

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Spring, 2020

FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
www.centerforhealthandhope.org

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Save the Dates

SEVEN TIMES INFECTED BY NEEDLES

Faithfully Cares for Patients with HIV & AIDS



Srinivasan confers with N. M. Samuel, MD (r)

Night and day for eleven years, Srinivasan has provided medical care for patients living with HIV, AIDS, and tuberculosis in a public hospital in Namakkal, India. Seven times he reports needing PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis treatment) because of being pricked accidentally by possibly HIV infected needles. "The lives of hundreds of indigent patients have been saved because of this courageous, caring, & competent man," says his supervisor, N. M. Samuel, MD, who heads the Center's free clinic for women & children facing HIV.



Consulting with Burt Golub, MD, Denver

EMERGENCY: 100 AIDS ORPHANS ENDANGERED

Two for One: \$14,000 Challenge



Faced with news that 100 young AIDS orphans in Kenya could not attend school in 2020 due to a church in Texas suddenly not funding school fees & food, the Center's Board responded to this emergency by seeking to raise funds to help them get schooling, shelter and food. Already pledged to help 261 AIDS orphans, this means raising \$72,200 in 2020 to cover 361 children! A donor doubled her pledge from last year, offering \$14,000 as a **Two for One Matching Challenge**. Sponsoring a child costs \$200.



Would you or your church like to help? Send donations via website or to the Center, 7185 S. Niagara Circle, Centennial, CO 80112.

"EMPOWERING SUPERKIDS IN KENYA"

Focus of *Spring Is A Time For HOPE* Brunch April 25

"Children who survive losing their parents to AIDS, overcoming life on the streets, and/or struggling for food are truly 'Superkids,'" says Nathan Adams, Pastor of Park Hill UMC, this year's dynamic speaker at the annual "Spring is a Time For HOPE" (*Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials*) brunch at the University of Denver on April 25. This event raises funds to support 361 of these vulnerable "superkids." "Our task is to empower them to reach their potential," says Adams. Because of the success of this program, fifteen



Dr. Marjorie Bayes autographs book for Bishop Mutua of Kenya.



SUPERKIDS IN KENYA

of the orphans are now being sponsored for college. The **2020 "Shero of the Year,"** Denver psychologist **Marjorie Bayes** will be honored for her service feeding thousands of hungry children in Kenya & authoring short children's books with her grandsons that celebrate Kenya's superkids. MC is **Theresa Marchetta** & vocalist will be **Denver's First Lady, Mary Louise Lee**. Brunch tickets are \$100 each for the first two; \$50 for additional ones. Order tickets, via website or by sending checks to Center, 7185 S. Niagara Circle, Centennial, CO 80112.



Nathan Adams (r) with Eric, a "Superkid," now in college.

GLOBAL EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBTQ PERSONS



“How can I become a professional social worker when I believe the Bible condemns LGBTQ persons?” was the question posed to me at one of three seminars sponsored this January in India. Attendees were eager to expand their knowledge of both HIV and what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Persons of Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist and Christian backgrounds sought insight and information. People often struggle with disinformation & a dysfunctional faith.

The seminars sponsored by the Center seek to promote inclusiveness and stamp out stigma. Past programs have been held in Kenya, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, and Indonesia. All Center grant recipients must pledge not to discriminate based on “age, race, religion, national origin, caste, ancestry, creed, disability, gender or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.” The Center stands in solidarity with the global LGBTQ community in a quest for equality, justice, care, and human rights.

Practical programs sponsored by the Center include initiating a hair & pedicure salon employing LGBTQ persons & persons living with HIV in Rwanda. Also in

India the Center has started alternative economic employment programs requested by impoverished & stigmatized gay & bisexual men. Together let’s stamp out stigma!



*(LGBTQ seminar with India college students)
Donald E. Messer, Executive Director*

GOVERNMENT CLOSES SCHOOL AFTER GREAT SERVICE IN KENYA

In 2019 the Center provided \$34,708 to support the Children of Africa Hope Mission School in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Unfortunately, effective December 31, 2019, the Kenya government closed the School because in October a neighboring school collapsed, tragically killing eight children & injuring sixty others. Immediately, many schools were closed but the government permitted this school to continue until the end of December.



GRACE DUNGEE CALDWELL SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Grace Dungee Caldwell’s family & friends have established a university scholarship honoring her 44 years of teaching. Joshua, an AIDS orphan in Kenya, was chosen as he seeks to be a teacher. The goal is to raise \$4,000 & recent gifts pushed past the half-way mark to \$2,300. Grace taught in Denver, while her husband, Gilbert, was senior pastor at Park Hill UMC. A mother of two sons & a champion of civil rights, she also taught in Boston, New York, etc. Dr. Bonnie Messer is honorary chair of the Caldwell Fund. Gifts are welcome!



