



Center for Health & Hope Action Newsletter

Spring 2023

www.centerforhealthandhope.org

Donald E. Messer
Executive Director
303 877 1955
globalaids@gmail.com

Gifts Are
Tax-Deductible

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

In this Issue

- Stigma Still Kills 2
- Red Concert
- Period Poverty 3
- 16 Grandma Houses
- Rwanda Businesses
- Feeding Hungry
- Registration/
Sponsors Form 4
- 30 Post-secondary Students
- Leave A Legacy
Swinging@AIDS in August, 2023



Well-Known Kenyan Speaker Headlines Spring is a Time for H.O.P.E. Brunch

An internationally renowned speaker born in Kenya will highlight this year's annual "Spring is a Time For HOPE Brunch at the University of Denver on Saturday, April 22, at 11 am. Rev. Grace Imathiu, Evanston, Illinois, will share the story of how AIDS has ravaged her country and left millions of vulnerable children. The Center at \$200 each supports 310

children each year. This event needs sponsors to raise the \$62,000 required. **Why not be one of the "Kenya Big Five" sponsors?** Levels of giving are Elephant (\$5,000 +), Lion (\$2,000+), Leopard (\$1,500+), Rhinoceros (\$1,000+) or Cape Buffalo (\$200+) Music will be by the incomparable **Daryl J. Walker** of Park Hill UMC & pianist Dr. Michael A. Williams. The MC will be **Justin Levy** of the University of Denver. **Register at Center website (QR code) to attend or to sponsor.** Center Director **Clietta Terry** serves as event chair.



Humanitarians of the Year Named: Marla Petrini & Kelly Triplett

The Center Board of Directors unanimously named lawyer Marla Petrini & musician Kelly Triplett of Jacksonville, Florida, as the 2023 Humanitarians of the Year. Long active in supporting Center projects in Asia & Africa, together they have funded the Spring Brunch for sixteen years, aiding innumerable AIDS orphans in Kenya. As a former Center Board member (now honorary), Marla led the way in ensuring anti-discrimination policies & developing new programs. Kelly has shared her extraordinary musical talent at numerous Center fund-raising events. They have encouraged human rights by funding programs for LGBTQ+ persons in Africa. They will be honored at the 2023 Denver "Swinging at AIDS" golf benefit on August 8.



Coping with COVID & AIDS in India

Center Executive Director, Dr. Don Messer, returned to India in January to visit people impacted by both COVID and HIV in recent years. "Overnight many children experienced the loss of their parents due to the severe COVID epidemic," says Messer. "Medicine to treat HIV became nearly impossible to obtain because of lock-downs." Center partners working in Kolkata, Chennai, & Namakkal, however, found ways to reach out to provide nutrition & medical care. While in India, Messer spoke to young nurses in training, met children in an AIDS orphanage in Kolkata, & visited in the homes of widows & orphans.

Don Messer confers with nursing students



Don Messer visits COVID widow & orphan



Stigma Still Kills: in Memory of Murugun



Murugun with older brother & sister in early years

For many years when I visited India with friends we would stop in a small one room child-led home, headed by the oldest teenage boy, who lost both of his parents to AIDS. He left school to polish eggs at a nearby factory to earn money for the family. The three children were almost poster children of India's AIDS pandemic and the Center's response. Center donors helped improve the house with an inside toilet, pillows, furniture, electricity, etc. The sister was enabled to get an education, even finishing a college degree. The youngest, Murugun, was HIV positive, and was provided special attention to ensure he got life-saving medicine, a bicycle, and an opportunity to go to school.



But eventually stigma and discrimination killed Murugun. He could no longer deal with society's mistreatment. At school he suffered bullying. As he reached his teen-age years he finally dropped out & rejected medication. When employers found out he was HIV positive, he was fired from his menial job washing dishes in a café. He apparently felt there was no hope; he ended his life by suicide. Medical progress over the past 40 years has been substantial, but no pill wipes out ignorance and bigotry. Educating the human mind about what causes HIV & expanding human compassion remain key dimensions of the Center's mission. Join us in this global struggle.

Donald E. Messer, Executive Director

Want to hear about our important work more often? Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter!
Visit our website for more information.

