

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Spring, 2017

FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
[www.centerfor
hopeandhealth.org](http://www.centerfor
hopeandhealth.org)

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Inside this issue:

Three Stories 2
Hero of the Year
Visit to India
Bruce Berger
Rwanda Goats

HIV Seminars 3
AIDS Orphan
Becomes Social
Worker 3

Scholarships
Needed

Armstrong 4
Heads Denver
Golf Event

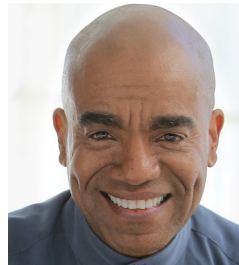
Save the Dates

COLORADO'S FORMER FIRST LADY KEYNOTES 10th "SPRING IS A TIME FOR H.O.P.E." BRUNCH



Before serving as Colorado's First Lady, **Jeannie Ritter** and husband Bill served as Catholic missionaries in Zambia, Africa. At the 10th Annual Spring brunch to "*Help Orphans by Providing Essentials*," Ritter, now a mental health specialist, will share in a conversation with Jean Galloway her experiences with poverty, hunger, and AIDS as well as her deep appreciation for African people and culture. **Theresa Marchetta**, Denver 7 Anchor, will MC and **Leonard E. Barrett, Jr.**, acclaimed Denver actor, will sing Nat King Cole ballads. Honored as "Hero of the Year" will be **Imani Latif**, area Muslim AIDS activist.

Funds raised support 260 AIDS orphans in Kenya for a year. Tickets for the 11 am April 29 brunch at Denver University are \$100 for first two tickets & \$50 for others. **Reserve:** 303 877 1955 or book on Center website. Marla Petrini chairs the event.



HELP MATCH A \$5,000 CHALLENGE GRANT TO CARE FOR THE "POOREST OF THE POOR"

The "poorest of the poor" in India—those stigmatized as "untouchables" of the Dalit caste—often find their way to the doorstep of Pastor Ambrose Dhanaraj. Born a Dalit, Dhanaraj passionately works night & day to uplift the hungry and the suffering of his community. Like a South India Mother Teresa, his life emulates Jesus as he reaches out without stigmatizing impoverished families, sex workers, persons



living with HIV, LGBT persons, school children, etc. In 2017 he needs \$14 000 for care & support programs that include feeding the hungry, giving school kits, & income generating grants. **An anonymous donor has offered a \$5,000 matching grant. Please help match this challenge with a gift using the enclosed envelope!**



WHEN SEX WAS SAFE & ROCK CLIMBING DANGEROUS!

"Remember when sex was safe & rock climbing was dangerous?" asks J. Kevin Carmichael, M.D., who for 25 years has cared for more than 1,500 HIV clients in Arizona & Arizona. An avid rock climber, he emphasizes to patients: "You are not going to die; there are effective treatments." Recipient of the 2017 Center Leadership Award March 24 at a 6:30 pm. benefit concert prior to the annual Tucson "Swinging@AIDS" golf event on March 25, Carmichael will be honored as a humanitarian. Funds raised support both a school for 157 children in the slums of Kenya & the Tucson Interfaith HIV & AIDS Network (TIHAN). Call Claudia Svarstad 303 594 8027 for concert tickets, golf registration, or to be a sponsor.



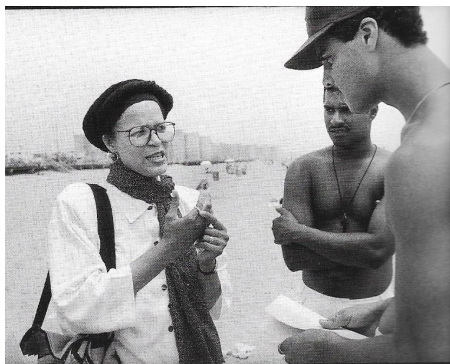
A TRANSGENDER WOMAN, A TOOTHLESS MAN, AND 158 HUNGRY CHILDREN

Three stories touch my heart. Recently I learned that an HIV positive African-American transgendered woman, who often got in trouble with the law when she was inconsistent with her medicine, is out of prison & getting her life in order, thanks to It Takes A Village in Colorado, which the Center for Health and Hope supports.

Bojo, an HIV positive Christian in India, reported his teeth were falling out and “everyday I cut two potatoes in round shape and keep it inside of my mouth just to hide the hollow look on my face.” Now that he received dental care via Center donations, he can be employed once again.

