



ROTARIANS FOR FIGHTING AIDS INC.

A Rotarian Action Group

Mobilizing Rotarians to Fight AIDS

A Message from Marion....



December 29, 2009

Dear RFFA Members and Friends,

As I look back on this past year of RFFA activities, I am proud of what RFFA has accomplished through Rotary clubs and districts all over the world. Our primary beneficiaries continue to be the orphans and vulnerable children of Africa.

Working with our ANCHOR partners - HOPE worldwide and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation - we helped provide care and support for approximately 25,000 children in 2009. RFFA has also disbursed about \$100,000 in Orphan Rescue funds to Africa, educating and clothing approximately 340 orphans.

We continue the first phase of our work with the "Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation" in Kenya,

working through the Rotary Clubs of Nairobi and their Rotary Community Corps. We will reach thousands of children through the local RCCs because their members are leading the Nairobi Kidz Clubs and delivering positive messages to the younger children about healthy living practices that prevent new HIV infections.

In partnership with Coca-Cola, RFFA also began the renovation of a community school in Lusaka, Zambia, that will provide education and life skills training for 240 orphan children there.

Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc. continues to link the resources of international Rotary clubs and districts with the needs of African HIV/AIDS projects. We have strengthened our infrastructure to operate more effectively and efficiently. We have added two past Rotary International Directors to our Board: Mike McGovern and Paul Netzel who bring us skills and knowledge needed to accomplish our goals.

Finally, here is a "sneak preview" announcement: RFFA is launching an online community BLOG in January, called "Reagan's Pledge." We will encourage you to write letters to me and to Reagan, sharing your interest and own stories about HIV/AIDS and the orphan children. More later....

Let us all work together to break the silence on HIV and build momentum within the Rotary domain AND the public domain so that we can be global leaders in reducing the HIV infection rate.

Thank you everyone for your caring and support. Have a Happy and Peace-filled New Year in 2010.

Warmest wishes,

Marion Bunch
Founder & CEO

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World AIDS Day Celebrated in Nigeria

as reported by RFFA Board Member and past ADG District 9110, Olu Olowu

In September, 2009, a donation of O.R.K.s [Orphan Rescue Kits] were made to 120 Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The event was chaired by District Governor Tayo Alabi and organised with HOPEworldwide.

In October, RFFA and the District AIDS committee hosted a workshop on HIV/AIDS for all clubs' AIDS committee chairs and I addressed a district Multi-Club meeting (14 clubs) on Project Link with RFFA.

In December, an HIV/AIDS seminar was organized by RFFA and the District AIDS Committee and was held at the Rotary Center. In addition, youths at the RYLA camp were addressed on the topic HIV/AIDS and YOU.

On December 5 RFFA took a number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children to the Family of Rotary Picnic. Here are a few of the pictures of the children enjoying the day.



For the World AIDS Day event RFFA invited all Rotarians to join the HOPEww 10km HOPE WALK. Participants held signs urging spectators to Know their Status, to avoid HIV/AIDS and to honor Christmas and the spirit of giving. A shot of the walkers, including Rotarians and OVC is shown below and to the left. Below and to the right, District Governor Tayo Alabi (sitting at the left side of the table) and his spouse pose with some of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children.





WORLD AIDS DAY ACTIVITIES IN ZAMBIA

reported by Lucie Kasanga to RFFA Chair and Past District Governor of District 9250 Mark Doyle

The Rotary Club Presidents of Lusaka, Zambia have taken a number of actions to mark World AIDS Day:

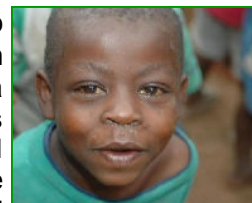
We have sent an e-mail to the National AIDS Council of Zambia asking them to include us in their programmes. We are printing T-Shirts for all RFFA members in all 7 clubs in Lusaka - By the President of Lusaka Central - RC. We will conduct an awareness sponsored walk and form for Distribution are being produced by President of Pamodzi - RC. The money raised will go into RFFA Zambia account HWW [Hope Worldwide] sponsored Children's program. We will also partner with HWW, who are have planned an activity with Children (Details are yet to be communicated).

HELPING REAGAN'S DREAM COME TRUE A Thank You to Gerald Robinson

RFFA's DVD featuring the Orphans and Vulnerable Children of Nairobi, Kenya and a young boy's dream of becoming a leader for his country has inspired many people to help make Reagan's Dream come true and to help other children affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic achieve their dreams.

Over the past few years, **Gerald Robinson** of the **Flower Mounds [Texas] Rotary Club** has raised over \$16,000 for Orphan Rescue. Since it became available, he has been showing the Reagan's Dream video and holding a silent auction. As **RFFA Founder and CEO Marion Bunch** said "What a story, committed individual Rotarians that have not only sponsored Orphan Rescue but ALSO have been motivated by the Reagan's Dream video. What a wonderful and inspiring Christmas gift that is for us at RFFA."

