

July to December 2008

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**Special Points Of Interest**

- HOPE *worldwide* started as a faith-based charity in 1991
- Today it enjoys special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN
- In Kenya, HOPE *worldwide* works in Nairobi, Nyanza, Coast, Eastern, Central and Rift Valley Provinces implementing programs for children, youth and adults

**Mission:** Working with communities to build their capacity to alleviate pain and suffering

**Vision:** Empowered healthy communities.

**SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

**THE ROTARY MEDICAL MISSION TO KENYA** By Roselyn Nyakundi & Akinyi Valentine

As you enter Mukuru, you're struck by the poverty. The slum consists of sheet metal and wooden shanties, squeezed together side by side separated by narrow pathways and small unpaved rutted streets. Garbage is everywhere. Paper trash is burned and the goats eat the organic waste. Goats and chickens roam the streets jostling for space with mobs of people and handcarts, the main transportation system within the slum.



There are rows of sheet metal outhouses that serve as latrines—nothing more than holes in the ground with a little privacy. Those with no latrines use plastic shopping bags, often called flying toilets, which are heaped in large piles. The air is filled with a prominent dusty stench.

Interestingly, every home/shanty seems to have a business of some kind in front – selling tomatoes, mandazis/chapattis (fried dough), butcheries, hair salons to mention a few. The slum is filled to the brim with people either busily walking or manning storefronts, or just sitting and watching.

The children, with wide toothy grins, are immersed in dust, stagnant water and trash.

These are vivid impressions and vibrant images painted by a Dr. Joseph Rebman. The lucidity of his description mirrors the telling scenes that are identical with every other slum in Nairobi.

Exacerbated by lack of the essentials of urban infrastructure, slums become marginal, menacing settings whose dwellers become trapped in conditions of poverty, ignorance, disease, unemployment and crime.

Yet, Dr. Rebman, an optometrist for 17 years and a member of the Elizabethtown Rotary Club for 12 years, is thankful for the opportunity to venture into Mukuru.

He was part of a Rotary Medical Mission which brought 70 volunteers from 11 countries that descended in Korogocho, Mathare and Mukuru slums in Nairobi from September 20 through 30, to provide general medical, dental and optical services for children and youth in these communities.

A week before the medical camp, 1,007 children from 30 different schools were screened by University of Nairobi dental students of which 188 needed extractions.

In Korogocho, 1,099 patients, mainly children were examined by the medical team, given de-worming tablets and those that needed dental extractions were treated.

In Mathare the dental camp at Community Transformers hall had over 200 children getting one or more teeth extractions.

In Mukuru the largest medical clinic involving dentists, opticians and physicians was set up at St. Mary's Catholic Church with the assistance of Micato Safaris. With the majority being children, over 4,500 patients were seen. There were some cases where babies who were in critical conditions received emergency treatment and a case of an 8 month old baby who was referred to Kenyatta National Hospital where she was admitted for 5 days and discharged after recovery. A 5 year old child who came for treatment for bruises was rescued to a children's home to escape abuse by her guardians.

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From The Country Director



THE STAFF DODGE IN SAM MBURU LODGE BY AKINYI VALENTINE

As a token of appreciation of service and medium for inculcating teamwork in amusing modes, HOPE worldwide staff converged at Sam Mburu Lodge in Karen for an end-of-year team building event on December 23.

Earlier at 7.30 AM, the very eager employees had braved the morning chill by arriving at the Bomb blast Memorial Park, a choice and perfect rendezvous meeting point for many a staff group travel – whether it's touring field sites, attending out-of-town workshops, or participating in team building events.

Upon arrival at Sam Mburu we were greeted by a band of professional team building specialists who took us through a series of group-dynamic games' such as performing impromptu skits and finding tumblers scattered in an intricately woven maze of cords, in blindfold fashion.



"I was very impressed with the unique and interactive games," said Hilton Nguma.

These games were formulated to stimulate and reinforce the sense of working as a team rather than as individuals. To best illustrate core values as strategic drivers of top teams, the employees were divided to compose five teams.

"A team that's not well coordinated never goes anywhere. As long as we are committed to working together, we will achieve our goals," stated

Stanislaus when I inquired his learning for the day. It became apparent to many of us that effective team work is engendered by individuals harmonizing their contributions and working towards a common goal.

In her brief speech, Margaret, the Human Resource Officer was beholden to staff for traversing Sites to be in Karen while Kamani (Operations Director) highlighted some challenges and successes experienced during the year but urged employees to "keep God at the center of work and look forward to a bright New Year." Malinda (Country Director) paid tribute to the special team of people that was HOPE worldwide Kenya. "We want to be the preferred employer, the star that shines the brightest in serving the poor." She then led us in a moment of silence to honor the late Anne Ngariko who had passed on in July. She finished by egging on accountability.

