

Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Fall/Winter, 2020

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
to the Center are tax-
deductible.

ID: 20-4199173

UMCOR Advance No:
#3022289

Text Giving:
844-412-0056

Send donations:
Center for Health
and Hope
7185 S. Niagara Circle
Centennial, CO 80112

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CELEBRATE A VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS

Check Center's Gift Shop & Silent Auction

COVID-19 has changed everything except the generous heart! Our virtual Christmas this year means shopping on the web, no travel, & fewer gatherings of friends & family. Most people face filled closets of unused clothing & storage places crammed with items



never needed. Yet we can literally offer health & hope to people by tapping on the Center's gift shop or exploring a special Holiday Silent Auction at

www.centerforhealthandhope.org

See the virtual Christmas tree for 20 itemized ideas—buy a goat or sheep, feed five families for five weeks during COVID-19, sponsor an orphan for a year, support a teacher, provide clean water, or many, many other alternative gifts that can save a life this Christmas. Purchase an alternative gift & receive a gift card to give to your loved one. This year as we sing “Joy to the World,” let’s bring joy to the world!



CARE-\$19 COMBATS COVID-19

Feed HIV Positive Family of Five for Five Weeks



Schools closed. Widespread unemployment. Lock-downs. Incredible hunger. People with HIV either unable to get medicine or to consume it on empty stomachs. Grandmothers desperate to feed grandkids. Center donors responded to “CARE-\$19 Combats COVID-19” with an extra \$61,000+ to help feed 3,244 families (16,221 people) in India, Kenya, Rwanda, Malaysia, & Sri Lanka. N. M. Samuel, M.D., reports “never before seeing such desperation & dire hunger.” Until global vaccines available, crisis will continue. Will you step up to help in 2021?

TECH BRIDGE-BUILDER NAMED 2021 HERO

Chin Keong Tan, a native of Singapore & resident of Denver, has been named 2021 Hero of the Year.



Volunteering his time & talent, both in technology & music, he became the Center's technological & inspirational bridge-builder that enabled the Center to forge a vital link that zoomed across time-zones & overcame lock-downs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Skill at editing videos, creating a YouTube Channel, & initiating two web-based Silent Auctions helped the Center reach new international audiences & successfully hold both a golf benefit & breakfast that raised record funds. He knows

the Center's projects first hand, having visited its programs & partners in India four times, Kenya twice, as well as Sri Lanka & Rwanda. He cares for persons living with HIV and LGBTQ persons facing persecution & marginalization. He brings hope & inspiration to other volunteers, as well as to persons in India & Kenya when with his *basso profundo* voice he shares his vast repertoire of music. Kenya Bishop Catherine Mutua recounts, “None of us will ever forget his singing ‘Bless This House,’ when homes were dedicated for families living with AIDS.”



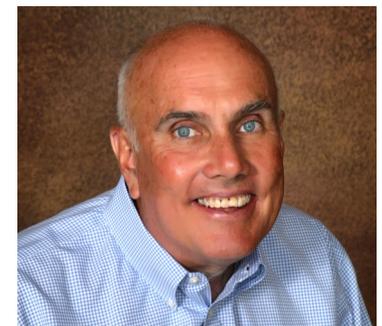
WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BUT A TIME FOR HOPE

What a year! What else can I say? None of us expected the turn of events that turned life and Center programming upside down. By re-focusing & becoming more virtual, more people became involved in the Center than previously & new donors increased significantly. COVID-19 reshaped our thinking & agenda. A new priority emerged & the Center raised & distributed \$61,643 to feed starving people facing this new disease. Simultaneously we met previous commitments & launched new programs. Some examples follow. We funded 361 AIDS orphans in Kenya—100 more vulnerable children than in 2019 at a total cost of \$72,200. In India a free clinic for poor women & children continued, along with aiding a Calcutta orphanage, tutoring young girls, & funding economic empowerment for impoverished persons living with HIV. Over \$5,000 was raised for sanitary napkins & sexual health education of young girls. Thirty families living with HIV in Rwanda got health insurance. Young lesbian women & gay men, endangered by violence & HIV, were assisted in Kenya. In 2021 I expect increased attention to AIDS orphans pursuing post-secondary education, more AIDS education, & assisting a drug rehabilitation center. Despite our fear about the future, I hope you feel as buoyant and hopeful as I do. Together we might not be able to change the world, but for some people we can change the world for the better.

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director



Chin Tan performs for Gathering to HEAL



BILL STEVENSON HONORED

The 2020 Denver Swinging@AIDS Benefit was dedicated in the memory of humanitarian Bill Stevenson. A lawyer with the National Farmers Union Insurance Company, he was an advocate for social justice & civil rights.



