

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Fall, 2016

FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
[www.centerfor
hopeandhealth.org](http://www.centerfor
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WORLD AIDS DAY SERVICE TO HONOR FIRST OPENLY GAY BISHOP WITH MURPHY AWARD

The election of Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto as the first openly lesbian United Methodist Bishop made history this year. Appointed to the Denver area, "she has dared to break the sin and scandal of stigma & discrimination" said Center Board President Donald Messer. The Paul & Paula Murphy Award in Human Sexuality honors those who work in church and society for inclusiveness. Bishop Karen Oliveto will receive the citation & preach at a special 7 pm World AIDS Day service Dec. 4 at Christ United Methodist Church, Denver. A long-time activist for persons with AIDS in USA and Kenya, she will be tested publicly to stress the importance of everyone knowing their status. Plan to attend!



SANTA CLAUS WILL BRING TOYS, FOOD, & CLOTHES TO STREET CHILDREN LIVING IN KENYA'S GARBAGE DUMPS



Often overlooked at Christmas are vulnerable street children & orphans who sleep under heaps of garbage to keep warm. But not this year! John Chilson, a professional Santa Claus, has organized "An Afternoon with Santa" on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Jester's Dinner Theatre in Longmont, CO, at 1:00 p.m. The theatre owners, Chilson, and others are donating to make it possible for Kenya's street children to receive toys, food & clothes this Christmas. The goal is to raise \$5,000.



MUSLIM AIDS ACTIVIST NAMED "HERO OF THE YEAR"

Imani Latif, Executive Director, It Takes A Village, Aurora, CO, has been named "Hero of the Year" by the Center for Health & Hope. Since the earliest years of the epidemic, she has been on the frontline promoting education, prevention, care & treatment. From handing out condoms in New York City streets in the 1980's to starting her own non-profit charity focused on African-Americans and other ethnic minorities in 2002, Imani has been an inter-faith community leader. With Center support, she has reached out with short-term housing to homeless or recently released incarcerated African-Americans, who are HIV positive. She will be honored April 29 at the University of Denver during the 10th Annual "Spring Is A Time For HOPE" brunch.



NEW SCHOOL PLAYGROUND BUILT IN KENYA SLUMS



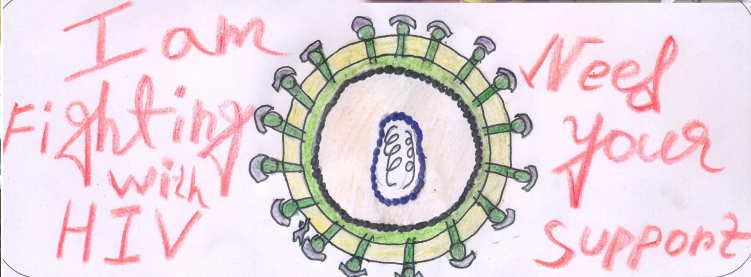
Rocks and mud gave way this fall to a new playground for 158 children at the Children of Africa Hope Mission School in the heart of the Riruta slum of Nairobi, Kenya. Center donors provided \$3,000 to repaint the school, make repairs, and install a new brick surface. No room exists for swings or slides, but the area also serves as a meeting place for school forums. Each year the Center needs to raise over \$20,000 to help pay teacher salaries, rent, and provide the only two meals children get daily. One staff member is engaged in promoting HIV prevention in the community. Funds come from committed donors, key churches, and the Tucson “Swinging@AIDS” event.

AIDS ORPHANS LEARN ENGLISH

Burt Golub, M.D., noted on trips to India that children with English skills have a greater level of success. A new Center tutoring program in a Calcutta AIDS orphanage has demonstrated a 45% improvement in grades. Likewise in south India poor middle schoolers joyfully embrace English.



English
Dear, Messer Uncle
I am Mintu. I read in class VIII. My favourite subject is English. Because I like English language. I have many friends and they help me. I everyday practice to English in our Devotion. I read Devotion in English. I playing violin, Harmonium etc. I thank you uncle for your every support for me. Thank you very very much. I pray Lord Jesus Christ he help you.
From
Mintu



A letter from an 8th grade orphan—in India “uncle” is term of affection

VISIT KENYA OR INDIA/SRI LANKA 2017

Join Don Messer, Center Executive Director, on AIDS immersion trips to India/Sri Lanka or Kenya.

