

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Spring, 2018

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

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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

As a 501(c)(3), gifts
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and Hope**
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“BEAUTIFUL FACES & PLACES: KENYA”

Spring is a Time For HOPE Brunch

Keynoting the May 5 “Spring is a Time for H.O.P.E.” brunch at the University of Denver, the first woman president of the National Farmer’s Union Insurance Company, **Claudia Svarstad**, will underscore the beauty of Kenya’s people and places in contrast to Trump’s obscene reference to the people of Africa. “Face to face, I saw first-hand how the Center for Health and Hope literally provides life and love to 260 AIDS orphans, 188 children in the slums, & countless street children.” **Burt Golub, M.D.** will be honored as “Hero of the Year.” **Theresa Marchetta**, Channel 7 Anchor, will MC and **Dr. Sue Hamm** is chair. \$100 each for the first two tickets & \$50 for others. **Reserve:** 303 877 1955 or book on Center website.



NEW DORMITORY DEDICATED FOR GIRLS LIVING WITH HIV IN CALCUTTA



“An oasis of hope in the hell of heartbreak” is one description of an AIDS orphanage in Calcutta, India, that cares for 46 boys & girls living with HIV. About eleven million children live on India’s streets, and 80,000 go missing every year. Partnering with the Church of North India, Center donors

helped remodel & expand a dormitory for women, including inside bathrooms for safety at the Snehakumja Children’s Home. Still needed are a computer lab for the talented young people, along with more dormitory and hospital beds. Keeping children safe & ensuring a good education are a priority. Chin Tan & William Bradford unveiled the plaque in January at the dedication. A return trip to India is being planned for January of 2019.



HELPING BABIES TO BE BORN FREE OF HIV

“Having a baby is joy but being told your baby is HIV positive is quite devastating,” notes Anne Baraza, director of a new pilot project in five slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Funding is by the national United Methodist Women & on-going support of the Center. Pills exist to stop HIV transmission from mother to child during birth, but globally more than 400 babies are born HIV positive every day. Virtually none are born infected in the USA and affluent areas of the world. Believing every child has the right to be AIDS free, Baraza’s team educates & assists pregnant women to get care despite violence & poverty. “We are doing all in our power so women don’t perish due to stigma & ignorance.”



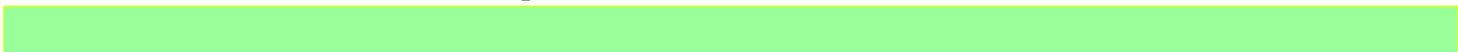
YOUNG PEOPLE DYING DUE TO HOPELESSNESS, STIGMA & LACK OF ADHERENCE TO MEDICATION

Why is the Center so involved with children and youth? Because adolescents around the world are dying from AIDS as they stop taking their HIV medication. We know “the number of adolescents dying due to AIDS-related illnesses tripled between 2000 and 2015. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among young people in Africa and the second leading cause of death among young people worldwide.” This crisis of adherence stems from persistent stigma & a lack of hope that youth feel about their future. In consulting with a Center “think tank” of knowledgeable persons around the world, we have learned many children are never told why they have to take medicine. Parents are afraid to tell them & once they learn they may become very angry or simply give up, believing they can never have a “normal” life. They internalize stigma, feeling unworthy and unlovable. Many orphans unfortunately “have never been loved or told they are beautiful human beings.”

In Kenya & India our partners seek out young people with both messages of prevention & the importance of continuing medication, if infected. They offer youth hope that they can get educated, marry, have children, and enjoy a long life. They promote church teachings against bigotry & discrimination. **In every place the Center seeks to be a voice of health and hope for all God’s children.**

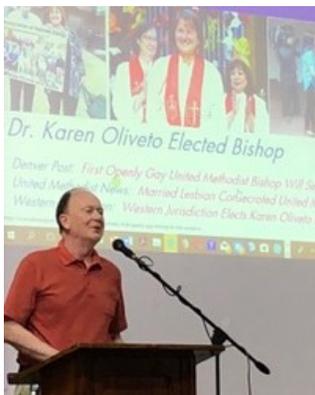


Donald E. Messer, Executive Director



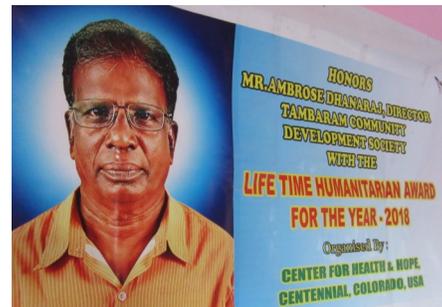
LINDA GIRARD HONORED

For over 25 years as a registered nurse & volunteer, Linda Girard, Tucson, AZ, has shown incredible compassion to men & women living with HIV & AIDS. Whether at their bedside or raising funds, she gives her time & talents generously. She will receive the 2017 Leadership Award during the annual “Swinging@ AIDS Golf & Concert benefit in March. The aim is raising \$20,000 for Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network & the Children of Hope Mission School in Kenya.



