



21st November 2008

Julian Palmer
Towergate Charitable Foundation
Towergate House, 2 County Gate
Staceys Street
Maldstone
Kent, ME14 1ST

Subject: Excellent Development Donation

Dear *Julian*

Thank you for your kind donation of £100, received today towards our work in Africa. We are delighted that you have decided to support us in this way.

Since it was founded in 2002, Excellent Development and the communities with which we work have built 204 small-scale sand dams and 45 dam extensions. We support 47 nurseries that have enabled almost half a million trees to be planted. Farmers supported by Excellent Development have dug an amazing 879 km of terracing on their farms and in the valleys around the dams.

Esther Musyimi represents well the success of Excellent's community lead approach to sustainable development. Recently she reflected on her 25 year involvement with the Utooni Development Project. She is one of the early members of this self-help group, joining in 1980. For years Esther travelled 4 hours a day to participate in the project - she'd start her day at 4.30am, thinking first of breakfast for the children and the animals before walking for 2 hours to put in a full day at Utooni. She would then walk home at 4pm arriving home a little before dark to take care of her family and animals, single-handedly as her husband was away working in Nairobi.



This would be once per week for most of the year - but during bigger projects like dam building it would be 6 or 7 days a week for up to a month! Nevertheless it has all been worth it, she says, as she looks around her and sees the changes that have, through her hard work these last 20 years, considerably improved their lives. Her aim when she joined was to learn about conserving water, keeping better breeds of animals and planting trees. "I didn't know how to produce enough food for my family and how to produce enough also to sell," says Esther. When she first joined Utooni



Patrons: Lord Joel Joffe CBE, Sir Edward Clay

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