



# Grameen Connections

The Newsletter of Grameen Foundation USA

## Ben's Story: Hope for the Poorest in South Africa

by Susan Davis

*Susan Davis, a board member of Grameen Foundation USA, recently visited South Africa. She gives*

*this report of her experiences with Tschomisano, a Grameen replication program there.*



SEF member Kate Makaku (photo credit: Katie Butler de Wit)

I visited South Africa in October at the invitation of the government and the United Nations Development Program. I met **Ben Nkuma**, who was the Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF) representative at an International Roundtable on Microcredit in Pretoria. From the moment I met him I knew Ben was an extraordinary individual. He is the founder and director of Tschomisano (which roughly means "working together"), SEF's Grameen-like program for the poorest. Meeting Ben was a wonderful surprise. This is the story of an African, a real son of the soil, a social entrepreneur, a poor boy who grew up (cont. p. 10)

**Grameen Foundation  
Benefit Dinner:  
June 16, 1999  
See article on p 15**

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## Citigroup Commits \$1 Million to Grameen Replication in Asia

*Southeast Asia has always been fertile soil for Grameen Bank Replication Programs (GBRs). The first GBR, Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia, was established in Malaysia in 1986 and now serves 40,000 poor families, which is half of all the rural poor in peninsular Malaysia. Citigroup Foundation recently announced at a news conference in Jakarta its commitment to give \$1 million to Grameen Foundation USA and Grameen Trust to provide support for repli-*

*cation programs in five Asian countries.*

A grant for U.S. \$1 million from Citigroup Foundation will give thousands of poor entrepreneurs in Asia a life-line to self-employment by providing them with 'micro-loans' to start small businesses.

The grant to Grameen Foundation USA enables Grameen to extend its successful (cont. p. 8)