

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Spring, 2021

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

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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

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Centennial, CO 80112

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Bishop Mutwiri

BRUNCH BUBBLES? A 2021 HYBRID! A New Way To Celebrate "Spring Is A Time For HOPE"

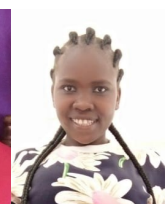
The 14th Annual **Spring is a Time For HOPE** (*"Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials"*) Brunch will actually be a series of Brunch Bubbles. Due to COVID-19 we cannot yet return to the University of Denver, but we can meet virtually by Zoom and host small groups of family/friends in our homes. Hybrid events in safe "bubbles" across America—even the world—will characterize this year's event April 24 at 11:00 a.m. Host an event! **Registration is \$100; every \$200 raised supports one of 361 AIDS orphans in Kenya.** The program will accent the success achieved by this project over the years. Your support means hundreds of children have been given new hope & health. 15 youth are now in college; three will share their triumphant stories of conquering tragedy with **Glorie Gitonga**. Instead of potential life on the streets, they are preparing to be social workers, pastors, medical personnel, & teachers.



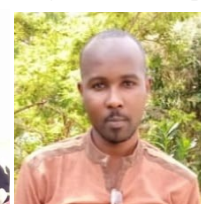
Glorie Gitonga



Charles



Susan



Joshua

Keynoting the event will be Denver Pastor **Nathan Adams** of Park Hill UMC, with music provided by popular vocalist **Kelly Triplett**. A highlight will be honoring humanitarian **Chin Keong Tan** as the 2021



Nathan Adams



Kelly Triplett



Chin Keong Tan

Hero of the Year. A Singapore native residing in Denver, he donates time and talent in technology & music for the Center's mission. Four times in India, twice in Kenya, and once in Sri Lanka & Rwanda, he has shared his beautiful *basso profundo* voice with Center partners. **Dr. Sue Hamm & Clietta Terry** are event co-chairs. Brunch is dedicated to **Ann Fort**. Register with enclosed envelope or at our website: www.centerforhealthandhope.org

DRUG PREVENTION/TREATMENT COMBATS HIV

Around the world, the abuse of drugs is the second most common cause of HIV infections. Professional centers for prevention & treatment are limited in Africa, but a new program initiated by former Bishop



Catherine Mutua in Kenya is making progress reaching out to the marginalized & overlooked. Mutua is seeking to provide professional counseling & spiritual assistance to persons & families facing stigma & health challenges. Gifts to the Center provide patient care, salary support for Mutua, and recently an updated painting of facilities after kitchen smoke damage. Part of occupational therapy, clients joined in the painting & spring cleaning. "Bright, clean spaces lift the spirits & aid therapy," reports Mutua.



LEGACIES OF LOVE: ANN FORT & HERB BACON

The recent deaths of two cherished friends reminded me of how we worked together to raise funds & distribute clean water pumps, male/female condoms, and mosquito nets in Kenya. Ann Fort, Lone Tree, CO, and Herb Bacon, Grand Junction, CO, never met, but together they were humanitarian & philanthropic ambassadors for the Center for Health and Hope. Both opposed stigma, promoted anti-poverty projects, & championed education.



Fort, 96, died Christmas Eve, and Bacon, 90, passed away in early January. Bacon served on the Center's International Advisory Committee & Fort created the Ann Fort Kenya Fund that continues her missional ministry. She first traveled to Kenya at age 74. She returned 19 times on mission trips, including the trip when we emphasized clean water, promoted HIV prevention, & combatted malaria. Bacon, a banker by profession, was named to the Colorado Business Hall of Fame in 2007. When I was president of the Iliff School of Theology, he served as Chair. The Bacon Family Foundation has provided travel funds to monitor Center projects around the world. Both were very dedicated Christians, caring for "the least of these."



Their legacies remind me of my debt to so many volunteers that help achieve the Center's mission. Thank you for your help!

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director

Courageous Connections: Transgender Life Stories



SAVANNAH SANBURG AND COCO

A trifecta of webinars, sponsored by the Center for Health and Hope and others, are designed as educational forums for increasing understanding about the challenges faced by transgender persons.

"Courageous Connections: Transgender Life Stories" will be led by Ms. Savannah S. Sandburg, MSS, Interim Chair, Arts & Communication Dept., Community College of Aurora, Colorado.

TRANSPHOBIA KILLS

Anti-transgender legislation is pending in states across America. Violence is escalating against trans* persons. The Center sponsored three informative webinars, led by Ms. Savannah Sandburg, exploring issues facing trans* persons. View sessions on Center website. Income from our sponsors was given to trans* programs in Colorado and Malaysia. Help combat transphobia!

TEXT GIVING 844-412-0056

Give by text! Send a text to 844-412-0056 with the amount you designate (ex. 200). A return text asks you to register. Once you register, type in a number (like 200) to 844-412-0056 You get a receipt!

RWANDA: SHEEP, GARDENS & HEALTH CARE FOR HIV POSITIVE FAMILIES

For only \$8 per person a family in Rwanda can get health care for a year! But that is beyond the budget for poor families living with HIV. Under the leadership of Augustine Bahati & his Inclusive Mission for Hope & Health, a program of distributing sheep & creating gardens has been originated to provide food & pay for health insurance. Forty families are being helped thanks to Center donors! The Inclusive Mission reaches out to persons with HIV as well as LGBTQ persons facing discrimination.



