

Mufindi Orphans, Inc.

(a 501-C-3 Public Benefit Oregon Corporation)

90420 Hill Road

Springfield, OR 97478

Tel : (541) 747-2246

Fax : (541) 747-2236

Email : info@mufindiorphans.com

Website : www.mufindiorphans.com

HABARI YA MUFINDI



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

Volume 4, Issue 4

31 December 2009

ROUNDING OUT 2009

Geoff Knight's Report – December 2009

We apologize for the tardiness of this edition. Jenny and I have been in the US and Canada welcoming the arrival of our first child! We do hope you excuse this delay, and we promise to be more punctual in future editions! Now for news of Mufindi and the special events that rounded out 2009.

December 1st, 2009 was the 21st annual World AIDS Day. This global event encompasses the spirit of AIDS prevention education, and passes on the message to countless people suffering with the disease that there is hope with treatment. This is the type of message we hope to put across at functions in our new Community Hall in Igoda village. (Picture bottom right)

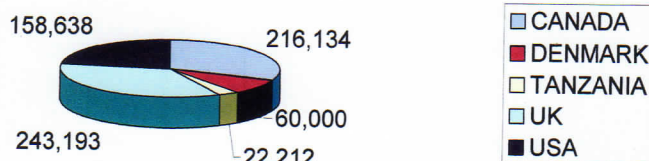
The Community Hall is a huge facility that will have many purposes, and will be host to a bevy of events, performances, seminars, weddings, and other celebrations. The Hall will also serve as a focal point in the village for increasing community awareness of the nature of HIV/AIDS, and further break down the stigmas associated with the disease.

This year, on World AIDS Day, the Community Hall was opened by the Regional office in Iringa, who hosted the official World AIDS Day event for the entire Iringa Region (population ~ 1.7 million). Over 1000 people were present on this momentous day, and it was the perfect event for the village to start up the facility. (Picture top right)

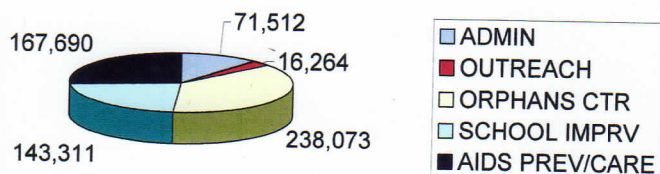
Continued on page 2

PROJECT FUNDS STATUS

INCOME TO DEC 2009 = \$700,177



SPENDING TO DEC 2009 = \$ 700,177



NOTES ON FUNDS STATUS: - Donations by country of origin. All funds have gone through the Project bank account.



Geoff Knight—(continued)

The Hall will be useful for many other purposes as well, from a meeting place for grandmothers and mothers to discuss issues in the village, to a venue for hosting regular tribal traditions-like oral history. It will also have a room dedicated for Adult Education.

Adult education is perhaps the most important key for integrating into the village. Through adult education, and the connections made there, community development committees for Orphans' care have been formed. Also, by educating adults, a ripple effect takes place. Educated adults will, in turn, teach their children. This will result in a shared experience. Children can also get help outside of school hours, and the development of their education as a whole is improved.

All of this will hopefully make the Community Hall one of the final steps to pushing this grassroots movement of AIDS awareness and education to its apex. We must give a very special thanks to the African Children's Book Box Society for funding this project in its entirety.

The community Hall will be a perfect complement to the Mdabulo Care and Treatment Clinic which has been completed and only awaits furnishing. A USAID funded organization called Tunajali (we care) has promised to provide most of the furniture and medical resources for the CTC facility.

The CTC is a vital addition to this community, which has been deeply affected by the AIDS pandemic. The Mdabulo clinic has been the sole location for HIV testing since it started testing in 2005. Since then the percentage of those who have tested positive are a staggering 35%.



Above - Finishing up the interior of the new AIDS CTC (Care & Treatment Center) building.
Jenny Peck—Feb 2010

We give so many thanks to the sizeable donation from the Rosaria Haugland Foundation, and to the tireless efforts of the members of the M.O.M. challenge who raised funds for the Project by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. This effort went a long way to raise awareness about the Mufindi community and the enormous impact HIV has brought to its people.

This entire project was made possible by donations from Mufindi Orphans, Inc. We here give special thanks to all those who have made donations and become a part of this special project!



Above— The Community Hall stage awaiting the next show or event.
Geoff Knight—Feb 2010