

# Center for Health and Hope Action Newsletter

Spring, 2022

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:  
[www.centerfor  
healthandhope.org](http://www.centerforhealthandhope.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:  
#302289

Text Giving:  
844-412-0056

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

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## "2022 HERO & SHERO OF THE YEAR" NAMED: NATHAN ADAMS & RACHELLE SCHAAP

A Colorado clergyman & a South Dakota businesswoman—Nathan Adams of Park Hill UMC, Denver, & Rachelle Schaap of Sioux Falls—



are the Center's 2022 Hero & Shero. Both traveled to Kenya & been deeply supportive of AIDS orphans. Adams has led his church to provide over \$15,000 for various projects. Schaap likewise has championed numerous Center programs. He will be honored at upcoming Brunch April 23 & she will be recognized later in 2022.



"Both are great humanitarians," noted Kenya Bishop Catherine Mutua.

## SPRING BRUNCH TO FOCUS ON AIDS ORPHANS, COVID, & VACCINE APARTHEID

April 23 marks return of "Spring is a Time For HOPE" (Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials) brunch at the University of Denver. **Dr. Paulina Muchina** of Kenya will keynote. Music by **Mary Louise Lee & Daryl Walker**. **Justin Levy** as MC. Invocation by Rev. Megan Burg. **Clietta Terry** is Chair. Benefits 361 AIDS orphans; \$100 per person with 3rd person in a party at \$50. Register at the Center website or by sending a check to Center (form on p. 4). Sponsors invited!



Justin Levy



Mary Louise Lee



Daryl J. Walker



Megan Burg



Clietta Terry



Paulina Muchina

## 25 HIV+ WOMEN IN INDIA HELPED FOR 15 YEARS

For 15 years Pam Merrill, Center financial administrator, has devised & directed a unique Care & Support program for 25 HIV+ women & their families who were faced with disease, poverty, & stigma.

Donors funded education, nutrition, & income generating projects that now enable the women to be self-supportive. Seven of their children got college scholarships.



Now successfully completed, the Center has initiated a new 3 year program to aid 26 Indian families with immediate assistance & ultimate self-sufficiency. **Sponsors needed!** Center Director Don Messer says, "the lives of these women & their families have been



immeasurably changed for the better by the generosity of Pam Merrill & countless donors half a world away."

# PLANTING SEEDS IN A GARDEN YOU NEVER GET TO SEE

When the Center received a check for \$44,557.52 from the estate of Ann Fort recently, I was reminded of the famous lines towards the end of the musical “Hamilton” declaring: “What is a legacy? It’s planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.”



Ann believed in doing as much good for as long as she could. Right until her untimely death at 97, she was engaged in planning relief projects for the poor in Kenya. To ensure that her legacy lasted beyond her lifetime, she designated most of her estate to providing post-secondary education for impoverished Kenya orphans. She already helps 15 youth in college; her gift should provide support for about 10 more! This garden of students will bloom into medical personnel, social workers, businessmen, accountants, etc. As they graduate & serve, Ann’s legacy will extend at least another fifty years! Truly Ann modeled for us how to do as much good for as long as we can!

If you want to plant your own garden, you can designate the Center in your will, specifying a specific purpose, to use where most needed, and/or to be placed in a permanent endowment. The Center’s non-profit tax number is ID 20-4199173. Give a specific amount or a percentage. Contact your attorney. For more details, you can call me at 303 877 1955, or talk to the Center’s volunteer attorney, an expert on estate planning, Bill Graf, at 303 246 8330.

*Donald E. Messer, Executive Director*

## SALUTING SHAWNA LAYMAN

The Center functions effectively thanks to dedicated part-time staff members, who often have other full-time jobs. Shawna Layman has served twice as administrative coordinator (2011-15 & 2016-2017). She returned in 2019, to assist. Now that she has decided to move from

Denver, Colorado, to Waco, Texas in her retirement years, the question is how to engage her services remotely as she handles preparation of receipts & thank you letters. Besides being a fabulous employee, she has been a faithful volunteer Ambassador at Center events. She will be missed!



*Hundreds tested for HIV at Center medical camps that served over 2,000 people in rural Kenya*



## 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!

## \$263,000: 2021 RECORD NUMBER OF GRANTS

Thanks to your great generosity the Center for Health & Hope made a record number of grants to projects around the world in 2021. \$263,000 was given to support projects in Asia, Africa, and the USA. Programs included building three homes for families with AIDS in Kenya, COVID relief in various countries, support of a Kenya drug addiction center, a free India clinic for women & children with HIV, medical camps in rural Kenya helping over 2,000 people, help for persecuted LGBTQ persons, short-term Denver housing for homeless, post-secondary scholarships in three countries to AIDS orphans, pigs, sheep, goats, etc.



*Top left: Rwanda garden planting to provide nutrition for families with HIV. Top right: new free clinic opened for women in India hill country. Bottom left: cow for India economic empowerment.*

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## Both Shop & Give

Select the Center for Health and Hope from Amazon Smile. Each time you make a purchase you contribute to our work.