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Select the Center for Health and Hope from Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com). Each time you make a purchase you contribute to our work around the world. Thanks!

CONFRONTING INDIA'S CASTE & POVERTY: STORIES OF SUCCESS

Caste & poverty complicate India's quest to improve the livelihood of its citizens. With a special focus on the lowest caste, the Dalits or "untouchables," the Center has worked with Indian partners in providing medical care, HIV prevention, food, economic empowerment, educational tutoring, college scholarships, & other programs. Below is a brief synopsis of various programs in the south India area of Chennai (once called Madras).



30 Young People Receive College Degrees

Thanks to the vision of **Pam Merrill**, the Center has helped 30 young people get a college education, 23 were young girls first tutored in high school through the Imagine program and seven were children of AIDS widows helped through the Care & Support program. The Center affirms Don Messer's belief that "A girl without an education is a woman without a future."

INCOME GENERATING

Over the years the Center has sponsored innumerable income generating projects. Supervised by **Pam Merrill** in the USA & **Ambrose Dhanaraj** in India, more people could be helped if funds were available. She notes "there are so many, I can't recall them all!" Not every project is a success; "renting fake jewelry for weddings," she says, "was a bust!" But people have learned to sell fish, sarees, vegetables, & tea. They started small shops & made sanitary supplies for sale. Catering businesses have been initiated. Cows, goats, carpentry tools & bicycles have been purchased to enable small enterprises. Lives have been saved!



TUTORING 1,140 GIRLS

Impoverished & marginalized girls of lower castes often miss school because they need to work or have no sanitary supplies. If they fail exams at 10th level or 12th level, they get no more education. By tutoring 1,140 girls in English, math, & science through the Imagine program, they succeeded. As Ambrose Dhanaraj notes, "\$50 a year per girl changed lives forever!"

FEEDING THE HUNGRY



Poor people struggle constantly with lack of nutrition. The COVID crisis threatened hunger turning into starvation! The Center provided

\$8,700 to help the elderly, persons with HIV, gypsies, LGBTQ, day laborers, mothers, children, sex workers, & others. The need continues in 2021!



REGISTRATION FORM: SPRING IS A TIME FOR HOPE (Cut & Mail)



7185 South Niagara Circle
Centennial, Colorado 80112

www.centerforhealthandhope.org

_____ persons @ \$100 each will participate on April 24, 2021
_____ I cannot participate but enclosed is a gift for an AIDS orphan
_____ I will host a “hybrid” brunch bubble that day!

_____ name(s)
_____ address _____ zip
_____ email _____ phone

(Every \$200 raised helps one of the 361 children.)

80TH BIRTHDAY GIFTS: \$7,000 FOR CALCUTTA AIDS ORPHAN SCHOLARSHIPS



Can life be much tougher than being a young orphan teenager with AIDS in the grim, dirty city of Calcutta, India? More than 80,000 children go “missing” in India every year! In Calcutta, 100,000 live on the streets. If you ever saw the movie, “Lion,” how can you forget the peril kids face in train stations and the danger they face in their daily struggle for survival. A few fortunate children are cared for at the Snehakunja Children’s Home, sponsored by the Church of North India. Having visited the orphanage several times, Center Executive Director & Founder Don Messer asked his 80th birthday gifts be directed to help talented youth go to college. Family & friends celebrated by providing nearly \$7,000, which should provide at least two, maybe three full college scholarships. “Sixty years ago I studied in India. Now this is a dream come true—for them & for me! Thanks!” exclaims Messer.



HYBRID DENVER GOLF

Save Thursday, August 5

A hybrid Swinging@AIDS Golf Benefit will occur Thursday, August 5. Join on the Denver City Park Golf Course, the golf course in your home town, or connect virtually from your couch. Chair **Bruce Berger** hopes we can raise \$50,000 like we did in 2020! Needed are volunteers, sponsors, & items for the silent auction. Call 303 877 1955.



LGBTQ AFRICANS

Standing in Solidarity

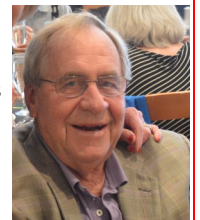
Gay & lesbians live in great danger in many countries as stigma, laws, & religion constrict freedom. Yet many LGBTQ Africans are bravely resisting cultural norms & promoting equality. During COVID-19, they were first to lose their jobs. The Center stands in solidarity with LGBTQ persons in Kenya & Rwanda. Programs fund food, education, sanitary supplies, & economic empowerment. Gardens have been planted; sheep & chickens purchased. A young gay man just started college studying journalism in Rwanda. All due to great donors!



IN THE NEWS

Dr. Ben Galloway, M.D.

Long-time Center Board member, **Ben Galloway, M.D.**, was named Humanitarian of the Year by the Colorado Medical Society for 2021.



Bishop Nicolas Mutwiri

Bishop Nicolas Mutwiri, Methodist Church of Kenya, was elected to replace Bishop Catherine Mutua, who had completed her mandatory term of 8 years. He now supervises the Kenya AIDS ministry.

