dedicated to working with children who are both deaf and have challenging mental disabilities. Recognizing the challenges these children face in securing employment within mainstream society, the school equips them with agricultural skills. This hands-on initiative is prepares these students to find work in agricultural settings and enable them to sustain themselves through self-grown produce.

The school, which includes boarding facilities, also benefits from the gardening project by reducing the need to purchase vegetables, thereby supporting the nutritional needs of the boarders. This dual purpose project not only provides vocational skills to the students but also contributes to the

sustainability of the school's food supply.









1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - Zero2Five Trust

Club of Winnipeg, Canada, and the Roll a Hippo Foundation for your ongoing support for our "**Project Grow,**" at our Early Childhood Development Centres. Our 50 food gardens in the King Cethwayo District, KZN, are a long-term investment. Not only will the children in our care benefit from it, but also the communities at large.

Julika Falconer, Operations Manager Zero2Five Trust



1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - THOASA - Hope for Africa

We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. We would like to express our gratitude for your gift of generosity with the **1000 Survival Garden Kits** committee. We are grateful for your donation of hippo rollers and the garden tools that will be distributed to the previously identified beneficiaries that we are partnering with for this project.

We strongly believe that this gift will make life much easier for the participants. They are experiencing a shortage of water in their respective villages. These rollers will have a huge impact on their garden productivity because of the easier access to water.

Our plan for the distribution is earmarked for five central venues where all the beneficiaries will be present on the day of distribution. Our target date for this process is from the 10th until the 18th of October 2023.

We also believe that this equipment will make a great contribution to the participants and their family members.

> Thomas Bhila, Operational Manager Project - Hope for Africa









1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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









1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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.









1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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 Chinook**, 38 women received hippos rollers and survival garden kits to enable them to provide food for their families.







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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 ther 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!!







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT PROJECT - EAST COAST LIONS CLUB





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!



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 over-

> joyed 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!"

"





1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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.











1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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!







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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 smallholder 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.











1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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 100 Survival Cardon

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







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT





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 "







1000 SURVIVAL GARDEN KITS PROJECT 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 walkabout 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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