Jan. 26-Feb. 4 visit **India & Sri Lanka** AIDS projects including Calcutta, Varanasi, Chennai, & Colombo.

July 18-29 visit **Kenya** AIDS & LGBTQ programs ending with an optional safari.

Contact Don Messer by Nov. 1 at 303 877 1955

DIRTY WATER KILLS; 8 YEAR OLD RAISES FUNDS



Shocked that African children get sick from drinking unsafe water, eight-year-old Fiona Morrison-Price set up a stand & started selling her art projects. As a result, 159 children & families now have clean water to drink in Kenya. Bishop Catherine Mutua says that “children suffer from many diseases due to dirty water and people with HIV often die because they take their medicine with unclean water.” The Center recently awarded Fiona a “Young Humanitarian Award” & challenged her classmates to also help fight poverty & disease.



Kenya girl gets first clean water!

“YOUNG, GAY, AND ON THE RUN IN AFRICA”



This recent headline and article described the plight of many East African LGBTQ persons who face not just stigma but violence, persecution, and even death in many African countries. In 2015 Center volunteers met in Kenya with about 40 young LGBTQ refugees. Isolated and unwelcomed by many, it was a depressing day of dialogue. We wanted to encourage them to visit churches but we realized they would face hostility rather than hospitality. We did contact Church World Service. Rev. John Makota of Nairobi recently reported that: “I met a Ugandan gay man at a conference

who testified that the Center’s reporting after the LGBTQ seminar enabled 40 of them to be settled in Europe & North America.”

WHAT HAPPENS TO AIDS ORPHANS WHEN THEY REACH 18? SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

For a decade the Center successfully has been educating 260 AIDS orphans through elementary & secondary school. But what happens afterwards if they have no higher education or vocational training? They are still orphans & need help so they can be prepared for employment and future self-support. Wilfred, for example, has worked



Purity graduates as a teacher, thanks to Bill Graf Scholarship

hard in school & now wants to learn to drive and then study to become a plant operator. For \$860 he can get needed training. Thanking Dr. Messer for help since primary school, he writes “I may be able to outgrow you in height one day, but I will never be able to outgrow the contribution you have made in my life.” About \$3,000 can secure a college degree and \$1,000 vocational training. Scholarships have been created in the names of Marla Petrini, Claudia Svarstad, & Dr. Ben Galloway. **Would you like to sponsor a scholarship?** Could be a great birthday or Christmas present for yourself or a loved one!



Wilfred & Dr. Messer

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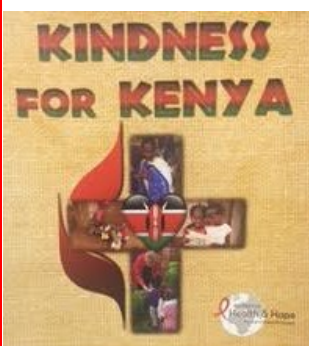


With Claudia Svarstad

A whirlwind September visit to Colorado and South Dakota found the first female episcopal leader of Kenya, Bishop Catherine Mutua, in great demand as a speaker. She spoke at the University of Denver, Dakota Wesleyan University, an elementary school, and the Northglenn, University Park, Long's Peak, Hope, and St. Andrew United Methodist churches. She often recounted how she found 75 children



sleeping in a horrid garbage dump & the amazing story of how these young people are being fed, clothed, & educated today. In response, Long's Peak UMC at a "Kindness for Kenya" dinner pledged \$3,000 to hire a Kenya social worker to help these & other children. Additionally a \$4,000 matching challenge by Rick and Robin Fort, and a \$5,000 anonymous challenge gift, raised over \$20,000. Northglenn UMC was honored for extraordinary 2015/16 giving to help AIDS orphans.



Speaking at Sioux Falls event hosted by
Rachelle Schaap & Jim & Jill Entenman

DATES TO REMEMBER

World AIDS Day Worship

December 4, 2016

Colorado Gives Day

December 6, 2016

An Afternoon with Santa

December 21, 2016

Tucson Concert & "Swinging@AIDS"

March 24 & 25, 2017

"Spring is A Time For Hope Brunch"

April 29, 2017

Denver "Swinging@AIDS"

August 16, 2017