



Newsletter December 2009

The First 10 Years!

This year we celebrated the tenth year of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention. It has been a time to reflect, and along with you, a time to see what has been accomplished and what impact we have had on the HIV epidemic.

Over these 10 years our mission has been to implement international strategies to prevent HIV infection by means of strategic alliances with those who share in a compassion for alleviating the suffering of women and children. We have focused on countries that face difficulties in accessing funding because of political and/or economic instability where poverty, slavery, and war often exacerbate the already rapid spread of HIV.



Workshop - Goma, Congo

Our philosophy was best expressed by a woman I met in Liberia last month, who was struggling to meet the needs for HIV prevention and care for the women in her country. “Your job is to facilitate. Our job is to implement.” Global Strategies does not insert itself as the dominant organization in faith-based or community-based health care programs. We work as partners, enabling others to meet the needs of their peoples. We identify local leaders who possess vision, accountability, and endurance.

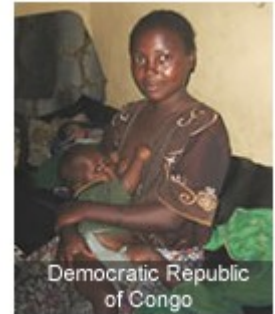
We facilitate by providing them with training and resources until they are able to sustain themselves.

Here are some of the things that have been accomplished in partnership with them and with you, our donors.

- More than \$22,000,000 has been raised for our programs
- Over 70 hospitals and clinics have been given anti-HIV medicines to save the lives of infants born to more than 85,000 HIV-infected mothers
- Through our Hope Walks program over 6,000 individuals have received education in the U.S. about the world wide epidemic of HIV orphans and vulnerable children
- Hope Walks has conducted 16 walks, in 7 cities across the U.S. raising more than \$500,000 in proceeds for programs caring for orphans and vulnerable children
- Over 2,000 children in nine orphan programs in eight different countries have received assistance including antiretroviral drugs for those who are HIV-infected
- More than 30 workshops and conferences have been conducted in 14 countries including Liberia, Dominican Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, India, and China
- More than 5,500 health care workers have been trained; More than 600 received scholarships to advance their training
- More than 35,000 copies of printed manuals and CDs have been distributed

- Training centers for HIV prevention and care have been established in Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria
- Combination antiretrovirals drugs and drugs to treat secondary infections have been distributed to thousands of women and children
- 1,000 doses of drugs for the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infection for women and girls victims of rape and sexual violence have been distributed in Eastern Congo.

What next? There is an emerging HIV epidemic fatigue. Most people acknowledge that this is one of the world's most devastating infections, affecting men, women, and children and disrupting relationships, entire families and communities.



Yet, HIV is no longer front page news. Some of us sense that 28 years into the AIDS epidemic many have grown “accustomed to the face” of the epidemic even as each year, on December 1, World AIDS Day, new numbers are announced - millions more infected and millions more have died. Like the economy, big numbers lose their impact. Billions vs. trillions of dollars become incomprehensible and whether it is 20 million or 30 million HIV-infected individuals, it may no longer move us to compassion.

We continue to try to put an individual face on the epidemic. Only then does it seem real. Many of our newsletters have been stories of individuals - families, orphans, children, fathers, mothers, and friends. They are reminders that we all want to be protected from diseases that threaten our own lives and the lives of those we love.



Your donations have made it possible to look back over ten years and say with confidence that we did act with compassion. We did prevent HIV infection. We did provide the medicines and food for those in need. We have no illusions. What we have done was for but a fraction of those in need, but they are in the most resource poor areas of the world and without your help they would languish.

As we focus on the next ten years we increasingly recognize that the HIV epidemic now selects against the poor and the most vulnerable of women and children. They require our advocacy as well as empathetic care and treatment. They need to be recognized as individuals and offered a compassionate refuge where they will be accepted and cared for – we will do what we can as we partner with those who are there every day and every hour providing HIV prevention and care for those in desperate need.

Sincerely,

Arthur J. Ammann MD. President