Victor, one of the band members commented that "HOPE is a team that stands out!" They are "very positive, smart and self motivated especially when faced with challenges," explained George, his counterpart and lead trainer from MentorsAfrique Company.

In view of these comments HOPE must anticipate that as the TEAM grows larger and skills that staff require expand, methods of work become more refined, so more ideas must be allowed to freely flow in a conducive environment.



GAZING INTO FACES FILLED WITH HOPE BY NEWTON NUTHU



Scola Malonza is 22 years old and comes from a family of 9 siblings. Due to financial constraints her parents were not able to pay fees for secondary school education. Subsequently, she dropped out and resorted to doing menial jobs.

Her older brother works at the Kenya Trading EPZ (Export Processing Zone) Limited in Nairobi's Industrial Area, one of the factories involved in the ICOH

(Industrial Centers of HOPE) Program. When he heard of the Vocational training sponsored by ICOH at the St. Bakhita Mukuru Promotional Center, he enrolled Scola in the School's Dressmaking class. "Scola is the best student in class," says one of her teachers. When she completes the Dressmaking Grade 3 Exams, the Institution is considering her sponsorship to the next level – Dressmaking Grade 2. "I look forward to establishing my own business some day!" declares a hopeful Scola.

Pauline Lasoni is in class 6 at Ngereza Primary School in Kitengela town. Her father works far away from home as a herdsman. Their Maasai community is predominantly occupational pastoralists and they do not attach much importance to education of the girl child.

Pauline has five other siblings, four brothers and a sister. Their mother, Tokoiya, is illiterate and jobless but makes a living from peddling herbal medicine in Kitengela. Despite the mother's efforts to provide for her, Pauline still needed school uniform and other educational materials.

The ICOH Program in July 2008, begun an educational support plan for needy pupils



at the school. Fortunately, she was selected to benefit from provision of uniform and tuition. Additionally, being a member of the School Kidz Club - an initiative run by the Program to provide community-based psychosocial support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) - has greatly improved the self-esteem and enhanced the self-expression of this young lass. It is no wonder she is top in her class!

SPOTLIGHT ON PEER EDUCATORS AT KENYA TRADING(EPZ) LTD BY NEWTON NUTHU & VALENTINE AKINYI



Kenya Trading (EPZ) Ltd is a factory with 36 employees trained as Peer Educators. Expectations for Peer Educators include educating peers on STIs and HIV in one-on-one and small group sessions, participating in HIV outreach awareness and other public events,

and assisting peers to access condoms, STI and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services.

The Peer Educators have acted with missionary zeal for the cause of fighting HIV. Through the encouragement and support of the management of the company they have been focusing on behaviors and attitudes that drive the infection like HIV/AIDS stigma, gender inequity and VCT aversion in their workplace and among the general populace.

With the help of HOPE worldwide Kenya's VCT Service Unit, the Peer Educators

set up a two week mobile CT Session at the factory, and led 850 colleagues to get tested for their HIV status. That's a record for any one company! The factory has a strong workforce of 3200 employees.

On June 1, the educators were involved in distribution of mattresses, cleaning detergents, toilet rolls and bathroom sandals, as well as conducting HIV outreach awareness to 3000 inmates at GK (Government of Kenya) Nairobi Remand and Allocation Prison. This interaction has since led to training of 30 prison officers in Men as Partners (MAP) Program.

"We want to make an impact in people's lives one life at a time," remarks John, the amiable chairman of the peer educators.

Pictorial



1



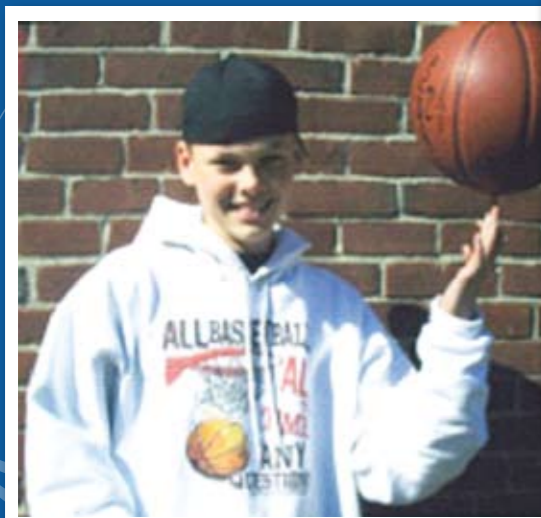
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3



