

Mufindi Orphans, Inc.

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HABARI YA MUFINDI



A quarterly Newsletter designed to inform donors about progress made in the implementation of the Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project in Mufindi District of Tanzania, East Africa.

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2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's 2007 Annual Report—Excerpts

The Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project (MHOP) came together and took off in 2007. During the year the original plans were modified and expanded to include hospital construction not included in the original budget. At present the Project comprises the following major activities:

- Orphans Center
- Outreach Programme
- Igoda Village School Support
- AIDS Prevention & Treatment Programme

There are now 3 completed orphans houses occupied by children with nowhere else to live. Construction of a 4th house has been started. For a time there were many more candidate orphans than could have been housed in the orphans houses. However, in accordance with government policy, children who could be cared for by relatives in the village were not accepted into Project housing. For this reason it was necessary to develop an Outreach Programme to assist families willing to take orphans into their homes.

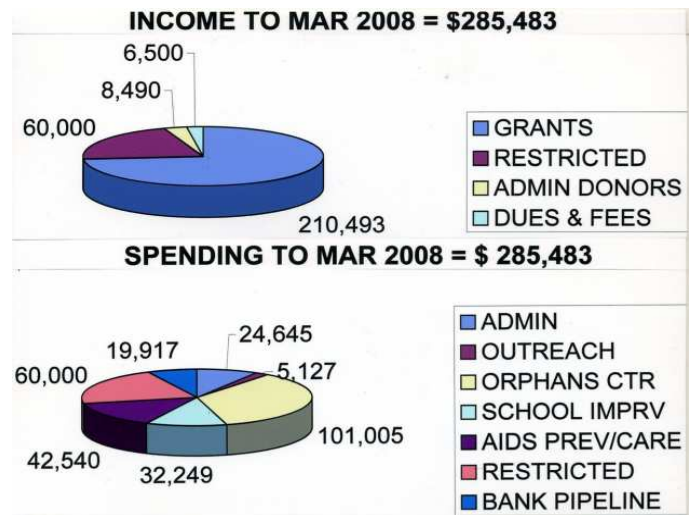
Kate Ney volunteered her expertise and services to this work. By the end of 2007 the Outreach Programme had found homes for 124 orphans and provided the surrogate families with subsidies on a case by case basis. Subsidies included house building and repairs, food, school expenses support, and transportation expenses for seeking treatment of HIV and AIDS at distant hospitals.

Kate also headed up a census of HIV/AIDS victims in Igoda and 3 nearby villages. The study showed that well over 20% of the total population were infected. However, 60% of the 18 to 40 year olds have already contracted the disease.

The Project has dedicated \$20,000 to fund 2 volunteers from Student Partnership Worldwide (SPW) who will live in the villages and provide advice to all young people on the dangers facing them from HIV/AIDS and ways to avoid infection. This activity is scheduled for the next 2 years and aims to minimize the spread of the disease.

The Project completed work, started at the Igoda Primary School in 2005, to add 6 new classrooms and refurbish the 6 original rooms that had originally provided classrooms for 520 children. In addition, the African Children's Book Box Society provided funds for building a teaching library at the school. That group also brought in books which their members organized and shelved. In addition, the Orphans in the Wild organization in UK provided school books and classroom supplies.

PROJECT FUNDS STATUS



NOTES ON FUNDS ALLOCATION:

- Funds shown above include only money that has gone through the Project bank accounts. Administrative costs have been totally covered by funds solicited expressly for that purpose. (Admin Donors & Dues shown above)
- Restricted Funds are donations made for specific Project programs or activities not yet underway.

Having no facilities in which to practice medicine, Dr. Patrick Ney took on the engineering and supervision work to build and equip 2 major medical units at Mdabulo and Ibwanzi. His work was entirely funded and supported by MHOP donations and staff.

The Mdabulo Mission hospital had been constructed of bricks and mud mortar 70 years ago and most of it had to be torn down and built anew. By the end of 2007, Dr. Patrick had constructed a building complex that contains a very smart & complete maternity unit, 2 doctors' examination rooms, another 2 rooms for temporary HIV/AIDS testing & treatment, showers, and toilets. The new facility will service 45,000 people in 19 villages. Some 105 patients were treated in 2007, but many more had to be turned away due to lack of staff, medicines, and room at the facility.

