

NEWS

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**MetLife Foundation Presents Grant to Sylvia's Children
on Behalf of Holmdel Resident Paul Magrino**

Holmdel, NJ... MetLife Foundation recently awarded a Volunteer Ventures grant of \$250 to Sylvia's Children in support of a project presented by Holmdel resident and MetLife employee Paul Magrino, who volunteers with the organization. Sylvia's Children supports 1,000 children at a school in Uganda, Africa, a quarter of which are orphaned due to the AIDS pandemic. The money will be used to purchase additional chickens for the school's chicken farm.

The charity is starting a chicken farm at the school to address the protein needs of the population, with the intent to eventually grow it into a self-sustaining business for the school. The MetLife Foundation grant will allow for the purchase of just over 100 chickens which will help to provide each child with an egg per day.

The Volunteer Ventures program encourages and supports employee involvement at the local level in nonprofit organizations that work to improve the quality of life for all. Grants are made for specific projects in which MetLife employees have continuing involvement as volunteers.

Paul Magrino, a Holmdel resident for 14 years, has worked for MetLife for two and a half years as a Senior Controls Analyst. His involvement with Sylvia's Children was a result of his daughter Noelle's volunteer efforts while a student at Holmdel High School. Noelle was President of the club Children Of Impoverished Nations (COIN). She heard a presentation given by Ms. Allen and decided to dedicate fundraising activities to Sylvia's Children. Impressed by his daughter's enthusiasm and dedication to the charity,

Paul, his wife and other daughters became involved too, helping with bake sales, clothing drives and other fundraising efforts.

Sylvia's Children was founded in May, 2003 by Sylvia Allen to support the Mbirizi Advanced Primary School. The community is poor and the charity aims to eliminate poverty by creating African entrepreneurship within the school and giving the children a quality education so they can go on to secondary school and a career. Several businesses are being formed - a sewing business where children will learn to sew during school and women from the town can come after school to work in a uniform sewing business. Also underway are a corn milling operation and the chicken farm.

Sylvia's Children also has a goal of providing quality health care for the children and the village through the construction of a clinic and providing a doctor and nurse on duty at all times. For more information about Sylvia's Children, visit www.sylviaschildren.org or call Sylvia at 732-946-2711.

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