

Brechin House - Completed November 2010

This project, or the need, was identified two years ago when Irene and Cheryl, two of GAGA's ambassadors, visited South Africa and toured a local valley. During their trip they met Gogo Mkwanzazi. They were first drawn to the house by the way the walls were falling down. They were even more horrified to learn it was occupied, and when they learned by whom they decided they had to act. Gogo



Mkwanzazi looks after her grandchildren, due to the unfortunate deaths of her two daughters. She is 60+ years old and occasionally gets piece-work cleaning the sides of the roads. The side of the house had fallen down during a storm and it had made the whole building unstable. Irene said 'even though half her house was missing, and her kitchen met with the elements, it was cleaner than my house'!

Granny Mkwanzazi couldn't afford to fix the house, feed her grand children and educate them, so she sacrificed repairs to the house and hoped for the best. Her courage made a huge impact on Irene and Cheryl, and upon their return to Brechin, Scotland, they started fundraising. In September 2010 they had raised enough money to rebuild the house; in fact to build a much better house, with a tiled roof and solid walls, which will last a lifetime.

To build the house we employed a local builder and Gogo Mkwanzazi's oldest grandson helped in his spare time and picked up some skills, which may help in the future. During all this time Gogo Mkwanzazi worked on tidying the sides of the roads to raise some extra money. Now with this extra money she can help educate all her grandchildren.



She now has a safe and secure home which she can rely on. She told Debbie Young, our South African Liaison contact she felt like a queen in her palace. This project had a lot of positive effects and it showed Gogo Mkwanzazi that people cared about her and her situation. The gift of this house has offered her and her family sanctuary, security and protection. It gives the family a legacy and most of all it shows they are not alone, and that people many miles away, in a small rural community in Scotland, believed her situation was untenable so set about to change her life, and did!!!