

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 the Mufindi District of Tanzania, East Africa. A Project supported by Mufindi Orphans, Inc..

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CARE & TREATMENT FACILITY

Mdabulo CTC Update

History

Prior to April 2008, our Mufindi area lacked the expertise, facilities, and medicines to detect and treat people for HIV/AIDS. Only a small minority of village people, who could afford it, managed to travel outside the District for HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. The nearest government facilities equipped to help people with HIV/AIDS were in Lugoda and Mafinga, which are both 4 to 8 hours away by bus. But even the more fortunate were out of luck when the pot-holed gravel roads become impassable during the rainy season.

Early in 2008, the Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project (MHOP) entered a partnership agreement with the Tanzanian Government in which District Hospital staff, accompanied by a mobile care and treatment clinic, would visit MHOP twice a month. This provided the first care for HIV/AIDS sufferers in our local villages.

This proved a great success for a short time. However, in no time at all, over 1000 patients registered for help and the system became overwhelmed. It was soon apparent that a stand-alone full-time Care and Treatment Clinic (CTC), built on the Project site, was needed.

The cost to provide a CTC in Mdabulo was estimated at US\$35,000. In mid-2008, the USA-based Mufindi Orphans (MOI) nonprofit corporation received a donation in this amount from the Rosaria Haugland Foundation and granted the funds to MHOP. Construction started on the CTC building immediately. By October 2010 the building was ready, government certification for the facility was secured, and the Mdabulo CTC opened its doors to local HIV/AIDS victims for testing and treatment.

Recent Developments

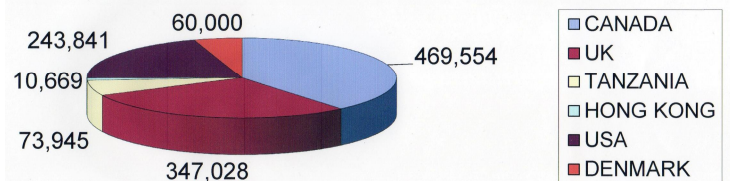
This year, our friends from the African Children's Book Box Society (ACBBS) in Canada donated a CD4 machine to be used in the CTC to determine the course of medication each patient should receive based on accurate white blood cell counts. The addition of this machine now makes the CTC a full-treatment facility for diagnosis and routine treatment of HIV/AIDS.

The way this machine works is fairly simple. Each patient's CD4 count is a measure of how badly HIV has affected their white blood cells. Once the CD4 count is known, the exact dosage of retroviral drugs may be determined and administered to the patient. Prior to the CD4 machine arrival, there had to be some guess work involved in determining the treatment needed. In some cases, the guesses were inaccurate with fatal results. Hopefully, that danger is now a thing of the past.

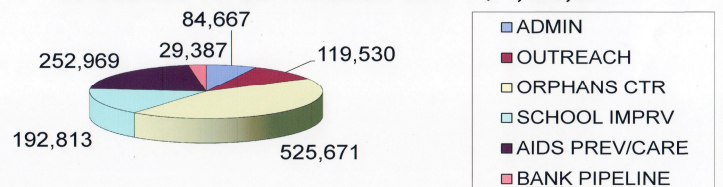
In addition to the CD4 machine donation, the ACBBS also provided funds to support a full-time Lab Assistant. This person now runs the machine as well as being in charge of all of the laboratory resources at Mdabulo.

(Cont. Page 2)

INCOME TO SEPTEMBER 2011 = \$1,205,037



SPENDING TO SEPTEMBER 2011 = \$ 1,205,037



NOTES ON FUNDS STATUS: - Donations by country of origin. All funds have gone through the Project bank account. Bank Pipeline includes Work-in-Progress



Mdabulo Care and Treatment Clinic (CTC) completed. The doors of the CTC opened in October 2010, and it has been the center for HIV treatment in the area ever since with over 1,500 patients registered to date.

Photo Geoff Knight—September 2011

(Cont. from Page 1)

These developments for HIV treatment have gone a long way toward better overall health care in the community resulting in healthier parents and, hopefully, a vast reduction in the numbers of orphans in the future.

Impact

Since opening, the CTC has tested over 1500 patients and issued antiretroviral drugs to those found to be HIV positive. Having the CTC in the Project area has allowed the local populace to learn more about the nature of the HIV/AIDS disease and decreased the stigma attached to the malady. People are no longer afraid to openly discuss HIV/AIDS and willingly talk with the CTC medical staff about their fears and misunderstandings. More and more people now volunteer for testing after assurances that they will not be ostracized should they be found positive to the virus. People have also become more willing to practice preventative measures to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. There is now hope that the HIV/AIDS pandemic will soon be stopped, or greatly reduced, and not be a threat to future generations.

Going forward

The Mdadulo health facility, with the new CTC, is centered in a 16 village area which had been severely ravaged by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. These improved health facilities will enable the community to provide better health care for all orphaned and other vulnerable children in the community and to spend more time at improving the poor economic situation in the area.

Geoff Knight—Project Administration Manager
Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust (Tanzania)



A CTC cook making lunch for the CTC staff. A lovely smile goes a long way toward making a happy environment. Luckily Mufindi has more smiles per capita than anywhere else in the world. At least that's the opinion of everyone who's visited the area.

Photo Ronnie Fischer—September 2011



A schoolboy with his cup of uji for lunch. Prior to the school lunch program, children had to go all day without food. Many walk more than 5 miles to school and back. School meals have helped assuage students' hunger as well as improved school grades and over-all department. Sometimes small things are huge.

Photo Charley Sweet—Sept. 2011



Catherine Mbata, the Lab Attendant at the Mdadulo Health Facility and Care and Treatment Clinic, poses in front of the all-important CD4 machine that is key for HIV treatment. Catherine also is in charge of all laboratory resources at Mdadulo.

Photo Geoff Knight—August 2011