

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



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World AIDS Day



World AIDS Day was celebrated on December 1 at the Franciscans' Motherhouse, Marianjoy, Upendo Village and around the world creating awareness of HIV/AIDS and urging people to get tested. The United Nations' theme had a strong presence -- "Getting to Zero" with the goal of zero AIDS related deaths, zero new HIV infections and zero discrimination.

The Wheaton Franciscan Justice, Peace and Integrity for Creation (JPIC) office hosted an Ecumenical World AIDS Day prayer service at the Motherhouse Chapel and informational fair at Marianjoy on December 1. Presiders and participants represented many faiths.

While a prayer service and fair were conducted in Wheaton, Illinois, the clients of Upendo Village spent World AIDS Day raising awareness in a nearby town during a busy market day. Signs reading "Getting to Zero," "Stop AIDS" and more were made and held up as the participants created a procession through the town, speaking with the crowd and informing passersby about the importance of getting tested. The procession was complete with a mobile voluntary counseling and testing tent. The day was viewed as a success as there were 96 participants!

Remembering Patrick Losieku



On December 15, 2011, Patrick Losieku was laid to rest due to complications related to meningitis. Patrick was sponsored through the Upendo sponsorship program (CUSP). His care was monitored, and medical and funeral expenses paid by Upendo Village. Thanks to Upendo's interventions, Patrick had grown into a vibrant boy with a brilliant smile, a loving mom and many friends. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family and friends during this difficult time.

Upendo Village Officially Joins Wheaton Franciscan Services, Inc.

We are delighted to share that as of November 2011, Upendo Village has been formally accepted into the Wheaton Franciscan Services, Inc. (WFSI) system. WFSI includes Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare (WFH) and Franciscan Ministries, Inc.

WFH is a Catholic, not-for-profit organization with more than 100 sites in Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. WFH includes 18 hospital campuses, three transitional and extended care facilities, two home health agencies, more than 3,500 physicians, 70 clinic sites with approximately 600 employed physicians and nearly 22,000 associates. Started more than 130 years ago and formally incorporated in 1983, WFH is sponsored by the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters. Corporate services' offices are located in Wheaton, Illinois and Glendale, Wisconsin.

WFSI also includes a housing division known as Franciscan Ministries, Inc. with approximately 2,800 units of affordable housing and assisted living units.

This WFSI relationship expands their faith based and healthcare mission worldwide. Upendo Village benefits from the stability, vast resources and friends within the WFSI family. We look forward to strengthening this partnership.



Current Events:

Kevin Students' Library



If you have the opportunity to visit Upendo Village (we hope you will), you will see Kevin Students' Library. It is located in a mobile unit on the property and serves the children of Upendo Village. This library is special as it was started by Kevin Claeys, nephew of CUSP Co-Founder, Karen Claeys. For five years Kevin collected coins that he found on the grounds close to his school. One hundred eighty four dollars in change later, he learned of the Coins for CUSP program, an offshoot of CUSP encouraging people to donate monetary amounts of any size to the children of Upendo Village.

Inspired by the work of his aunt, Kevin generously donated his findings to help make a difference. Kevin's coins went toward starting a library for the children of Upendo Village, an initiative dear to his heart as he constantly strives to improve his own reading skills. Many have donated cash, books and a checkout card system to ensure that the library will continue to be stocked with books. The library provides the children of Upendo Village with an opportunity to read for their own learning, enjoyment and development. Thank you, Kevin, and other caring people for opening up a new world to these children!

If you would like to help with the library growth project, please contact Claudia Landolfi at claudiaac1@comcast.net or mail donations to Upendo Village P.O. Box 667 Wheaton, IL 60187. Cash donations are preferred rather than books, as they are difficult and costly to transport.

Rex

After Rex, the Upendo Village guard dog, was introduced in the November Moments Newsletter, he received a surprise – a donation to be used toward his care and upkeep. This Upendo donor, and avid animal lover, was inspired by the added protection that Rex provides to Upendo Village as well as the special connection that he and Sister Florence share. There is also a box of toys prepared for Rex that Sr. Florence will bring back in February! **If there is a particular program or cause that you are passionate about, please don't hesitate to speak with us about your ideas and how you would like your donations used. Call Marybeth at 630.909.6604.**



A Letter from Our Executive Director

The support throughout 2011 from our caring donors and others has been heart-warming. The past year has held many challenges including the traumatic robbery, the continuing drought and the recent devastating flood due to rupture in a dam above our property. Even more difficult has been the serious illnesses and deaths of some endeared clients. We thank you for being there and supporting us.

We look forward to 2012 with hope and optimism as we celebrate countless blessings and the ever increasing numbers of those educated and served. In spite of personal economic pressures, supporters continue to sacrifice for the children and families of Upendo Village. As we begin 2012, the Sisters, staff volunteers and board members thank each one of you, who gives a happy beginning to the New Year. We pray that all will be blessed a hundredfold in 2012.

– Sister Theresa Langfield

Mark Your Calendars!



Meet and greet with **Sister Florence** on **Thursday, February 16 from 5 to 7 pm.** More details to come in the February Moments Newsletter.

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Matching Gift Programs

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees and/or retirees. Often, it is a dollar to dollar match and, in some cases, it is a two to one or three to one match. Just think, your gift of \$100 could bring \$400 to Upendo Village's children and families. Does your company do this? Contact your HR department! You, too, could give a challenge match!

Examples of Matching Gift Programs in the Chicagoland Area:

- Abbott Laboratories
- BP
- Caterpillar, Inc.
- Chicago Tribune Co.
- R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co.
- General Mills, Inc.
- Goldman Sachs Group, Ltd.
- Illinois Tool Works, Inc.
- Sara Lee Corp.
- State Farm Insurance Co.
- Tellabs, Inc.
- Zurich-American Insurance Group