4

1. The Right Hon. Prime Minister Raila Odinga steps back after laying the wreath to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the August 7th Bombblast attack in Nairobi

- 2a. Posters urging young people to abstain from sexual activity on display at the HWWK stand during the annual NGOs week at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi.
- 2b. American Ambassador to Kenya Micheal Ranneberger (left) speaks to a staff member when he visited the HWWK stand during the NGOs week at Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi.
- 3. The children in Kenya Kids program raise their hands to answer questions posed by the traffic police instructor during their end of year party at Central Park, Nairobi
- 4. Nick Shoff poses with his basketball. When he learned about the living conditions in Africa during his social studies class, he organised a 3-on-3 basketball tournament called Jam Quest at his middle school in Ridgefield, Connecticut to benefit programs in HOPE worldwide Kenya

PROMOTING LEADERSHIP AGAINST AIDS AND KEEPING STIGMA AT BAY IN KIBWEZI BY AKINYI VALENTINE

**Ni mapambano... 'Ni vita kali...** Utterance that sounds like the drum beats of war by a tribal warlord? But wait there's more - **'Tubadilike tabia... 'Ukimwi itatubeba!'**

Ah so it's about that HIV/AIDS. Yes! Unless people begin to contemplate what they can do as individuals, families and communities to stop the spread of the epidemic, the AIDS tsunami will wipe out the populace.

Now back to the staccato words. They are extracted from a stand out poem recited by pupils from Kyusiani School during the commemoration of World AIDS Day in Mtito Andei, Kibwezi District.

It was an event like no other in the area, with all roads leading to Mutito Old market. The Provincial Administration had done a splendid job of mobilizing the local communities while HWWK provided VCT services.

There was entertainment and speeches galore as each headline act and speaker highlighted the theme, "STOP AIDS: Keep the Promise." Mr. Mike Lesimam,

(Pictured), the District Officer and Chief Guest for the Day invoked, "We all must fight against HIV... the voice of the people is the voice of God, thus leaders must work for the people!"



Mr. Ken Ongilo, a businessman from Voi spoke to the rally regarding his positive status for the past two years. The married father of three (his last child also positive) said, "I know my status. I use condoms. I enjoy sex with my wife!"

Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge donated bed sheets and towels to HOPE for the orphaned and vulnerable children's

program. Other partners at the event were Musi FM and various NGO's working in the area.

In the entire Kibwezi District, HWWK in conjunction with various partners, observed the Day with 5 events in separate towns including Mtito Andei.

In Kibwezi town, there was provision of VCT services and dissemination of reproductive health and HIV information. In Mbuinzao town, VCT services were provided as were home visits for people living with HIV/AIDS. In Makindu town, HWWK partnered with Makindu District Hospital and the District Officer to provide refreshments, offer VCT services and edutainment for the throng that had gathered at the DO's square. At Sultan Hamud, in partnership with the DO, there was provision of VCT services and AIDS-related information.

In our struggle against AIDS, all our efforts must be strengthened and in concert with others become better coordinated. Everyone must take the lead to get tested and know their status to STOP AIDS and keep the promise!

WEEK OF COUNSELING AND TESTING BY CATHERINE MUKUNDI



**C**ounseling and Testing is a key sexual behavior change strategy. Thus, Kenya National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (KNASP) 2005/6-2009/10 focuses, among other HIV prevention strategies and priority areas, on scaling up voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services in the country as a key HIV infection prevention strategy.

The HTC Week coordinated by the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) provided an opportunity for

HOPE worldwide Kenya to accelerate HIV counseling and testing services in many regions and thereby make a lasting impact on helping Kenya towards achieving 80% universal access to CT services by 2010.

Following the expansion of the Organization's CT services in the year, the 7 VCT sites in 5 provinces all geared up to participate in the activity scheduled for November 23 to December 1, 2008. The exercise was later extended to December 6.

A focused team of CT Regional Coordinators and amazing support from the District AIDS/STDs Coordinators (DASCO's), Provincial AIDS/STDs Coordinators (PASCO's), NACC field officers and other stakeholders' ensured 263 counselors were recruited for the exercise. Mobile units were set up in the streets, villages and workplace settings and Sites were opened during the day and night to secure every opportunity. Counselors were also attached to various health centers to provide Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling (PITC).

