



SIP PHOTO

Stouffville Igoma Partnership volunteers Sue and Justin (right) Kerswill with Astelico, one of the children in the Tanzanian community sponsored by the Stouffville organization.

Volunteers check on African projects

Three volunteers with the Stouffville Igoma Partnership got a first-hand look this spring at what their work is doing on the other side of the world.

Marcus Gordon, Sue Kerswill and Justin Kerswill spent two weeks in Igoma, Tanzania last month.

They visited 25 I-Care families with children in SIP's sponsorship program, received updates and had meetings with I-Care and SIP staff to see how all programs are running and discuss changes to be made.

They also teamed up with a water engineer from Great Britain, Andy Sharpe, who volunteers for Emmanuel International in Tanzania. Mr. Sharpe evaluated SIP's rain-catching system at its clinic.

The Stouffville contingent met with municipal staff in Igoma and Mwanza to assess needs and the distribution of water for the residents.

"We visited several schools to evaluate who is in the greatest need for water based on accessibility/location," Mr. Kerswill said. "We were also able to visit an orphanage and replace all their old mosquito nets - courtesy of Bach to Blues' last fundraiser - and give them money for food."

"Overall, it was a pleasant and productive trip. The three of us were able to see old and meet new friends, see parts of Igoma we'd never been to, visit the orphanage twice, visit many

schools, families and share good fellowship and food in their homes."

Everyone is invited to SIP's annual general meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville offices, 111 Sandiford Dr. New board members and volunteers are needed.

SIP's next fundraising event is its fourth annual euchre tournament

May 24 at Lemonville Community Centre from 6:45 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Since 2003, teams of local volunteers have raised money and travelled to Igoma, in the African nation of Tanzania, to work on health care and school projects. They've put up buildings, renovated others and worked with residents.

Since 2003, teams of local volunteers have raised money and travelled to Igoma.

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