

Love,
Life
&
Hope
for Kenyans living
with HIV and AIDS



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Sister Florence's February Visit

Sister Florence is coming to the United States February 8 to 28 to help launch the Immaculate Conception Parish of Elmhurst Lenten Project. During her two week stay, we hope you have the availability to visit with or host Sister Florence, and even introduce a few friends to our Mission. There are a variety of exciting events to attend – come to one, come to all:



Stop by after work for an evening refreshment with Sister Florence on Thursday, February 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Wheaton Franciscan Motherhouse.



Hear Upendo updates from Sr. Florence at all Masses of Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst Saturday, February 18 at 5:15 p.m. and Sunday, February 19 at 7:30, 9 or 11:30 a.m. or 5:15 p.m.

Spend an afternoon with Sister Florence at Kie&Kate Couture and Cuvée Cellars in Elmhurst following Sister Florence's presentations at Immaculate Conception. Shop new spring fashions, sip on a glass of wine or have an appetizer and socialize with Sister Florence and other Upendo supporters on Sunday, February 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome at Kie&Kate Couture; you must be 21 or older to enter Cuvée Cellars. Kie&Kate Couture and Cuvée Cellars will **donate 10% of purchases during the event to Upendo Village!** Come and support our cause!

Kie&Kate Couture
559 Spring Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Cuvée Cellars
545 Spring Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126



For more information on these exciting events, please contact Marybeth at mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org or 630.909.6604.

Capital Campaign

We are excited to announce that Upendo Village has launched a \$1.5 million fund raising campaign to support the building and modest furnishing of a Kitchen and Dining Area and a Social Services Center. Currently, Upendo staff members are cooking and serving for hundreds outside in all weather conditions. Food preparation work becomes more challenging during rainy and dusty days as the wetness and dust pose food contamination risks and other health risks to the clients. As a result, more often than not, during rainy days clients eat late or even forfeit lunch. Offices and counseling personnel must now use several clinic rooms, which are needed for clinic functions. When a Social Services building is ready, much needed room will be freed up in the clinic and community center. Also, security will be enhanced appropriately. Most of all, with this additional building space, a successful campaign will allow Upendo Village to serve more clients and save more lives, while reducing stress on dedicated staff members.

Please consider giving your support in order to help our brothers and sisters in Kenya. They rely on the resources provided at Upendo Village to live with dignity and hope for a future filled with the love they deserve.

Making a Difference — Transforming Lives



Millicent Achieng Aboge is forever grateful to Upendo Village for changing her life, giving her hope and allowing her to "live whole again." Through the work of Upendo Village and Joliet Missionary, Dr. Michelle Tansey, Millicent had a goiter removed from her neck. A goiter is an enlarged thyroid gland on the front and sides of the neck, usually symptomatic of abnormal thyroid secretion because of a lack of iodine in the diet. It is not cancerous but can cause discomfort and other life challenges. Millicent found it difficult to find and/or maintain jobs due to the cosmetic appearance of the goiter. She was asked by employers to have it removed on more than one occasion but was unable to do so due to her lack of funds. Millicent lived with the goiter for 17 years.

With the help of Upendo Village and donation from Dr. Tansey, the goiter was successfully removed. Since then, Millicent has opened up a small hair dressing business, believes in herself and the good of humanity and lives life to its fullest. Millicent is one of the many cases where Upendo Village and the direct involvement of the volunteers have positively change lives.

Current Events:

Measures of a Mission

The support of the Wheaton Franciscan System has been felt in a variety of ways by Upendo Village. The Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare's Mission is to live out the healing ministry of Jesus by providing exceptional and compassionate health care service that promotes the dignity and well-being of the people served. A group of individuals from Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group (WFMG) in Sussex, Wisconsin banded together to extend the Wheaton Mission beyond traditional medical care. Sussex Clinic associates raised more than \$750 to support the Sisters of Upendo Village. Their donation was used to help replace needed equipment as well as install new doors and locks, an electric fence and add the security dog, Rex, and handler to their staff.

The Sister's appreciation was felt by the Sussex Clinic during Sister Florence's visit to Milwaukee last summer. Two associates presented their collection to Sister Florence. "We all felt very strongly about helping Upendo Village during its crisis," said Julie Kutzt, Clinic Manager at WFMG-Sussex. "For our associates to be able to meet Sister Florence and see firsthand her appreciation in receiving the money we collected was truly an amazing moment."



Calling All Runners!!



Do you enjoy running? Looking to exercise while helping a cause you believe in? Upendo Village runners are getting ready to participate in the 2012 Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle 8K in Chicago on Sunday, March 25 at 8:30 am. Help us raise funds and raise awareness for Upendo Village. Contact Marybeth at mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org or 630.909.6604 for more information.

Wall Repair Update



We have good news – the wall is now intact!

On October 20, 2011, the man-made dirt dam situated a short distance above the entrance to Upendo Village gave way during heavy rains. The water crashed through and destroyed portions of the neighboring school, then breached the perimeter wall of Upendo Village taking down the chicken coop, goat pen and areas around the Sisters' home. The dirty waters contaminated the 55,000 gallon reservoir tank, deposited debris in the tilapia farm, and washed away parts of the garden. The Sisters made their way to the flooded areas to rescue the remaining chickens, goats and guard dog, Rex. Fortunately, no one was injured. Two days after the collapse of the wall, the reconstruction began. It took two weeks to complete as it was raining for the duration of the time. The cleaning of the water tank, rain delay and extra security while the wall was being fixed added unbudgeted expenses. However, through the generosity of our supporters and the Jose Luis De Barrueta Foundation in Kenya, the wall is now intact.

Thank you for your love and support!

A Letter from Our Executive Director

With immense gratitude, we want to express our appreciation for your generosity in response to Upendo Village's holiday appeal. This is a reflection of your selfless caring and sacrifice on the part of Upendo Village. As we start a new year, allow me to share a greeting that was shared with me:

*When the gifts and cards are put away,
The work of Christmas begins:
To heal the broken, To feed the hungry,
To forgive each other,
To make music in the heart,
To fill the rest of the year with the
Peace of Christmas.*

– Sister Theresa Langfield

"Mission is the wake-up call that it's not about you. It never is. What [is] gain[ed] in doing mission is far greater than what [is] give[n]."

— Upendo Village Missionary Volunteer

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Charitable Remainder Trust

There are many ways to make a generous gift. Outright cash gifts, gifts of securities and gifts of property are some of the most familiar. A Charitable Remainder Trust is an estate planning tool that has excellent benefits to your favorite charitable organization, to you and to your family.

Here's how it works:

- You transfer cash, securities or other appreciated property into a trust.
- The trust makes fixed annual payments to you or to beneficiaries you name.
- When the trust terminates, the remainder passes to Upendo Village.

Benefits:

- You receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your contribution to the annuity trust.
- You pay no upfront capital gains tax on any appreciated assets you donate.
- You or your designated income beneficiaries receive stable, predictable income for life or a term of years.
- You have the satisfaction of making a significant gift that benefits you now and Upendo Village later.

Be sure to secure the assistance of your attorney and/or financial planner with this process.