In Kenya’s slums children go hungry when school is not in session. In December the Center provided \$600 for food to buy 158 children a small pack of wheat flour and cooking salad of one litre. The Director reports that “They were very happy to have at least something to eat at Christmas.”

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director



HERO OF THE YEAR Imani Latif was handing out condoms in New York early in the AIDS epidemic. Since 2002 her own charity, *It Takes A Village*, in Aurora, CO, has provided leadership to all people without discrimination.



RWANDA: 24 goats were given to HIV positive women by the Center. Each woman will give the first offspring to another poor person in need. The goal is to provide economic opportunity & food for families.



INDIA: In January, 2017, a team of volunteer men from the Denver area visited India & Sri Lanka to see the work of the Center. Joined by N. M. Samuel, M.D., they spent time in the homes of HIV patients, AIDS wards, and with AIDS orphans. In July a group will visit **KENYA**.

HEALTH CARE ECONOMIST JOINS BOARD



Bruce Berger, a Denver health care economist, has been elected to the Center’s Board. He served 25 years as Deputy Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. He & his wife, Ruth Ann Russell, have been generous supporters of the Center & leaders of Park Hill UMC. The 12 member Board supervises all income & expenditures, ensuring “best practices” of the Center.

CENTER SPONSORS AIDS PREVENTION SEMINARS IN RWANDA, PHILIPPINES & INDIA

Lack of knowledge about HIV, safer sex, rights of LGBT, and violence against women threaten young people worldwide. The Center sponsored seminars recently in Rwanda, the Philippines & India. In Rwanda youth are eager to learn and men of all ages are being circumcised to reduce infections. In the Philippines the rate of infections has more than doubled and young gay men are especially in danger. India has the third largest number of persons living with HIV in the world.



Filipino students, pastors, & laity chose to be tested for HIV; below Don Messer speaks to school girls in Veranasi, India.



Participants in Rwanda Seminar on HIV & AIDS



AIDS ORPHAN BECOMES SOCIAL WORKER FOR STREET CHILDREN & 260 AIDS ORPHANS



Glorie K. Gitonga triumphed over heartbreak and tragedy. She was three-years-old when her father passed away; four years later her mother died from AIDS. She sat at her bedside and recalls the “severe pain” her mother suffered. Glorie then lived with her grandmother, but two years later she also died.

Without the community-based AIDS program sponsored by the Center through the church in Meru, Kenya, she would have been cast into the streets and garbage pits, like many of the 16 million AIDS orphans in the world. Instead, she survived and thrived due to the extra help the Center provides relatives and guardians, who on very limited incomes, take in extra children. She finished her elementary and primary education, and then thanks to a special donor went to college. “I chose to be a social worker so I could help other vulnerable children,” Glorie says. Now she is beginning to work with the Center’s AIDS program in Kenya, reaching out to help the 260 orphans and countless street children with their psychological, physical and social needs. From heartbreak to hope, Glorie, at age 25, will be using her skills and experiences to give life and love to others. The Long’s Peak UMC is providing a year’s funding for her salary.

Center for Health & Hope
7185 S. Niagara Circle
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*Thanks!
For returning the
enclosed envelope.
You can help meet the
\$5,000 matching challenge.*

MEGAN ARMSTRONG SPEARHEADS 2017 DENVER GOLF



Critical to both the daily operations of a free clinic for HIV positive women & children in India and the Center for Health and Hope is the annual Denver “Swinging@AIDS” golf tournament and Silent Auction. Net income in 2016 was over \$40,000. Now in the 11th year, Rev. Megan Armstrong, will assume key leadership. Currently a pastor in Denver, she first began working at the Center more than a decade ago as a student assistant. Scheduled for City Park Golf Course, Denver, on August 16 with an 8 am start, registration is \$125 each. **What can you do to help?** Sponsor a hole for \$150! Help collect Silent Auction items. Recruit a donor to sponsor lunch. Volunteer to help. Contact Don Messer at 303 877 1955 or check the website for registration and sponsorship forms. A “best ball” event—**last year we reached the maximum golfers, so register now!**

*Win A Car!
Hole-In-One*



DATES TO REMEMBER

Tucson Concert & “Swinging@AIDS”

March 24 & 25, 2017

“Spring is A Time For Hope Brunch”

April 29, 2017

Denver “Swinging@AIDS”

August 16, 2017