

Global Strategies for HIV Prevention



Newsletter
September 2008

Volunteer Snapshot

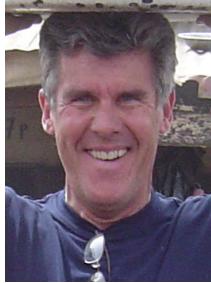
Volunteer: 1. (noun) One who enters into, or offers for, any service of his own free will. 2. (verb) To give or offer to give voluntarily as in volunteering to give blood.

Our volunteers may not donate blood (except to those voracious African mosquitoes), but they do donate their time and energy and pay their own expenses to make the journey to our programs across the continents. We are indebted to them and grateful on behalf of the hundreds who benefit. We have selected a few of the many volunteers to give voice to their stories. We would do a disservice if we gave the impression that we could condense their stories into a few paragraphs. However, here you can find a snapshot into the work they are doing. They have worked on bringing nutrition to children who are severely malnourished and improve communication over the thousands of miles that our programs span. They have chosen to devote their time and energy to what may be a simple task – peanut butter. But this is no ordinary peanut butter – it is life saving when it is made with supplemental carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins and minerals.



Timo Acosta is volunteer Program Director for Global Strategies *Lotoba* project in the Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern city of Goma. Previously, he worked for the world's largest property insurance company. In 2007, he resigned with the desire to make a larger impact on the individuals in his local and global community. Timo's commitment provides him with a vision of service. His abilities in leading small groups, experience in business and risk management, coupled with French and other language skills was an immediate asset in Goma where needs are too often overwhelming. Timo's commitment was to work on the nutrition project for the orphans and vulnerable children of Goma, which has since been named *Lotoba*, a local Swahili word meaning peanut butter. Six out of his last 12 months have been spent in Central Africa, the majority of that time in Goma working with Global Strategies for HIV

Prevention to establish a fortified peanut butter production facility to provide life saving nutrition for HIV infected children and determine the feasibility of using the project for income generation for widows.



Russ McCahan's journey started in a gym in Ft. Collins, Co. While exercising and watching television, he heard Anderson Cooper on CNN communicating the story of a mother who walked 17 miles to a feeding center to get supplemental food for her malnourished baby. The baby died. Russ was in tears. Thus began his journey. At the urging of Morgan Davis, Chairman of Global Strategies, Russ went to the Faith Alive Clinic in Jos, Nigeria to see firsthand the needs of people affected by HIV. This was his first trip to a resource constrained country and he saw the impact of malnutrition on HIV infected children. In spite of the potency of drugs for HIV, without food, they don't work, and the children fail to develop normally. Russ is a doer and great at networking. He found out about the life saving properties of fortified peanut butter, talked to a doctor in Malawi producing the peanut butter supplement, and in a short period of time returned to Jos, Nigeria, to start producing a fortified peanut butter. It will soon be distributed to four local hospitals after testing it for 200 malnourished children. The story does not end there. Russ' enthusiasm and energy was the motivation to implement the *Lotoba* program at HEAL Africa to provide nutrition to the over 350 HIV infected children in our program who suffer severe malnutrition. We are privileged to have Russ assisting us in Goma even as we also *quietly* urge him to help us in our Liberia program. Although we give credit to Russ, he gives credit to many great Nigerians at Faith Alive and the prayers of many of you.



Marian Roan wanted to bridge her background in nutritional science and international studies. What better way than to embark on her first journey to a resource poor country - the Dominican Republic? There she learned Spanish and conducted community-based research in public health and nutrition. The experience propelled her to continue training in community health program planning and evaluation. Now, a recent graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, she was overjoyed to join her interest in global health and nutrition with the Children's AIDS Program at HEAL Africa in Goma, Congo. She recently returned from a month in Goma volunteering with

Global Strategies for HIV Prevention. While in Goma, Marian worked with the *Lotoba* fortified peanut butter nutrition supplement program. Additionally, she aided in the development, training, and management of the Children's AIDS Program database that will be used to monitor and evaluate the nutrition supplement program supported by Global Strategies for HIV Prevention .

In her own words: I am driven by an inexplicable desire and passion to study, research, serve and advocate for those facing significant nutritional and health issues. I am thrilled beyond words to have been able to have this opportunity where I felt my training served me well. The health needs are so great in Eastern DR Congo. So many suffer the injustice of displacement and the tragedy of malnutrition. Global Strategies is critical in responding to this crisis through partnering with HEAL Africa and together using our blessings of talent and resources to serve alongside the Congolese.

Marian brings her Masters of Public Health (MPH) in Public Health Nutrition as well as her background in Maternal & Child Health to Global Strategies for HIV Prevention. She is a Registered Dietitian (RD) and currently working as an on-call clinical dietitian at Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland. In addition she is using her skills to write grants and solicit foundations for funding to conduct important program monitoring and evaluation research and expand the nutrition programs of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention..



Glenn Bean has been working on the *Lotoba* nutrition project in Goma, DRC for eight months. He traveled to Malawi and Congo in April to conduct research for a feasibility study for Global Strategies. He returned in August to initiate the setup of the fortified peanut butter supplement production facility. He comments, *Seeing the immediate physical impact of fortified peanut butter in Malawi was a breathtaking experience. I have no doubt that equal need and potential impact exist in Goma. I can't wait to start seeing results at HEAL Africa.*

Glenn became involved with Global Strategies through attending First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. He worked at an economic consulting company in San Francisco from 2005 to 2008 before accepting a position in the Harvard Business School class of 2010. Glenn enjoys baseball, BBQ, and good

coffee. Glenn would love to meet to discuss Goma if you are in the Boston area. A contemplation from Glenn: *Ever since ants on a log in kindergarten, I knew my life would be forever influenced by peanut butter.*



And then there is **Melissa Ho**, our volunteer communications expert, whose skills bring our *Lotoba* nutritional program, and many others, together by allowing us to network and communicate and build a resource for health care workers to improve patient care. Melissa is a PhD candidate in the School of Information at UC Berkeley, We were so very proud of her when she received the 2008 Yamashita Foundation's for Change Prize. She has worked in Ghana, India, Mexico, Rwanda, and Uganda with systems design and deployments with the Technology and Infrastructure for Emerging Regions (TIER) research group and is currently investigating how the introduction of mobile phone-based forms changes health information management in Uganda. Melissa has worked with us at Heal Africa in Goma, Congo to build Internet access and communication without which healthcare workers cannot improve their medical skills. She says that *her work is rooted in a deep desire to reconcile a gifting and geekiness in computer science with a deeply broken heart for the situation of God's people in Africa.* To that end her research is about how to make computer science and communicating work in Africa to alleviate poverty, and improve healthcare in developing regions.

These are no ordinary volunteers –

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.

-- Author Unknown

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Arthur J Ammann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Arthur J Ammann MD, President