Gerald has further inspired another member of his club, Eric Jacobson, to go to Africa. Eric has recently sold his company and is "evaluating a move from success to significance." He will be participating in a Walk of Hope in Kenya sponsored by the Convoy of Hope and wrote "It is true that the Reagan's Dream video helped close an ongoing battle within me as to whether or not I was to go to Africa..... I would love to get connected with the Rotary team while there.....Marion, the video you invested so much time into really was the final inspiration I needed to take this step. I would be honored to speak to you soon."



VISIT US IN JANUARY FOR REAGAN'S PLEDGE!

In early January, RFFA is launching an online community BLOG called "Reagan's Pledge." Please visit us then to meet Reagan and his friends and to tell us about your experiences and plans to help!



Support the HIV-Free Generation in Kenya by helping RFFA. Go to WWW.RFFA.ORG and click on any of the projects to find out how to help. Keep your support going and get our latest news by joining **RFFA** today!

The smiling faces of children and the knowledge that you are helping to bring hope to a new generation mean so much!





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HIV/AIDS in the News: More is needed for children

Progress on paediatric HIV not enough JOHANNESBURG, 30 November 2009 (PLUSNEWS)

Some headway has been made in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and young people, but too many are still needlessly infected, and receive little or no treatment, care and support.

This is according to Children and AIDS: The Fourth Stocktaking Report, launched on 30 November by UNICEF in partnership with UNAIDS, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The annual report examines evidence of progress in four key areas in 2008: prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), paediatric HIV care and treatment, prevention of HIV among adolescents and young people, and protection and support for children affected by HIV and AIDS.

The most significant progress was in PMTCT, with 45 percent of HIV-positive pregnant women globally receiving antiretroviral (ARV) treatment to prevent them passing HIV to their children; up from 24 percent in 2006.

Several countries with high HIV prevalence expanded PMTCT coverage to most pregnant women needing treatment: 73 percent in South Africa, 91 percent in Namibia and 95 percent in Botswana. Other countries lagged behind: in Nigeria only 10 percent of pregnant women with HIV were tested and treated to prevent transmission to their babies. The countries most successful at scaling up PMTCT incorporated their programmes into existing maternal and child health services, the report noted.

On the same day, WHO released new recommendations for PMTCT that include providing ARV treatment to all HIV-positive women from 14 weeks of pregnancy until they stop breastfeeding. The new guidelines are expected to further reduce the number of infected infants.

"In many high-income countries paediatric HIV has been virtually eliminated," commented Dr Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO. "This shows what is possible."

Approximately 38 percent of children living with HIV were receiving ARV treatment in 2008 - an improvement of nearly 40 percent from 2007 - but still less than the percentage of HIV-positive adults being treated. Without diagnosis and treatment, AIDS mortality in infants is highest in the first two months of life, but globally only 15 percent of babies were tested for HIV by the time they were two months old. The report pointed out that even an HIV-positive diagnosis did not guarantee a child would receive treatment. A Clinton Foundation study from eight countries found that 53 percent of HIV-positive mothers and their children were lost to follow-up after birth.

The situation of children orphaned or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS improved little in 2008, with only one in eight households caring for such children receiving medical, financial or educational assistance.

Underfunded and understaffed social welfare ministries struggled to deliver services to children affected by AIDS, leaving community and faith-based organizations to try filling the gaps. "The current economic crisis, if prolonged, is likely to worsen such outcomes unless efforts are undertaken to mitigate its impact," the report warned.

Despite modest increases among young people in their knowledge of HIV and how to prevent it, those aged 15 years to 24 years still accounted for 45 percent of new adult infections in 2008, with girls in sub-Saharan Africa by far the hardest hit. The report concluded that investments in HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment for women and children were paying off, but needed to be bolstered and used more wisely. Programmes should be informed by evidence, and constantly monitored and evaluated for impact.

"Children have a right to be born free from HIV," said Michael Sidibé, UNAIDS executive director. "No cost is too high for saving mothers and babies."

Partnership for an HIV Free Generation in Kenya

The Least of These...



Can Kenyan girls be both the greatest “at risk” group for new HIV/AIDS infections and, at the same time, the best hope for achieving the aggressive goal of reducing the new HIV infection rate by 50% in 5 years set by the Partnership for an HIV Free Generation? According to the CDC’s most recent data for Kenya (2007 KAIS), the forecast is yes absolutely they are both terribly vulnerable and the greatest chance for an AIDS free future.

Recent surveys specifically targeting Kenyan youth between the ages 15 to 19 revealed startling information.

