

Development project proposals for eNhlanhleni Care Point, Eswatini

July 2, 2024

I. How the proposals were developed

AIM (Adventures in Missions) has a wise policy that the North American partners cannot 'impose' projects on the communities in Eswatini. Instead, the initiative must come from the local people. In this case, a regional team comprised of the volunteer cooks at the Care Point, the eNhlanhleni Care Point committee (which represents the local community) and AIM staff members worked together to identify and prioritize the needs. Those were put into a document, called the "Care Point Plan," which was sent to us in December, 2023. (I am happy to send a copy of the "Care Point Plan" to anyone who would like it. Please just ask me for it.)

It is our role, as the North American partner, to prayerfully consider which of the projects we feel led to fund. Members of our team who visited the Care Point in late May/early June of this year had the opportunity to discuss with AIM staff the major items in the "Care Point Plan" in order to gain a better understanding of them and how they would serve the community.

Because we had some funds remaining from previous projects, we were able to quickly agree to the three smaller projects (totalling \$2,600) and we informed AIM staff of that. After reviewing and considering the two larger projects, we fully agree that they would be very valuable additions to the Care Point and that we would like to recommend that we fund them. However, we will not inform AIM or the community about this until we have the necessary funds in place.

II. The Projects

We support all of the requests in the order as prioritized by the regional team in the "Care Point Plan." All amounts are in Canadian \$'s.

1. Community Garden

- a potentially important step towards food self-sufficiency for many. All community members will have access to it but we are pleased that the volunteer cooks will especially be able to benefit from it because of the time that they already spend at the Care Point each day.
- When water is available for irrigation, 3 or 4 crops a year can be grown in that climate.
- We were told that progress is well underway to bring water to that area from a not-too-distant reservoir. The Community Development staff member for AIM told us that the water company has now brought the pipes to a point not far away from the Care Point.

Cost: **\$1,300**

Cost includes building a fence to keep animals out and bringing in start up seedlings, which are not available locally.

2. Multipurpose building

- It became very clear to us why the community gave top priority to a multipurpose building for the Care Point and why such a building, a simple structure of 1,500 – 2,000 square feet, is an important feature of most AIM care points.
 - The sun is too hot for most of the year to meet outdoors and, in the wet season, it can rain heavily. The small shade structure at the Care Point covers only about 400 square feet and is too small for the large group of children to meet under it.
 - We met with the children in the 500 square foot chicken coop. Not only is that building far too small for 150+ children but it will not be available much longer because it should start functioning as a chicken coop in the near future. The cooks plan to raise broiler chickens when the electrical hookup arrives – hopefully quite soon.
 - The regional team noted that, in addition to serving the Care Point, this building would be “a game changer for the community as they will use it for so many activities including meetings, weddings and community development projects.”
 - At some Care Points the multi-purpose building has been used by new church plants before they were able to secure their own buildings

Cost: **\$36,000**

3. Playground (Adventure Playground and soccer field)

- Currently, the children have only a dusty, small yard to play in. There is no playground equipment and the large “field,” which makes up most of the Care Point land, is extremely rough and full of rocks and thorn bushes (with sharp 3” – 4” thorns!), making it impossible for them to play soccer or any other game in it. Given the importance of soccer to the children, and people of all ages of eSwatini, it would be wonderful to see them have a useable field
- AIM’s Community Development officer said that AIM brings in and refurbishes used Adventure Playgrounds from the US for Care Points. The main cost is in the transportation. At the same time as setting up an Adventure Playground at our Care Point, they would have the field cleared and leveled to make it useable for soccer and other games.

Estimated Cost: **\$8,000**

4. Mental health

A program for teenagers at the CarePoint where kids will be taught how to respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use. It will take place at the CarePoint once a month for 15 teenagers at a time.

This could be very useful for the older children, given the prevalence of both substance abuse in eSwatini and trauma due to difficult family circumstances, including the loss of parents for many children.

Cost: **\$780**

5. Youth Group Program

It would be beneficial to give the older children some programming of their own because so much of the Care Point programming is for younger children.

Cost: **\$530 CDN**

In both #4 & #5, a major cost is for transportation of a staff member to our remote Care point for the duration of the programs.

III. Finances

Total cost of recommended projects	\$46,610
Funds raised	33,600
Still needed:	<u>\$13,000</u>

If you feel led to give towards the cost these projects, please donate to Emmanuel Church and designate your gift “Care Point projects.” It is very important to make it clear that your donation is for the projects. Otherwise, it will go towards the monthly support of the Care Point.