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**ONE HEN FROM KIDS CAN PRESS: AN INSPIRING STORY OF A CHILD'S
DETERMINATION TO ESCAPE POVERTY**

While children in Western countries usually don't worry about access to food, shelter, and the opportunity to attend school, three billion people worldwide struggle to live on less than \$2 a day. Kids Can Press, publishers of *Ryan and Jimmy*, *One Well*, and *If the World Were a Village*, is known for its books that raise kids' social consciousness. ***One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference***, written by Katie Smith Milway and illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes, encourages children ages 7 and up to think about the power we each have to initiate positive changes in the world. In addition, children can play online games to experience the impact a small loan has on a virtual village at www.onehen.org. The *One Hen* website also features video stories, links to microlending organizations, and special sections for parents, teachers, and librarians.

One Hen tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana, who uses the proceeds from a small loan to build a thriving farm. Kojo's story demonstrates the impact that microloans--a lending system for people in developing countries who have no collateral and no access to conventional banking--can have on one boy and his community.

At the end of Milway's fictional tale, children learn the true story of Kwabena Darko, who is the inspiration for *One Hen*. Mr. Darko built the largest poultry operation in West Africa and now sits on the board of Opportunity International, one of the world's biggest microcredit lending organizations. The final pages of *One Hen* explain the microloan system and offer information about relevant organizations for families to explore.

Author Katie Smith Milway has lived in Africa and worked with village banking programs. "When I stumbled on Kwabena Darko's story, I knew I had found a way to tell children

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about the power that one small loan can have to change lives,” she says. Illustrator Eugenie Fernandes referenced an extensive collection of photographs of West Africa to make sure that her evocative and colorful illustrations reflect Ghana accurately.

For more information about *One Hen* and microlending, visit www.onehen.org.

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One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

Written by Katie Smith Milway, Illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes

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