The Tanzanian government had recently rebuilt a Dressing Station for dispensing pills and providing basic medical care for about 20,000 people in the surrounding area. There was no money for more extensive facilities. MHOP (Dr. Patrick Ney) started on a major expansion to provide a treatment room, 10 wards, storage, toilets, and showers. At end 2007, building work is well advanced and completion is scheduled for June 2008.

President's Message

We have a lot of very positive developments to report following our late February 2008 trip to Tanzania.

The Fox Community & Wildlife Conservation (FCWC) team managing the Project in Tanzania has done a superb job and the other organizations involved in this effort like Orphans in the Wild (OITW), Equip Canada (Dr. Patrick & Kate Ney), and the African Children's Book Box Society (ACBBS) (Ruth James & Anne Pearson) are making significant contributions with their financial support, donations in kind, and expertise.

The latest good news is that we have had a first-ever clinic for AIDS patients in the immediate communities we serve. Members of the Project team and local government personnel combined their efforts and resources to administer anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines to local AIDS sufferers.

- There were 50 registered AIDS patients who showed up who previously traveled two days to the distant Mafinga Care & Treatment Center (CTC) by bus every month to get their medicine.
- In addition, there were 55 AIDS patients who had never received ARV medicines before.
- Among this group of 105 patients treated during the clinic opening, were 20 children.
- There are 600 registered AIDS patients in the local communities who need such treatment and there are likely many others who have never been tested.
- Access to these medicines means life or death to these people.

The top current priority for Mufindi Orphans Inc., and the other organizations supporting the Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project, is to fund the establishment of a local CTC so that the delivery of ARV medications can be accomplished continuously and at a scale matching the need for such treatments and to ensure continuous staffing of key Project positions with qualified personnel.

We have received a very generous donation from the Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation in Oregon which will cover half the estimated cost of building a CTC locally. The plans are drawn and a site adjacent to the Mdabulo Hospital has been selected. There we have electric power which is not the case in most rural areas.

The couple who have done so much this past two years to identify the scope of the local HIV-AIDS problem, and to organize ways to deal with it, will be repatriating to Canada before June 2008. Dr. Patrick Ney and his wife Kate have been completely self-supporting in terms of the financial requirements during their mission in Tanzania. It is unlikely we will find similar skills and experience with the same kind of funding, so we must also find ways to support their successors. FCWC has identified some good candidates, presently living in Tanzania, already fluent in Kiswahili, who have expressed interest and availability in carrying on the work the Neys have started.

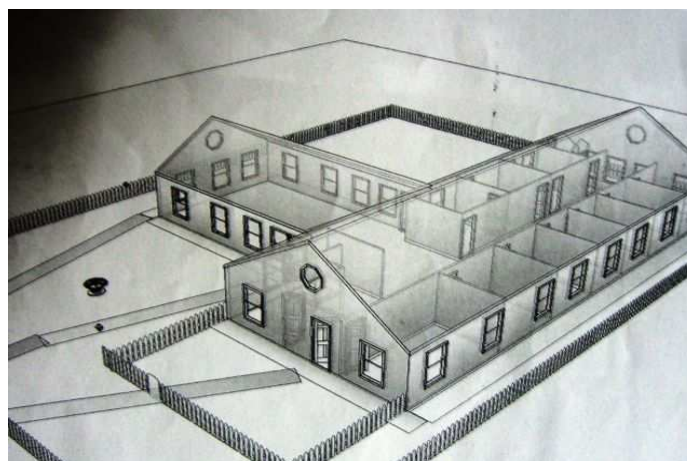
Gary Drobnack—MOI Director/President



ABOVE: Opening day for the renovated offices and treatment rooms at the Mdabulo Hospital. HIV/AIDS examinations and treatment given for the first time in the local area.—Dec 2007



ABOVE: School children chasing after the visitors' vehicle to extend their good-byes as long as possible. February 2008



ABOVE: A schematic drawing of the new HIV/AIDS Care & Treatment Center (CTC) to be built at Mdabulo Mission. February 2008