By the end of the fortnight, a total of 40,039 clients had been seen! At this rate one can only hope that the quality of services provided through VCT and referral of people testing positive is strengthened

**AUDACITY OF HOPE: Standing up to be Counted** BY PEREZ OWICH & GILBERT SHIKUKU

If the pessimist views the audacity of hope as bold foolishness, then that same premise would be viewed by an optimist as daring confidence! Yet hope is that by which we think about and envisage the future, a feeling of expectation, trust or

HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs). "Some of us thought life had come to an abrupt end. Our individual emotions ran the whole gamut from the depths of denial and depression, to the apex of anger and acceptance. We've learned many facts which have enabled a positive outlook on life with the virus and ways of coping with rampant discrimination," said one group member.

There is unchecked stigma and discrimination against PLWHAs within the community and Star of Hope is spearheading the anti-stigma campaign. "The support group has inspired members with confidence to fight inner struggles,

dispel myths and strengthen campaign on awareness of the disease," explains another member.

This year's World AIDS Summit recognized that without stronger leadership and, local and international partnerships aimed at scaling up and coordinating the AIDS response, elimination of stigma, dis-

crimination and universal access to treatment by 2010 will not become a reality.

It is in this regard that Star of Hope organized a Stigma and Discrimination Walk on October 25. The event was flagged off and graced by Honorable Lewis Ngunyi, MP for Kikuyu Constituency and area councilor. 440 people from 4 locations marched in the parade! In his address the MP expressed the desire to transform the Walk into an annual event!

The Walk sought to address cause and effect, remedies for stigma and discrimination and give opportunity to people infected to accept their status and join support groups instead. "The road to recognition in our wider communities has been a steep climb. Our arduous efforts are bearing significant fruit. For instance, a woman who had been kept indoors for a long period by relatives fearing discrimination and stigma recently joined our support group." An exuberant Mary reports.

Safaricom, K-24 TV station, Men against Violence Program, and Christian Childrens Fund (CCF) were partners in the event. HOPE worldwide is proud to mentor Star of Hope.

Others partners included Coca Cola East & Central Africa, Government of Kenya's Ministry of Health, University of Nairobi School of Medicine, and community based organizations including Medical Missionaries of Mercy in Mukuru, Rotary Community Corps in Korogocho and Mathare, and Community Transformers in Mathare.

This massive project had a great impact because many partners were involved in the cause. It strengthened the notion that no one organization can meet all the needs of the community hence the myriad of challenges faced can only be tackled through concerted public-private partnerships.

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**DONATE BLOOD. SAVE A LIFE** BY STANSLAUS ONYANGO



Peninah Kangere Mumbi is married to a pastor. They have two sons, Clarence and Victor. A young energetic mother going about her daily routine, she began to experience minor but frequent headaches. That was three years ago. She visited many hospitals in Nairobi to no avail.

"The numerous visits to various hospitals afforded me treatments for ten different diseases, yet I didn't realize any reprieve. In May 2008 at Avenue Hospital, I was diagnosed with brain tumor (a condition known as meningioma).

Although urgent surgery was needed, I had to wait three months until August to get the operation performed at the Nairobi Hospital!"

The doctor discovered while conducting a check up-before commencing the operation that I lacked sufficient blood and that my body would require four pints before the operation took place. Alas! There was no readily available blood in the hospital's blood bank!

Some unknown people arrived to donate blood and immediately the operation proceeded. It was such a success. HOPEworldwide Kenya had arranged for the said persons to come to my rescue.

Currently, I continue to recuperate at home. I thank God for another chance at life. God bless HOPE worldwide Kenya. God bless the four until-then-strangers who came to save my life!"

"If the operation was delayed, you would not have lived beyond two weeks!" the operating doctor confessed to Peninah after the surgery. "The debilitating illness cost me the sight of one eye. I hope in due time it will be able to see properly again," says an effusively grateful Peninah.



confidence. Perhaps, we should all be persuaded to live in hopes of better fortune every next time.

A Faith-based Organization aptly named Star of Hope is a vibrant community action team (CAT) that is upping the hope ante in Gachie, Central Province. The group is composed of people living with

**THE ROTARY MEDICAL MISSION TO KENYA** *continued from page 1*

In addition there was a 10-day mobile voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS conducted at all 3 sites by HOPE worldwide Kenya. The total number of clients seen was 908 (538 male, 370 female). The CT camp launch and closing promotional concerts on 20th and 27th respectively, took place at the Vision Ground in Mukuru where HIV prevention messages were disseminated through puppetry shows and entertainment performed by local musicians, U-Tena theatre group and high profile recording artists such as Ousmane, Mejja, Alahola and Shamir.

At the closing concert the many partners

involved in the medical mission were unanimous in their views regarding relentless efforts to fight HIV in concert with wide partnerships.

The Chief Guest and Assistant Minister for Medical Services, honorable Danson Mungatana thanked the mission partnership and reiterated the government's commitment to collaborate with other organizations to deliver the much needed services to communities.

