the wheel

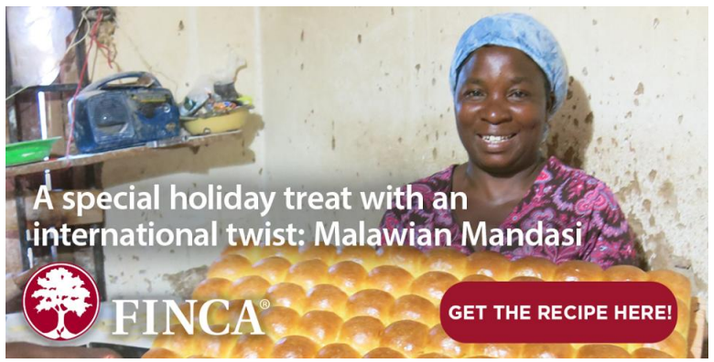
Covina Rotary Club - District 5300 - Chartered March 8, 1923

December 01, 2016 Issue #20 Editor: Santa Paws

This week:

Alison boess & Mark Smith

FINCA & Microfinancing



FINCA's mission is to alleviate poverty through lasting solutions that help people build assets, create jobs and raise their standard of living. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., FINCA's goal is to provide low-income people around the world with the tools they need to succeed. Operating in 22 countries and five continents, FINCA's programs benefit millions of people. This is done by offering responsible financial services, such as small loans or savings accounts; by reaching people in remote communities using technology like mobile phones and tablets; and by providing access to life-enhancing products, such as solar lanterns and clean cookstoves.

As of September 2016, FINCA Nigeria has disbursed more than $10 million in loans to 16,000 microentrepreneurs, and it currently serves 19,000 savers and borrowers.

Alison Boess is a senior development officer with FINCA. Although her current focus is on building long-term philanthropic partnerships with corporations, foundations, and service organizations, Alison previously worked on a variety of FINCA projects in Africa. She has a B.A. in International Studies from Pepperdine University in California and now lives just outside Portland, Oregon. In her free time, she enjoys snowshoeing and pays homage to her Arizona roots by caring for her cactus plants.

Mark A. Smith is a senior development officer with FINCA. For more than 25 years, Mark has been involved in fundraising for a variety of charitable organizations including the New York Public Library, National Parks Conservation Association, The Ocean Conservancy, Susan G. Komen, and the Interfaith Alliance. At FINCA, Mark is responsible for supporter outreach in the Western part of the United States. Although he now calls Seattle home, Mark is a Pittsburgh native and he earned both his B.S. in Psychology and his Masters Degree in Public Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. Whenever the mood strikes, he enjoys hiking in the Pacific Northwest.

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BARLEY LODGE BREWING

This Thursday's meeting is at

Andy McIntyre's New Business!

Barley Lodge Brewery

720 E Arrow Hwy, Unit C,

Covina, CA 91722

Upcoming adventures:

12/10 **Covina Charity Wine Walk at 5 p.m.**

Tickets are $15 for 12 tastes. See Tricia Vagt for tickets if you would like to help her raise money for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

12/22 **Rotary Christmas Luncheon**

Past adventures:

Remember Covina Cares 2015? We are repackaging it this year as Endless Smiles, Covina Rotary Style, and it will be better than ever on the morning of December 10th.

Our committee is shopping and gifts are arriving but everyone's assistance is needed to insure the success of Endless Smiles!