

model and prototype for a baby-swaddling blanket. The group was originally thinking of launching it in India, where they would give back by providing free vaccines for each blanket sold, but they decided it would be more practical for a group of busy students to avoid creating an international business.

Now, as Bundles of Hope, "We still make those high-quality, ethically made, environmentally friendly baby-swaddling blankets," says Tat, "but now we are essentially doing it in a more local fashion."

They're currently working on finding local places to sell the blankets. "We're setting up our online retail front, as well as looking for some boutique retailers who would be interested in carrying our product," says Tat. That work is aided by a crowdfunding campaign that received some support through ATB Financial's BoostR program. Money from the Social Innovation Challenge was used to purchase supplies.

The baby-swaddling blankets will be made by low-income mothers — they currently have one employee lined up — and money generated from sales will go toward donations of biodegradable diapers to the Calgary Food Bank for parents in need.

—MARIO TONEGUZZI

PROJECT STROKE

High-efficiency stoves that cost only \$12

Project Stoke began in May 2015 with a mission of helping people in Kenya become entrepreneurs while at the same time being environmentally friendly.

Timothy Lipp first heard about high-efficiency cook stoves when he was in high school. He travelled abroad after graduation and learned that they weren't as widely used as he expected. As a business student in university, he started working with some classmates on a plan to get the stoves to people in Kenya.

"This particular stove can impact so many different aspects of life," says Lipp, "because they are built locally. This helps the entrepreneurs in the economy. [The stoves] also produce less smoke and use less wood, so they help the environment." Less smoke also means better health for the cooks and their families, and having to buy less wood helps financially.

Lipp says the stoves produce biochar as a side product of the process. "It's kind of like charcoal, but it's highly processed and very porous," he says. "So when you add it to soil, it helps the soil retain moisture, and plants absorb nutrients from the soil better."

The project has sold over 100 stoves at \$12 each, and Project Stoke is hoping to eventually expand into other countries, possibly Nepal. "I lived there for a few years, and one of our team members grew up there. So we're definitely considering Nepal," says Lipp, "but it really depends on how things progress."

This summer, Lipp will be working on the project through the greenhouse incubator program at St. Paul's University College in Waterloo, Ont. His partner will keep up the project's success in Kenya. The money from the Social Innovation Challenge went toward helping Lipp attend the summer program, as well as to create a marketing campaign to teach more Kenyans about the project.

—M.T.



Timothy Lipp, president of Project Stoke, presents a stove to a Maasai community in Kenya.

KNOX CAFÉ

A welcoming place for newcomers to connect

Knox United, in Winnipeg's Central Park neighbourhood, wanted to create a café where youth and newcomers to Canada can connect and share ideas. The congregation, which speaks 16 different languages among its predominantly immigrant members, already hosts the Knox Community Kitchen, a project by social development non-profit Knox Centre Winnipeg.

The kitchen provides newcomers and low-income individuals access to mentorship, training, space and equipment that enables them to forge their way in the local food industry. Twice a month, the kitchen hosts an open market so participants in the program can sell their food to the public.

The new café evolved from the success of

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