Sadly, rebuilding in the same increasingly gentrified area was not an option, & children were reassigned to already crowded public schools. We regret its closing, but celebrate the Center's ten years of partnership with the School and salute all the good education that happened. Thank you Ms. Anne Baraza, teachers, staff, and donors for your service to the children and community.



2020 LEADERSHIP AWARD IN TUCSON, ARIZONA TO BECKIE HARKEY & CLAUDIA SVARSTAD

Moving part-time to Arizona six years ago, Beckie Harkey & Claudia Svarstad didn't just retire. They plunged into the community organizing annual *Swinging@AIDS* golf tournaments & concerts. Scott Blades, head of Tucson Interfaith AIDS Network (TIHAN) notes that they created a unique way for people of all classes & social standing to unite in a common cause. Over \$100,000 has been raised in Tucson for TIHAN and the Center's work in Africa. "Nobody brings more vision or vigor," says Blades "to building relationships & overcoming stigma than this dynamic duo." 2020 events are combined in the *Swinging @ AIDS* Benefit Concert March 20, 7 pm, at Monterrey Court, where Don Messer & Blades will present Harkey & Svarstad with the 2020 Leadership Award.



Meet The Center Staff

25th SWINGING@AIDS



Don Messer, Shawna Layman, Pam Merrill, Amy Hawthorne & Bill Graf (pro bono lawyer)

Mark Wednesday, August 12, for the 25th *Swinging@AIDS* benefit sponsored by the Center. Scheduled for Kennedy Golf Course, this annual event raises funds for the Center's projects in India and around the world. **Megan Armstrong** will chair the event with **Bruce Berger** as co-chair. **Ruth Ann Russell** heads up the Silent Auction. This is the 13th benefit in Denver along with others held in Arizona & Grand Junction. Aiming for 120 golfers, please get your team registered! Become a sponsor too! Join us for the celebration!



CENTER DISTRIBUTED OVER \$230,000 IN 2019

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Center, over \$230,000 was distributed to assist our partners around the world in their efforts to prevent & mitigate the impact of HIV & AIDS. This record amount eliminated great pain and suffering for people of all ages, particularly vulnerable children. The Center has low operating expenses since the Executive Director has never received a salary, plus no expenses for rent, electricity, heat, etc. Volunteers are vital to our success!



*Hair & Pedicure Salon
Established to
Employ HIV
Positive or
LGBTQ
persons in
Rwanda
in 2019*

AIDS ESCALATING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Center Executive Dr. Don Messer spoke at an AIDS conference last fall in the Philippines. "Unlike many nations, the Philippines is experiencing a spike both in infections & deaths. We stressed condoms, testing & treatment at Wesleyan University," says Messer." A second seminar was cancelled due to earthquakes!

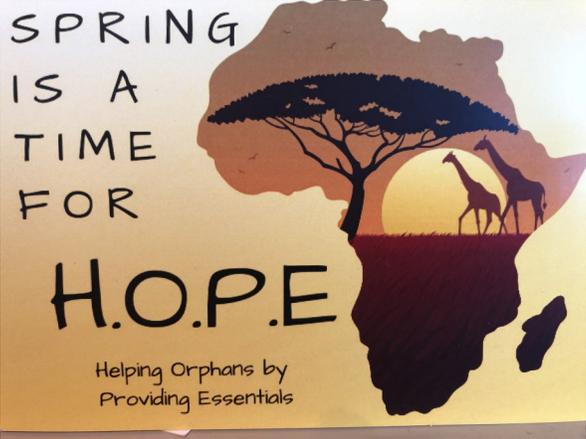




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*Purchase tickets to Spring Brunch April 25
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STORIES OF HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

TWO YOUTH IN KENYA



DRUG REHAB

Dealing with depression & stifling hunger pangs, abandoned youth on the streets often sniff glue on Kenya streets. Bishop Catherine Mutua has started a drug rehabilitation center. Three months treatment costs \$750. Center donors are currently helping two young men overcome addiction & start a new life. “Two more young people are awaiting an opportunity,” reports the Bishop. One donor couple offered help; do you know someone else to assist?

EIGHT WOMEN IN INDIA

Drive up 72 hair-pin curves to remote Kolli Hills, India, & meet eight women, learning to sew for the first time, thanks to an economic empowerment program launched by Center donors. These indigenous and impoverished women lack education & skill training. HIV causes vision problems, so some women need to have cataract surgery at \$200 each. **If they see better, they will sew better!** Gifts welcome!



MALAYSIA



Dr. Messer visited a drop-in center for transgendered persons needing food & shelter in Kuala Lumpur.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tucson “Swinging@AIDS” Concert
March 20, 2020*
- Denver “Swinging@AIDS” Golf
August 12, 2020*
- A Gathering to HEAL Breakfast
To be announced*
- World AIDS Day Sunday
December 6, 2020*