

Global Strategies for HIV Prevention



2006: A Year of Progress and Hope

December, 2006

"This is what we are about, we plant the seeds that will one day grow, we water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise." - Oscar Romero

The Democratic Republic of the Congo



In fall 2005, Global Strategies began a partnership with HEAL Africa, a faith-based organization located in Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Goma is situated at the epicenter of the 9 year war taking place in

eastern Congo, and in turn has become home to thousands of refugees. With support from Global Strategies, HEAL Africa began the first Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) program in Goma and was asked by the National AIDS Program in DR Congo to become the oversight for PMTCT programs in the region. As we move toward 2007, Global Strategies and HEAL Africa are expanding that effort and working to begin the first HIV related programs in the areas around Goma areas that have been the most severely impacted by the war. The year, 2007 will bring additional partnerships to our efforts in the Congo. The Clinton Foundation will begin supplying antiretroviral drugs to 500 children under the care of HEAL Africa. This program made possible by the delivery of a CD4 count machine from Global Strategies a crucial piece of equipment that helps to monitor the progress of patients receiving antiretroviral treatment. In addition, Global Strategies will begin a nutrition program to supply food to the children on treatment and other members of their families. Nutrition is a crucial part of helping a person tolerate the treatment for HIV, and in an area like Goma, with severe food shortages, supplying food is as critical to recovery as bringing in the medicines themselves.

Workshops

We conduct workshops in resource poor areas to bring hope to healthcare workers in regions neglected by other programs. Frequently these are located in recently stabilized regions where health care and training are desperately needed. Our vision is to train local healthcare providers, who in our absence, will train additional individuals and expand HIV prevention and care programs - A difficult workshops was held in



Liberia, "Land of the Free,". It was founded in 1847 by freed American slaves. From the language to the constitution, the country was modeled after the United States. However, after fourteen years of civil war (ending in 2003), there are few easy comparisons: average annual income is \$1,000, life expectancy is about 40 years, there is little running water or electricity. Yet, nestled into this country of just over three million



people, are many dedicated people who believe in freedom and hope for a better future. In 2003 we sent Nevirapine to St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia, unsure whether it would arrive. It did. This year, we journeyed to Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, to conduct a workshop on Mother-to-Child HIV transmission, prevention and treatment for health care providers and to see how we may want to partner there in the future. We found a number of HIV/AIDS programs already in place as well as a number of opportunities where there appears to be gaps in both education and funding. We are currently looking for partnerships to work in these areas. In 2007 we plan to return to conduct individualized training for health care providers.

Training Centers:

It has been less than three years since we conducted a Training Workshop on prevention of mother to child HIV transmission for traditional birth attendants at Faith Alive Clinic in Jos, Nigeria. Now, with the support of Bayside Church in Granite Bay, California, there is a brand-new three-story hospital with a training center to educate and train health care workers from surrounding areas. Over 2,000 individuals attended the opening ceremony in May. Importantly, following the workshop, the program brought volunteers, physicians, nurses, accountants, an architect and teachers to Nigeria all interested in meeting the needs of those infected with HIV and preventing its spread. Faith Alive is the first of our training centers bringing HIV education and care to the community. Working together with the Faith



Alive staff, the health, psychosocial and spiritual needs of those suffering from HIV are being met. Without adequate numbers of trained healthcare workers, community and spiritual leaders, HIV prevention and care efforts will fail.

Adopt-A-Healthcare Worker

"Today the biggest limiting factor for AIDS treatment in the developing world is the paucity of trained health care workers." Washington Post editorial by Holly Burkhalter, U.S. Policy Director, Physicians for Human Rights



While there are many reasons for the global shortage of health care workers, one of the leading reasons is that many health care are themselves infected.

Today, through the Adopt a Health Care Worker program, Global Strategies, Bayside Church of Granite Bay, Faith Alive Clinic, and Cameroon Baptist Convention have partnered to provide antiretroviral therapy for more than 46 health care workers. But this worthy start is only the first step of a long journey. At present, Africa is thought to have only one-third of the one million health care workers the continent needs to combat the blight of HIV. We need many more churches, groups and individuals to "adopt" health care workers. The process is simple and the cost is remarkably low. All it takes is a commitment to provide a staff member with antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV, Cotimoxazole (to prevent opportunistic infections), and anti-tuberculosis medication (if needed) for two years. Using generic fixed-dose drug combinations, the cost for each health care worker is less than \$250 a year. This is a good start, but we need more "Good Samaritans."

Postexposure Prophylaxis: After decades of observing the HIV epidemic increase it is now acknowledged that many healthcare workers are themselves at risk of infection as they care for HIV infected individuals. Losing even one healthcare worker to HIV infection if they were accidentally infected by a needle from an HIV-infected patient would be tragic. HIV infection following accidental inoculation can be prevented with the same drugs that prevent infection of infants born to an HIV infected mothers. HIV infection can also be prevented in a child or young woman following rape or sexual abuse. A combination of two drugs, zidovudine and lamivudine, given twice a day for four weeks is provided for prevention. This year we distributed 120 postexposure prophylaxis kits too hospitals and clinics in the area surrounding Goma, Congo. Each kit has detailed instructions in French on when to use the drugs and how to determine their effectiveness. The costs of operating this program was kindly funded by the Friedland Foundation.



Save a Life: Our Save a Life programs continues, funded through the Robert James Frascino Foundation, individual and faith-based donations, this is a streamlined, program where we are able to rapidly respond to underserved programs that need drugs now and cannot wait. We have provided nevirapine to over 85,000 HIV infected pregnant women and their infants and over 18,000 rapid tests. Distribution has been to over 70 hospitals and clinics throughout the world.



Hope Walks, Global Strategies most recent program works to raise awareness and support for orphans and vulnerable children particularly those affected by the HIV epidemic. The first Hope Walks event was held at the University of California, Berkeley in October of this year with the support of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, their college ministry "FoCUS" with funding from PBS/Frontline. Over 600 participants of all ages turned out for the walk and together they raised over \$75,000 - an amount that far exceeded our expectations for this pilot event. With 10 new cities from around the country showing interest in hosting a walk in 2007, we look forward to further supporting orphan programs around the world, and educating children here at home about the global orphan crisis.

Our Hope Walks program has grown so quickly that we have now hired a full time director for the program! Jenny Allen Brooks joined us in December of this year and will help to move this program forward in the coming months. Jenny was instrumental to the success of our first Hope Walks event and we are pleased to have her with us fulltime now. If you're interested in finding out more about Hope Walks, visit our new website www.hopewalks.org or email Jenny at hope.walks@gmail.com.



On behalf of the many that have benefited from your generosity thank you for your support in 2006.

Arthur J. Ammann MD, President
Global Strategies for HIV Prevention