QUEERING THE CURRICULUM

Recognizing churches & seminaries have been biased to same-sex oriented people, the National Council of Churches of India sponsored a seminar in January & invited faculty to explore a more inclusive interpretation of the faith. Dr. Donald Messer was asked to speak on “Sacred Sex & Sacred Texts.” Emphasis was on joining Archbishop Desmond Tutu’s call to a “moral crusade against homophobia & heterosexism,” urging justice and equality for LGBTQ persons around the world.



LIFETIME AWARD

The “poorest of the poor” for over 30 years have come to Pastor Ambrose Dhanaraj’s door in Chennai, India. Recently he was given a lifetime humanitarian award for serving the Dalit (or “untouchable”) caste in India with food, medicine, clothing, & jobs, but above all with dignity & respect.



Both Shop & Give in 2018!

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

CENTER AWARDS \$186,906 IN GRANTS GLOBALLY THANKS TO RECORD 2017 GIVING

2017 marked an increase in both number of donors and amounts of donations, resulting in the Center being able to distribute 16.3% more to projects and persons in need around the world. “Sustaining this generosity will be a challenge in 2018,” says Executive Director Donald E. Messer, “but I’m always amazed at how caring & compassionate our friends are—especially in a national climate often characterized by insensitivity and selfishness.” Below are a few project portraits & costs. For more information, contact Don Messer at globalaids@gmail.com or 303 877 1955.



Hundreds of men, women, and children get free HIV education & treatment in rural Namakkal, India at Center clinic. Yearly cost over \$25,000



\$15,000 spent building five homes for families living with HIV



Educating 188 children in slums of Nairobi requires funding for two meals a day, teacher’s salaries, rent for property, septic tank emptying, etc, at a cost of about \$30,000

“SWINGING@AIDS” AT DENVER “GOLF MECCA”

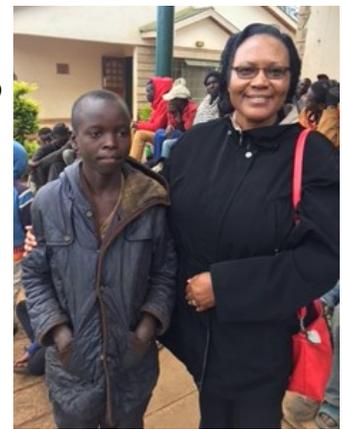
Called Denver’s “golf mecca” because it offers “something for everyone,” the John F. Kennedy Golf Course, 10500 E. Hampden, will be the site of 12th Annual Denver “Swinging@AIDS” golf benefit August 15. Golfers will play 18 holes & volunteers will enjoy miniature golf! Megan Armstrong again will chair this year’s fundraiser.



AFRICAN ORPHANS UMCOR ADVANCE

3022289

United Methodist churches around the world support the 260 AIDS Kenya orphans the Center helps each year. Approved by UMCOR, in 2017 individuals and congregations contributed over \$4,000 to fund the care of young children who have lost their parents to AIDS. If a church member writes the number 3022289 on their check, it automatically is sent to Atlanta for distribution. The unique program is directed by Bishop Catherine Mutua, the first woman episcopal leader in Kenya. Inspired by the boy beside her, she started a street ministry.





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Bishop Karen Oliveto tested publicly for HIV on World AIDS Day to emphasize HIV testing & treatment.

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STORIES OF HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

RWANDA



A new Inclusive Centre for Hope & Health has been legally formed in Rwanda to reach out to stigmatized & marginalized persons in East Africa. Concerned with human rights of HIV positive persons & LGBTQ persons, the new independent organization works with our Center.

INDIA



Children of all ages are learning English in India because our “Hero of the Year” Burt Golub, MD, has started the teaching of English in the Calcutta orphanage and near Chennai. “Kids just do better in life.”

KENYA

Success creates problems! Because the Gift of HOPE (“Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials”) has been working effectively the past 10 years, a pressing need exists to help these young people get college or technical training. Gifts are needed to fund scholarships. For about \$1,000 a year, trained

leaders emerge in nursing, theology, mechanics, etc.



Center projects welcome all persons regardless of religion, sexual orientation, race, gender, etc.

DATES TO REMEMBER

*Tucson “Swinging@AIDS” & Concert
March 24 & 25, 2018*

*“Spring Is A Time For HOPE” Brunch
May 5, 2018*

*Denver “Swinging@AIDS” Golf
August 15, 2018*

*“A Gathering to HEAL” Breakfast
October 20, 2018*

*World AIDS Day Sunday
December 2, 2018*

