

[Home](#) » [Medical](#) » [News](#) >> [Corporate Employee Completes Successful Zimbabwe Relief Effort](#)



## Corporate Employee Delivers Help and Hope to Zimbabwe

For Corporate IT's Gwab Mpofu, a personal journey that he began in 2004 finally ended last month, as a shipping container filled with computers, clothing, a tractor and an pickup truck, finally made its way from Pennsylvania to Zimbabwe, relief for people who are suffering from the economic and social instability in that country.

Gwab, a native of Zimbabwe who now calls the US home, began collecting computers for his countrymen beginning in 2004. His plans expanded in November 2007, when he began to solicit donations of farming equipment and other materials to help family members and friends in Zimbabwe to be able to grow their own food. He enlisted support from his church, his friends and co-workers at the Corporate office in Limerick, eventually collecting items and the funds needed to ship them from the US to Africa.

Gwab left the U.S. on July 24 and arrived in Zimbabwe on July 26. The shipping container was scheduled to arrive on the 26th but did not arrive until August 13 because of clerical errors and other issues. The container seal had been broken and there were items missing, but Gwab felt the losses were insignificant given the size of the container. "We had loaded a \$9000 dollar tractor and accessories, \$2500 truck, used computers, used clothing, bicycles, and fence posts etc.," he explained, "with an estimated total value of close to \$30,000."

Offloading the container in Zimbabwe were around 30 people who came in to help, and after three days of negotiations with customs, the last of the items was finally loaded to the truck around 12:30 AM August 16th. Gwab and his friends finished unloading everything to a storage area just 6 hours before his flight departure to return to the US. Some bicycles were distributed and the tractor and accessories and the truck were received by the farmer. The bails of clothing were delivered to a local church to be sorted and will be distributed by the pastors after sorting. The computers went to a storage area to be tested before delivering to the pastors for distribution.



Gwab Moofu (last person to the right) with his family members in Zimbabwe. He had less than a day to spend with them after delivering a shipping container of equipment, vehicles and clothing donated by people in the USA.



A tractor will help a local farmer increase his yield to provide affordable food for local people.



Customs officials document the container items, which included computers and other technology.



"I was pleased to have accomplished all that work," Gwab said. "Thanks to all who contributed towards this cause by offering time to assist with loading the container and to those who gave funds. There is a great need in Zimbabwe as the economic situation continues to dwindle. I believe this effort was worthwhile as the items will change people's lives. I look forward to sending another container around April next year if I get the funds to do so. The experience acquired in processing of the container this year will make it easy to deal with the next container."

Gwab is back to his work as an associate systems administrator at the Limerick, PA office, and he is looking forward to the birth of his first child in a few weeks. Congratulations Gwab, we admire your initiative and dedication to helping people in need.

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