*smile.amazon.com* **Page 2**



# BUILD A HOME FOR KENYA FAMILY COPING WITH HIV: ONLY \$3,000 TRANSFORMS LIVES



Imagine remembering a loved one by building a house for an impoverished family living with HIV in Kenya with the money contributed at the time of a memorial or funeral service. Or maybe later as you seek to honor a loved one? For just \$3,000 lives can be changed! Donors have already built four homes in 2022—can we do ten this year? A donor honored her beloved aunt. Another friend built three houses, remembering her father & a gay activist friend, plus marking her own retirement. The \$3,000 covers



salary of Kenya builders, all materials including gutters & water tank, mattresses, blankets, health insurance for whole family for one year, school uniforms & shoes for children, & elementary school fees. “Truly transformative,” says Justus Marete, CEO of Maua Methodist Hospital, that helps supervise the project along with Stanley Gitari. Invite your church or family members to join you in helping those in need.

## HUMAN RIGHTS WORKSHOP IN RWANDA

LGBTQ+ persons in many countries suffer from stigma & discrimination. The Center will sponsor a human rights workshop this June in Rwanda, with participants from Burundi, Uganda, Congo & Rwanda. Rev. Augustine Bahati & his Inclusive Mission for Health & Hope will lead the workshop & focus on building a network of support & education. Same-sex activity is outlawed in 32 of 54 African countries. Hostility often is fueled by the church & health care is frequently limited.



## TWO CHURCHES GIVE SALARY SUPPORT

Two key partners in Kenya receive salary support, thanks to two Colorado churches that consider them their “missionaries.” Long’s Peak UMC, Longmont, provides the salary of Glorie Gitonga, an AIDS orphan who became a social worker & now supervises 361 AIDS orphans.



Park Hill UMC, Denver, supports Bishop Catherine Mutua as she directs a Kenya Drug Treatment Center.





## PARTICIPATION FORM: SPRING IS A TIME FOR H.O.P.E. (Cut & Mail)



7185 South Niagara Circle  
Centennial, Colorado 80112

[www.centerforhealthandhope.org](http://www.centerforhealthandhope.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$100 each will participate on April 23  
\_\_\_\_\_ for a 3rd person at \$50 attending on April 23  
\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot participate but enclosed is a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for an  
AIDS orphan & to help sponsor the event!

\_\_\_\_\_ name(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ zip  
\_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone

### GRADUATIONS HIGHLIGHT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS



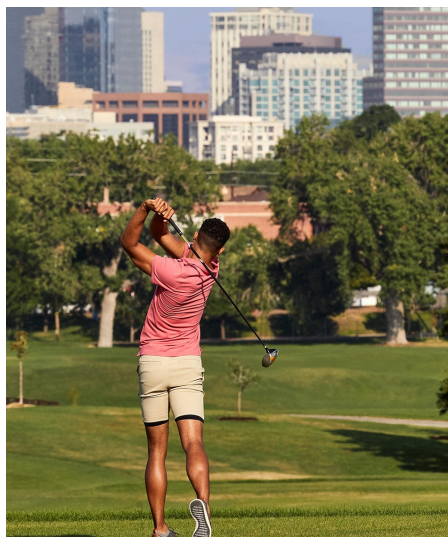
Young people orphaned at an early age because parents have died from AIDS rarely have an opportunity for an education, much less pursue college. Now, however, 25 top students currently are receiving post-secondary scholarships in Kenya, India, & Rwanda, thanks to donors. Two exciting graduations—Susan & Ronny—occurred in December. Several more will happen soon!

**Do you want to support a Scholar?** Funding varies from a total of \$2,000 to \$6,000, depending on program & years of study. Those funded include a future plumber, electronics engineer, mid-wife, orthopedic specialist, medical assistant, and teachers. We have a list of young people waiting for their lives to change! Check out [www.centerforhealthandhope.org/scholarship-programs](http://www.centerforhealthandhope.org/scholarship-programs) for more stories, details and how to fund a scholarship.



### DENVER GOLFERS: SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! The 16th Annual Denver “Swinging@AIDS” will be on Thursday, August 11, at the Denver City Course for men, women & mixed teams. Sponsors welcome! Bruce Berger will chair this major fund-raiser that funds programs in India & around the world. Join us!



### “USE AS NEEDED”

Thank you for gifts to the Center marked “use as needed.” While we encourage designated giving for specific projects, the Center also needs funds for operations to pay salaries, liability insurance, postage, bank fees, wiring charges, etc. Costs are low as the Executive Director has never had a salary. Also new projects emerge and “use as needed” gifts often are timely to meet an urgent need, such as aiding (below) young children in Sri Lanka with food during the COVID crisis.



### “PERIOD POVERTY” FACED BY YOUNG WOMEN



Young girls in Kenya miss up to a week in school each month because they lack sanitary supplies. Seeking funds for supplies can prompt risky behavior, leading to pregnancy and/or HIV. Give \$25 to the Center’s campaign (“\$25 Period”) & aid a young woman for a year. In 2021 we helped 120 females—in 2022 we have raised \$5,000 to assist 200. Why not help make that \$6,000, so 240 can stay safe & in school?

[www.centerforhealthandhope.org](http://www.centerforhealthandhope.org)