Both Shop & Give in 2020!

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.

TEXT GIVING

844-412-0056

Generous people share their gifts with the Center in various ways. Texting is the latest possibility! Send a text to 844-412-0056 with the amount you would like to give (example 200). You get a return text with a link to register. Once you register, future gifts are easy—just type in a number (like 200) to 844-412-0056—and you get a receipt. If you prefer credit card, go to the web: www.centerforhealthandhope.org Or send checks (no fees!) to 7185 S. Niagara Circle, Centennial, CO 80112.

100% RATING

By Charity Navigator

Non-profit charities receive ratings by an agency called Charity Navigator. They declare persons can “give with confidence” to the Center for Health and Hope because it scores 100 out of 100 in finance & accountability. You can be more confident in highly rated chairites because they are “financially healthy, accountable, & transparent.”

Check out their website:

www.charitynavigator.org/ein/204199173

SAVING A YOUNG WOMAN’S DIGNITY & HEALTH

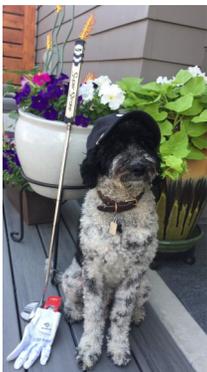
Exploited & endangered, impoverished young women during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya lack sanitary pads. The consequences can be grim—increasing pregnancy and HIV infections—as desperate girls seek money whatever way they can to meet their basic human right for sanitary materials. Without proper napkins, poor girls use whatever they can find, sponges from dirty old mattress, ripped clothing, etc. Center Director, Clietta Terry, mobilized a “\$20 in 2020 campaign” in response to an appeal from Bishop Catherine Mutua, the first woman bishop in Kenya. Mutua reported that “after COVID-19 fades, thousands of girls will not go back to school because they are already mothers. Girls are tempted to have sex with older men, who promise ‘I

will buy you pads.’ Young, innocent, vulnerable girls end up pregnant. The poverty cycle continues, not by choice but by default.” To date, over \$5,000 has been raised to help 250

young women for a year. “Without proper underwear or pads, some girls will sit in the sand or soil & just let the blood flow for a lack of anything better to do!” Sexual health education about HIV & pregnancy was provided when the napkins, soap, toothbrushes, & underwear (photo on left) were distributed.



VIRTUAL GOLF BENEFIT RAISES \$50,000



The 25th “Swinging@AIDS” Benefit was totally virtual—and raised a record \$50,000! Led by Megan Armstrong & co-chair Bruce Berger, 120 persons registered as either “course” or “couch” golfers! Teams across America & Canada sent their scores. Oldest golfer was 95 & youngest 18 months! Two dogs & two chipmunks were signed up at \$100 each! Golfers had fun while doing good!



Blinn Couch Golfers

TWO COURAGEOUS WOMEN HONORED



Two leading Colorado clergywomen, Rev. Angie Kotzmoyer of the Applewood Valley UMC, & the Rev. Sharon Langfeldt of Christ Church, Denver, were awarded the Paul & Paula Murphy Human Sexuality Award. They provide courageous leadership of the UM Mountain Sky Queer Clergy Caucus & taught a webinar on LGBTQ+ weddings. Both champion human rights for all people.



Return Service Requested

7185 South Niagara Circle
Centennial, Colorado 80112



Gifts of over \$9,000 were received for the Ann Fort Kenya Fund in honor of her 96th birthday! Fighting cancer, she continues focusing on the needs of Kenya's vulnerable & impoverished.

www.centerforhealthandhope.org

100 MORE VULNERABLE CHILDREN ADOPTED

Learning that 100 vulnerable children in Kenya might lose food, schooling & even shelter, the Center's Board in 2020 temporarily adopted 100 more AIDS orphans at \$200 each in hopes donors would be supportive. Faced now with a continuing crisis, the Board urges friends to help these 100 plus 261 AIDS orphans again in 2021. Board members gave \$32,000 of the \$72,200 needed.

Invite a child into your heart!



VIRTUAL BREAKFAST

Breaking bread together virtually seemed impossible, but this year's Annual Gathering to HEAL breakfast distributed Panera Bread cards & a record number of people from England to Alaska shared a bite & listened to three Kenya women speak about how AIDS and COVID-19 intersect (video on our website). Over \$9,000 was raised!



GLOBAL COVID-19 FOOD DISTRIBUTED



Rwanda



India



Kenya