

Global Strategies for HIV Prevention



Newsletter

August, 2007

As you know, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has taken a severe toll on the world's children. Our world already holds more than 15 million children orphaned by AIDS and more than 2 million HIV-infected children under age 15. Many millions more have been caught in the horror of rebel attacks and warfare. Their lives are no less precious than our children's, yet their fate is unbearably cruel. Once you've looked into these children's eyes, their faces etch into your memory as a haunting reminder of injustice.

hopewalks
A PROMISE TO CHILDREN OF THE EPIDEMIC

Hope Walks, a program of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, helps raise awareness and support for these orphaned and vulnerable children around the world. We are pleased to report that Hope Walks has grown dramatically in its first year. It's now a lively and exciting program reaching children and families across the country and the world.

Over the past year, Hope Walks has held three educational fundraising events: Hope Walks Berkeley, California in October 2006 and Hope Walks East Bay, California in May 2007 benefiting Children of Grace in Jinja, Uganda and Hope Walks Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2007 benefiting the orphan programs of Heal Africa in Goma, Congo. Each walk generated incredible creativity from partner organizations, bringing new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to every event. The funds raised support the beneficiary organizations providing for orphaned and



vulnerable children's basic needs—food, clothing, shelter, school fees and uniforms—as well as general healthcare

necessities, including HIV testing and treatment provided by Global Strategies for HIV Prevention.

We are realizing our goal of educating U.S. communities about the plight of these children — thanks to the incredible participation of children, families and friends. The young people who have come to walk are especially moving. As I watch them waiting at the starting line, all smiles and enthusiasm, I can't help but compare their lives to those of the children they are walking for, and I am deeply touched by their empathy and compassion.

"They walked on long legs and short legs, strong ones and on little ones that would rather run.

They came in strollers and in groups of twos and threes and more. They came on their own and in whole family

groups. Along the route there were high school and university students cheering them on—they all came to walk for hope.

On that beautiful Sunday afternoon in October,

hundreds of walkers gathered on the UC Berkeley campus to take a stand for children suffering from the growing AIDS epidemic throughout the world. They walked for those who might never see their faces, for those they might never see."

- Laura Sera



"My son Jameson made me sit down in the Sunday school hallway and tell me all about Hope Walks and the children in need. He came up with the idea of a lemonade stand... So two weeks later, we set off [with his brother] for San Francisco with lemonade and cookies in hand... He went about asking everyone who walked by if they would like some lemonade. When they said yes, he told them that there were

some kids in Africa whose mommies and daddies were sick and that he was going to walk for them and send them money. Most were happy to give, but none more than a man who had just flown in from Eritrea. He hugged the boys and told them he was from Africa and how important what they were doing was and gave them \$20. Even a homeless man, who was pushing all of his possessions in a shopping cart, stopped and gave each boy a dime and a penny. By the end of the day they raised over \$150, but



more important, Hope Walks helped raise the conscience of two young boys and many passersby... "There is an old Chinese proverb, and one that I think best describes Hope Walks for me and my family, 'Teach me, and I will forget. Show me, and I will

remember. Involve me, and I will understand'."

- Jill Wang

We at Hope Walks would like to thank all those who have volunteered. You manned registration and first-aid tables, participated in set up and clean up, decorated and marked the route, greeted and gave directions to participants and encouragement to the walkers. You have been instrumental in ensuring that our events have been successful and a whole lot of fun. We would also like to thank and honor those who helped raise funds from friends, neighbors, relatives and more. The money you donated is already being put to good use. We admire those who took the time to educate their community about orphans and vulnerable children. You have shown that we are truly a village.

Finally, we want to thank the children for their enthusiastic efforts and the creativity they showed us in ideas like Jamison's

lemonade stand, the Upper Room Kids' Hope Café, and a Minneapolis fifth-grade class selling bumper stickers to help further educate and fund raise.

You have inspired us here at home and spread love across the world to the children who need it most.



We are looking forward to three more Hope Walks before 2007 ends: Berkeley, California on October 21, Davis, California on October 28 and Sacramento, California on November 10. Additionally, in the spring of 2008 we are very excited for Hope Walks Baltimore, MD, Hope Walks Morristown, NJ and the second annual Hope Walks East Bay and Hope Walks Minneapolis. There are so many ways that you can get involved in these events. We welcome any support you can offer and hope to see these next seven events touch even more children, family and friends, at home and around the world.

Please visit our Web site at www.hopewalks.org for updates on events and details of how to get involved.

Come, walk with us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Arthur J. Ammann".

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