The implementing partners included Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, HOPE worldwide Kenya, HEART Africa, Rotary Clubs, individual Rotarians in and around Nairobi and Rotaractors.

**INTRODUCING IPSS** BY SAMUEL MUNYUWINY

Taking services to those who need them is the hallmark of HWWK. HIV prevention targeting the hard to reach and high risk populations through moonlight VCT is one such signature program implemented by the organization.

In November 2008, a new program called IPSS was initiated. IPSS is an acronym for *Improving Prevention Education and Services for Sex Workers*. This program is funded by United States Agency for International Development's APHIA II program through PATHFINDER.

IPSS operates on the premise that high risk populations are not reached due to the hidden nature of their activities. Consequently, national efforts coordinated

by the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) and which have employed various strategies including Behavior Change Communication, condom promotion and STI treatment, fall short with this particular demographic and need supplementing approaches.

IPSS aims at providing VCT services to 18,000 sex workers and their clients, reaching 120,000 people with HIV and STI prevention and treatment messages, reaching 12,000 people with anti-stigma messages, training 500 peer educators, providing STI treatment to 600 sex workers, linking 300 sex workers to support groups and mounting 20 condom dispensers over a period of 16 months. The program will target communities in

Nairobi and Central Provinces. So far, the program has been received enthusiastically with DJs, pub owners and managers in sex workers' pick-up hot-spots. Bar hostesses and the sex workers themselves are lauding the project. Night outreaches conducted in Nairobi, Kagio and Kirinyaga have been very lively.

The reality of finding girls as young as 10 years spending nights with married men in strippers clubs is stark! While a majority of sex workers demonstrate ignorance and hold misconceptions on HIV, IPSS offers an opportunity to increase their knowledge and awareness in efforts to save the lives of them and their clients who engage in unprotected sex.

# SUMMARY OF RESULTS July - December 2008

PROGRAM	PROGRAM FOCUS	Achieved	CONTACT PERSON
<b>Comprehensive Prevention Program</b>	People Trained in Behavior Change and Life training Skills	392	Job Akuno job.akuno@hwwafrica.org Tel: +254 723 850599
	Community Outreach	53,333	
	Patients Treated for sexually transmitted infections	1,012	
	HIV Counseling & Testing	35,132	
<b>Abstinence and being Faithful</b>	Training in Abstinence and Being Faithful	401	Julius N. Nguku julius.nguku@hwwafrica.org Tel: +254 722 358068
	Community Outreach	10,613	
	Program Sites	5	
<b>Orphans and Vulnerable Children</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children Served	17,858	George Khisa george.khisa@hopewwkenya.org Tel: +254 725 433036
	Kids Clubs Formed	159	
	Child-Serving Organizations Empowered	9	
	Caregivers/Service Providers Trained	76	
<b>Blood Safety</b>	Mobilization of Blood Donors	7,542 Units	John Paul Munene jp.munene@hwwafrica.org Tel: +254 721 455 997
			Fridah Mcharo fmaghuwa@yahoo.com Tel: +254 722 653501
<b>Industrial Center of HOPE</b>	Training in Vocational and Entrepreneurial Skills	609	Julius N. Nguku julius.nguku@hwwafrica.org Tel: +254 722 358068
	Children reached through Community Services	2,223	
	Factories bought in	16	

## THE ROTARY MEDICAL MISSION TO KENYA *continued from page 6*

### Highlights of Medical Mission

- Dr. Rebman's optical team in Mukuru saw 3 albino children who were given prescription glasses and sunglasses. A 10 year old child who had had cataract surgery when younger but received neither a lens implant nor glasses was essentially blind since surgery. He was given glasses -- what a difference they would make in his life!
- There was an infant who had congenital cataracts in both eyes. This meant the baby was blind and needed surgery to remove the cataracts. A referral for the baby was made to Lion's Firstsight Eye hospital in Nairobi where the hospital authorities said the infant would receive the care at no cost!
- Hundreds of toothbrushes and tubes of toothpastes were distributed to children in all 3 locations.
- On 27th, 903 children from 30 schools were educated on reproductive health and HIV information through puppetry shows. Additionally, HWWK peer educators reached 70 students from 2 local secondary schools, with health messages.
- 452 (311 male, 141 female) clients tested for HIV at Vision Ground, Mukuru in 10 days.
- 268 (153 male, 115 female) tested at the youth-targeting camp at Mathare 4B village and Chief's Camp, Mathare in 6 days.
- 188 (74 male, 114 female) clients were tested for HIV in Korogocho.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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