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Orphans welcome invited guests to Godfrey Children's Centre in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region, at the official opening of the orphanage at Idweli Village on Wednesday. US Charge d'Affaires Michael Owen was the chief guest at the function. (Photo: Tryphone Mweji) See also Page 5

## New orphanage opened in Rungwe District

US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Michael Owen, earlier this week, presided over the opening of a new orphanage in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region.

Godfrey Children's Home is located at Idweli Village and is named after a Tanzanian medical student who died in a car accident while performing his duties.

Godfrey was born at the village and it was his lifelong dream to build a home where orphans and other children

from disadvantaged backgrounds would be cared for, the event organisers told *The Guardian*.

The centre's main sponsors are Western Union and two American foundations, namely Africa Bridge and Lund Foundation. Western Union donated US\$20,000 (22m/-) during Wednesday's opening ceremony at Idweli Village.

The centre currently houses 40 orphans with a further 60 being cared for at their respective homes.

Speaking at the function, Owen described the centre as a unique example in Africa that it was designed and built by Africans.

He said the centre was self-sustaining and did not depend on "deep pockets or big promises" or a western-style infrastructure to run it.

Owen said, however, that the centre would be an important link between the West and Africa.

"The centre enables Westerners to connect with

Africa and share their resources and technology and, in turn, to discover African's lessons about their values of community and relationship," he said.

(Text and photos: Tryphone Mweji)



The United States Charge d'Affaires in Tanzania, Michael Owen (right), receives a cheque during a hand over ceremony of \$ 20,000 donated by Western Union to support the orphans of the Godfrey's Children centre at Idweli village in Rungwe district, Mbeya Region on Wednesday. Presenting the cheque is the Mbeya TPB branch manager, Gwakisa Yoram (second left). Looking on are the TPB Manager Marketing and Business Development, Grace Nkuzi (second right), and the Marketing Officer with TPB, Andrew Chimazi. (Photo: Tryphone Mweji)

## Idweli children's centre receives 20m/- donation

By Pastory Nguvu,  
back from Mbeya

THE Tanzania Postal Bank TPB and the Western Union Money Transfer have donated 20m/- to Godfrey's Children's Centre in Idweli village in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region.

The Idweli Children's Centre was built in order to assist orphans by providing shelter, education materials including uniforms, meals and other basic needs.

The project is providing school uniforms, books and materials, which has reduced a number of absenteeism from 50 per cent in 2000 to 5 per cent last year.

Presenting a cheque for the amount Charge d' Affaires to the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Michael Owen, on Wednesday at the village, the TPB Manager, Marketing and Business Development, Grace Nkuzi, said that the donation

was part of the bank's efforts to assist local communities from business profit it receives from business activities.

"Business companies should use part of their profit to assist people with disabilities. This is the only way to make them closer to the population which surrounds it," said Nkuzi.

She said TPB had been offering various supports in the country since 2002.

"In 2002 TPB built two houses for primary school teachers in Magu District, Mwanza, worthy 10m/-. In 2003 the bank supplied exercise books to schools for the deaf in Tabora and Dar es Salaam regions, worth 5m/-," she said.

This year the bank planned to spend about 10m/- to supply exercise books for various regions.

Owen thanked TPB and other organizations that supported the project for their moral and material assistance

to the centre.

"This is different from many other programs addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Africans designed the project with extensive feedback and input from fellow Africans. In fact about half of the resources employed have been in-kind, donations, reflecting a deep commitment by staff, volunteers, and board members of all the collaborators," said the envoy.

He said that this was an excellent example of a low budget, grass roots initiative in the Africa.

The Mbeya TPB Branch Manager, Gwakisa Yoram, said that the bank would continue assisting the centre by providing exercise books and other educational materials to the orphans.

The Idweli centre is providing a temporary shelter to 48 AIDS orphans which has brought hope to about 1,200 residents at the village.