Red Concert in Tucson Benefits Center & Tucson Interfaith HIV & AIDS Network

Good
Trouble



\$10,000
Challenge

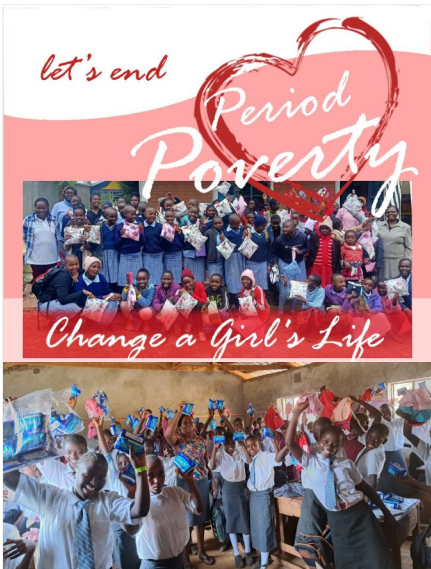
Scan to go to the
Center website



Scan for
Red Concert
Tickets



Sunday, April 2, at 5:00 pm friends will gather at Three Canyon in Tucson, Arizona, to hear & dance to the "Good Trouble" musicians. A unique fund-raiser, money received benefits both the Center's drug addiction program in Meru, Kenya, and the Tucson Interfaith HIV & AIDS Network (TIHAN) outreach to persons living with HIV. A \$10,000 challenge grant has been offered by generous donors. Even if you can't attend at \$25 each, you could be a sponsor & help meet the challenge. Sponsors are Good Trouble Accomplice (\$1,500), Ally (\$1,000), Advocate (\$500), Supporter (\$250), & Friend (\$100). Check out www.centerforhealthandhope.org or use the QR Code to buy tickets.



Period Poverty Impacts HIV Pandemic

Around the world impoverished young women suffer menstruation without sufficient sanitary supplies. Called "period poverty," girls miss at least five days of school a month. Some sit at home; others get infected from using abandoned mattresses or blankets. Others tear pages from their school books. Desperate for help, they are vulnerable to older men with money. Many end up pregnant or infected with HIV. In response, the Center supports programs in Kenya to distribute sanitary supplies at \$25 per girl.

Another key program is being developed to manufacture re-usable supplies, & to instruct young women about the dangers of disease & female genital mutilation. Period poverty contributes to the fact that every week around 5,000 young women aged 15-24 become infected with HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, women & girls account for 63% of all new HIV infections. Send the Center your gifts to help stamp out period poverty!

Sixteen "Grandmother Houses" Being Built

For \$3,000 a home can be built for an impoverished grandparent caring for their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS in Africa. Church members in Estes Park started out building one home at Christmas but ended up raising money to build five! A young man in South Dakota heard his aunt was building one, so he also gave \$3,000. A couple in Georgia has pledged to build a home every year. Thanks to these persons and other donors, the Center is currently building sixteen homes! What about you?



One room shack replaced by two room house with solid foundation.

Besides a home, you also provide school fees & books for the children, health insurance for the family, mattresses, and bedding. All for \$3,000!



Two Rwanda LGBTQ+ Businesses Started

Persons living with HIV & LGBTQ+ persons often experience employment discrimination. In response Center visionary donors previously started a hair salon. Now a sewing project in Rwanda has been established and a brick-making program that will employ twelve persons is being initiated. Headed by Augustine Bahati, these projects combat stigma, promote human rights, and provide economic security for the marginalized.



Registration & Sponsorship Form: SPRING IS A TIME FOR H.O.P.E. April 22, 2023 (Cut and Mail)

___ Persons @ \$100 each for first two tickets ___ for 3rd person at \$50
___ I cannot participate but enclosed is a gift of \$_____ for orphans

Kenya Big Five Sponsorships Available:

___ **Elephant** (\$5,000+): Named event sponsor & table for 10 guests
___ **Lion** (\$2,000+): Support 5 orphans & table of 10 guests
___ **Leopard** (\$1,500+): Support 4 orphans & table of 8 guests
___ **Rhinoceros** (\$1,000+) Support for 2 orphans & table of 4 guests



Kenya-Food/Cooking



Rwanda-Journalist



Kenya-Midwife



India-to USA

Post-Secondary Education in India, Kenya, & Rwanda: Creating Hope for Impoverished Youth

Young people, either orphaned because of AIDS or with poor parents or because they are LGBTQ+ rarely have an opportunity for an education, much less to pursue college. Now 30 top students are receiving post-secondary scholarships in Kenya, India, & Rwanda, thanks to donors. **Do you want to support a scholar?** Funding varies from a total of \$2,000 to \$6,000, depending on program and years of study. **Or could you buy them a computer at \$400?** Those funded include a future plumber, journalist, electronics engineer, mid-wife, orthopedic specialist, medical assistant, and teacher. We celebrate that one of the students in India we have supported received a full scholarship at Dordt University in northwest Iowa!

The Future Depends on People Like You: Leave a Legacy of Love & Life

None of us live forever, but we can influence life into the future by the way we designate life's resources & estates. Regardless of how much we accumulate over the years, we cannot take it with us! But we can make a difference by ensuring our written will specifies how we want our money and properties shared with family, friends, & charities we cherish.

Have you included the Center in your will?

Would you like to consider leaving a gift for the Center's future work?

If your answer to either question is YES, then please contact Don Messer at 303 877 1955 or globalaidsalids@gmail.com

All donations are tax deductible (ID 20-4199173)

Save the Date: Swinging at AIDS Golf Tournament

Even if golfing is not "your thing," you can join in the annual "Swinging@AIDS" golf benefit scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, at the popular Denver City Park Course. You can recruit golfers or be a sponsor! Or you can solicit silent auction items! We also need many volunteers as this is a key day for fun and raising funds to support our work around the world. Check our website for silent auction solicitation forms, golf registration, & sponsorships—or contact Don Messer at globalaids@gmail.com Our golf tournament specializes in diversity of gender, race, skill, sexual orientation, and age. You are needed!

