

# Another Week Beyond - 1307

Dear Team

Sharon, a 19 year old mother of 2 was all smiles when we congratulated her for finishing a 3 month training stint with Bettr Barista, a social enterprise that trains baristas. The stint comprised a month of training and an 8 week internship. It was also special for Sharon as it was her second attempt. The first time, she did not start after attending the orientation session as she could not find child minding support. This time round, her husband took on a permanent night shift so that he could care for the kids while she was on course. We also helped to connect her husband with a family who lived in their neighbourhood. This family cared for the children whenever her husband could not do so.

This training did Sharon a world of good but it also altered a stable family routine where she kept house while her husband worked. Thus, helping her also meant ensuring that the needs of her children were not neglected and securing the continued support of her husband. We chose to be guided by the principles of family preservation while being mindful of the importance of personal development. We facilitated a discussion between Sharon and her husband where she shared her dreams and how she envisioned her new found skills to be for the longer-term benefit of her children. Her husband shared the strain he felt when she came home totally exhausted and could not attend to the kids. With the opportunity to hear each other out, the tension diffused and there was no need for further problem-solving. Currently, Sharon's husband is volunteering at our football programme in his neighbourhood. He is looking forward to his own personal development as we will be arranging for him to gain his coaching badges.

Sharon and her family are experiencing some stability but our work is only done when we are able to rally the support of family, friends and volunteers around them and when they regard themselves as contributing members of our community.

Enjoy your weekend.

Gerard

*“All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.” - Ellen Glasgow*

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