



## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATES

Every once in a while, we at Outreach International have to take a few steps back from our work to really appreciate its impact. To consider the totality of every successful project, every empowered mindset, every new generation born into a world more capable of ensuring its success is to witness the awesome power of what happens when we care for one another.

It starts with you. Your capacity for love and enduring belief in the potential of all persons continues to make possible every single thing we do at Outreach. Your generosity continues to truly, measurably change the world for the better every single day. Your gifts support our mission in every way – far beyond practical and material needs; you inspire all of us with your enthusiasm and partnership, and offer comfort and encouragement to our community partners, who know that you care enough about their wellbeing to help them reach their fullest potential. You matter so much to all of us at Outreach, and by extension, mean so much to the future we all share.

This partnership update represents some of the latest ways you have touched the lives of our community partners, and provides a closer look at why you matter so much. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust, partnership, and love. You make so many good things possible.

### Clementina Threads the Needle in Zambia

Clementina can't stop. For many people, the sense of accomplishment that comes from earning the respect and gratitude of an entire community, establishing a successful business, empowering others through patience and purpose and nurturing a beautiful family would constitute "enough."

For Clementina, these elements represent a foundation from which her ambitions can reach farther and touch more lives throughout her Outreach-affiliated community in Zambia. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated these plans, but it's nothing she and her team can't handle.

Admittedly, Clementina has never been one to stay idle, as we've covered before on Outreach's blog. She's led an incredible life, and her spirit has inspired her community as much as it has impacted their shared success. Throughout her life, Clementina has smashed through every obstacle in her path – after



excelling at school, she worked as a teacher in a local program designed to empower teens by equipping them with a variety of applicable professional skills to expand their job opportunities. Among the multitude of masteries she claimed through the program, Clementina discovered her talent for tailoring.

Through Outreach-facilitated collaboration with other community members and local leaders, Clementina opened her tailoring shop and got busy alongside her assistants, the steady work keeping their single sewing machine spinning at a near-continuous pace.

Like nearly every business around the world, the emergence of the COVID-19 epidemic prompted some changes for Clementina's team of seamstresses. Unlike most businesses, her team's unique skills were perfectly suited to meet one of her community's most-pressing new needs: Manufacturing and distributing face-masks.

As the COVID-19 crisis progressed, Clementina and all 10 of her fellow tailors, known as the Chinchileni group, took it upon themselves to reallocate their funds to purchase mask-making materials. Some well-placed stitches are all it takes to



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transform their supply of chitenge (a durable, colorful fabric commonly used throughout Africa) and elastic into a bounty of effective masks – enough for everyone in their community.

Their timing was perfect. The Zambian government’s mandate that all individuals are required to wear face-masks when venturing to markets or other public places increased the urgency of their work, and produced 40 masks at an incredible pace, considering they only own one sewing machine.

Members formed an assembly line to maximize production, each focused on a single step – some “tacked” mask templates onto fabric using chalk, some handled cutting and folding duties, others pinned it into shape in preparation for the sewing

machine. This first batch furnished two masks to every family affiliated with her group at no cost.

It’s all part of the plan. “Sewing face masks can help keep our community healthy,” Clementina told us, “and it can also help us raise funds to purchase more sewing machines and other tools that will help us meet the demands of production.”

Though the Chinchileni group does not have the resources to furnish free masks for everyone in their community, members crunched the numbers to determine an affordable price for new masks that covers the costs for additional materials, so they can continue their work until everyone’s needs are met.