Girls are four times more likely to become HIV infected than boys of the same age. As the girls grow older, 7 young women are infected between the ages of 20 to 24 contrasted against only 2 young men of the same years. Even worse, girls are two to three times more likely to die from HIV/AIDS before age 30 than their male peers.

The reality of these alarming numbers, and their importance for HIV/AIDS prevention in Kenya and other African countries, reflects the minimal value placed upon adolescent girls. In most emerging cultures, they occupy the very lowest socio-economic status in the community, especially if they are orphaned without protection from adult family.

Kenyan Proverb: Educating a girl is as useful as watering your neighbors field.

What can be done?

Over 70% of “out of school” children are girls. They need educations, safe living environments, and support to assure that they attend school and are allowed to stay throughout adolescence. Girl child marriages to older men are frequent when girls are orphaned. Their bodies are not considered their own, so they have no right to protect themselves from abuse, infection and early motherhood. When girls are educated about HIV, they have a better chance of protecting their health, but all that matters very little unless they are mentored and empowered to make their own choices.



If girls can get training and learn job skills, they are prepared for financially independent, productive lives. When a girl has resources, and understands how to use them, she reinvests them in her community at a much higher rate than boys do. And, these girls are the future mothers of Kenya.

Yet, only \$.005 of every aid dollar spent in the developing world is earmarked for girls.

Because HIV Free Generation recognizes the importance of girls, and the “Girl Effect” to their goal of reducing new HIV/AIDS infections by 50% within the next five years, the Partnership has established a working group to review all HIV Free Generation activities and services through a “Girl Effect” lens. We want to assure that girls’ needs for nutrition, safe spaces to grow and learn, education, job training, and the ability to participate in sports and civic activities are met. With these tools, she gains the power to control her own choices, her life, and her health with self-confident decisions and authority. (Continued on the next page>>>)



Partnership for an HIV Free Generation in Kenya (continued)

The Rest of the Story...

As Kenya's young population achieves mid-life, the dramatic and disproportionate difference between new, gender specific, HIV/AIDS infections begins to flatten, 10 women to 7 men in the ages between 26 and 29; 13 women to 9 men in the age group between 30 to 34 years and 11 women newly infected compared to 9 men in the age range between 36 and 39 years of age.

While more Kenyans than ever are being tested to learn their HIV status, only one in three people have ever been tested so far. Approximately 84% of HIV-infected adults do not know they are infected. Over one-half the population (56%) have never been tested and another 28% believe they are not infected based upon their last test.

Approximately 350,000 couples in Kenya are in relationships where one person has HIV and the other person does not. For the majority of couples, neither person knows that their sexual partner has HIV. In 78% of the cases, people do not know their partners' HIV status. Another 21% of couples are aware of the partners' status but believe they are HIV-uninfected.

Rotary International Coverage of RFFA Activities in 2009

Through the Rotarian Magazine and the Rotary International website, Rotary has recognized the many contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS that Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc. has made this year. October's issue of The Rotarian featured a profile of Founder Marion Bunch in the *Up Front* segment with special emphasis on the importance of the partnerships with the Coca Cola Africa Foundation, HOPE worldwide and PEPFAR (The President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief).



In connection with World AIDS Day, the RI website featured an article titled *Action group fights AIDS year-round*. The article begins: *As people around the globe observe World AIDS Day, 1 December, the group [RFFA] is continuing its work for a future free of HIV/AIDS. It recently joined the Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation, a U.S. government-coordinated coalition working to stem the spread of the disease among young people in sub-Saharan Africa.* The full article may be found at www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/091201_news_AIDSday.aspx

Also covered on the RI website in December was RFFA's role in the HIV/AIDS Free Generation project in Kenya. Titled *Rotarian Action Group joins AIDS prevention effort*, the article begins: *Rotarians for Fighting AIDS (RFFA), a Rotarian Action Group, has joined a broad coalition of organizations in a new initiative designed to combat the spread of AIDS among young people.*

Coordinated by the U.S. government, Partnership for an HIV-Free Generation is bringing together public- and private-sector leaders to create marketing campaigns that will promote healthy living among at-risk youth, and to monitor the effectiveness of the messages with cutting-edge market research. The initiative is being launched in Nairobi, Kenya, with the goal of reducing new HIV infections in 10- to 24-year-olds by 50 percent during the next five years. The full article is at www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/081216_news_rffa.aspx

Earlier in the year, RFFA's role in the Medical Mission to Kenya was highlighted on the RI Website.



Upcoming Events of Interest

RFFA, Inc. Founder and CEO Marion Bunch to Speak

During the next several months, Marion Bunch will be speaking at several District Conferences around the world. If you have the opportunity to attend one of these events, please introduce yourself!

- January 12: Los Angeles District 5280 Breakfast (see notes below)
- January 15: Rotary International/ RAGS meeting, San Diego
- March 16: Leave for Sydney, Australia; District 9700 Conference on 3/20;
District 9680 Conference on March 21st.
Fly to New Zealand (Bill Boyd country) - tentative
- April 1: Africa somewhere for The Coca Cola Africa Partners meeting.
- April 22/25: District 7620/7390 Conference in Pennsylvania area.
Return for D 6900 conference in Atlanta on Saturday.
- April 30: District 6930, Stuart, FL, conference keynote address.
- June 20-23: Rotary International Montreal convention (see article below)
- July 18-23: International Conference on HIV/AIDS, Vienna, Austria.

Notes on the Los Angeles District 5240 breakfast:

The breakfast resulted from a conversation between a senior executive of Warner Studios [RFFA's partner in the HIV Free Generation Kenya project] and a Rotarian friend who saw the RFFA Story video. Working with District 5280 District Governor Susan Sundberg, they arranged the breakfast. Another RFFA partner is PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) and the Office of Global AIDS (OGAC). PEPFAR representatives were invited to the breakfast and, as a result, Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley (Public/Private Partnerships) will introduce Marion and share the U.S. State Department's interest in HIV/AIDS in Africa. In addition, British Robinson (Director Public/Private Partnership, OGAC) and Sandra Thurman (former White House Global AIDS Coordinator for President Clinton and an ongoing consultant to the State Department) will be attending.

RFFA Presents Breakout Session at Montreal RI Convention

For the third consecutive year, **Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc.**, will host an informational session at the Rotary International Convention on [Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 13:45 to 15:15](#) at the Palais des Congres. Please plan to join us as two outstanding Rotary International Scholars talk movingly about living positively, with and without AIDS, and share their vision for an AIDS-free generation.

Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah, awarded a Rotary International World Peace Fellowship, will begin studies in peace and conflict resolution at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, in spring, 2010. "Kimeli" became a recognized international figure when he collaborated on the bestseller children's book, "14 Cows for America." He was born and raised in a Kenyan Maasai village and speaks about HIV/AIDS - its impact on the children of Africa and global peace.

Marion Bunch, Founder & CEO of RFFA, will talk briefly on what Rotarians can do to nurture more great young leaders like Kimeli



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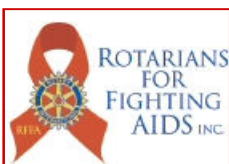
Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc. Adds Two New Directors to the Board

During the Strategic Planning Meeting in September, 2009, RFFA's Board of Directors voted to expand their total number of Directors while strengthening the organization's global reach and enhancing Rotary support for multi-national service projects.

Reflecting a deepening commitment to the orphans and vulnerable children of Africa, RFFA's work on that continent will be divided among four individuals, all members of the 2009-2010 Board of Directors. Chair of the Board, **Mark Doyle**, will continue to work in the capacity of Chairman and serve as RFFA's Director of Africa Operations. This will include the ANCHOR program work with HOPE worldwide, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, and Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and the projects in seven countries. **Olu Olowu**, RFFA's Director from Nigeria, will cover all activities in West Africa, including the ANCHOR Partnership's Orphan Rescue and Kidz Club projects. **Patrick Chisanga**, Vice Chair of the Board and Director from Zambia, supervises RFFA projects in Southern Africa (working with Mark Doyle) while PDG **Kaushik Manek** from Kenya joins the Board accepting responsibilities for oversight of all RFFA activities in Eastern Africa and coordinating participation of Kenyan Rotary Clubs and the HIVFree Generation projects, including forming and developing Rotary Community Corps and expanding Kidz Club programs.

Assisting Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc.'s fund raising activities, Past Rotary International Director **Paul Netzel** also joined the BOD. He will maintain a special focus upon Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in the Western United States.

OUR PARTNERS



United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)



Rotarians for Fighting AIDS, Inc.

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Marion Bunch, Founder & CEO

PDG Mark Doyle, Chair

District 9250, South Africa

PDG Patrick Chisanga, Board Vice Chair,

District 9210, Zambia

PDG Barry Smith, Corporate Secretary

District 6900, USA

Cathie Brumfield, CPA, Treasurer

District 6900, USA

Anne Glenn, Director Mktg & Comm.

District 6900, USA

Peter Sotheran, Chief Information Officer

District 1030, Great Britain

John Glassford, Board Member

District 9700, Australia

Past ADG Olu Olowu, Board Member

District 9110, Nigeria

Past RI Director and Past RI VP

Mike McGovern, Board Member

District 7780, USA

PDG Kaushik Manek, Board Member

District 9200, Kenya

Past Rotary International Director, Board Member

Paul Netzel