

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



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Remembering Charles Rubia Kimani 1998-2011



On October 3, 2011, Charles Rubia Kimani was killed when a vehicle lost control and hit him on the heavily traveled Maai Mahiu Road. Charles, age 13, was the fifth of six children born to HIV positive parents, Ann and Isaac. His family became clients of Upendo Village in 2006. He was sponsored by Virginia and William Miller through

CUSP. Charles dreamed of continuing his education and becoming a teacher. In his memory, the Millers are sponsoring his younger brother, Peter. Please pray for this family and Upendo Village in these times of mourning.

Keeping in Touch — Shall We Dance?

Meet Rex – the newest addition to Upendo Village! Sister Florence is one of two people who are trained to handle Rex, the guard dog. Rex now patrols the premises each night. He came to Upendo Village along with numerous upgrades to security thanks to generous donors following the recent break-in where valuables were taken and damages incurred. No one was touched, but the trauma will be a long time in healing. The Sisters were heartened by the many emails, letters and donations that allowed for strengthening of all



We're Being Talked About!



Upendo Village was recently written about in [Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology](#). James Stephen Mastaler, a Doctoral Student and Graduate Assistant for the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy (CUERP) at Loyola University of Chicago, published the article, *A Case Study on Climate Change and its Effects on the Global Poor*, in which he discusses how poor inhabitants of an environmentally sound community are more apt to improve in comparison to the poor populations that are living in environmental squalor. Mastaler uses Upendo Village as an example and draws an impressive picture of how Upendo Village operates.

Upendo operates on a philosophy of love for one's neighbor and sees the poor among us as people who have different needs that are left unmet by the social and economic injustices that unfortunately exist in our current context. Upendo works to create a new community of love that operates on an ethic of equity and mutuality, an ethic that is sometimes absent in the larger social and economic context. This ethic of equity and mutuality manifests itself as a love for one's neighbor because it creates a community where the needs of the vulnerable and most needy are given priority so that, once those needs are met, they may be intentionally included in the larger community and thus able to participate in the functioning of the community.

Isn't it great when "outsiders" recognize the key component that helps Upendo Village thrive? After all, Upendo does mean love. To read the article in full, visit <http://www.luc.edu/cuerp/mastaler.shtml>.

Current Events:

Consider Just One More Gift



As we anticipate the celebration of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for our blessings and cherish our loved ones. The Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, the Wheaton Franciscans, Upendo Village Directors and all whom we serve at Upendo Village thank God for each supporter, whose caring stretches to others in our global village. Upendo Village calls us to join hearts in a global village of love. We offer opportunity to share with those who suffer hunger, sickness, hopelessness and other ravages of abject poverty. Please consider adding Upendo Village to your gift list. Help to ease the suffering of the orphans and families we serve – more than 5000 clients. Give the value of that “one more gift,” that stocking stuffer, a Happy Meal, to help our orphans who desperately long for basic necessities.

Sister Florence’s letter to Santa would request help to make ends meet during extreme inflation. The costs of nutrition

supplements, medical supplies, petrol, office supplies have all escalated greatly squeezing availability of funds. Sr. Florence has shared that the high cost of living due to the current inflation rate (20%) has greatly eroded the purchasing power of Upendo Village and of clients, e.g., corn is up 17%. If our clients could write a wish list, they would hope for the following: 200 lb. bags of corn flour (\$60 each), 200 lb. bags of multigrain, high protein flour (\$141 each), chickens (\$15 a pair), dairy goats (\$150 each) and solar cookers (\$20 each). If only Santa could grant those wishes for Sr. Florence and the people of Upendo Village! Please consider just one more gift that can change someone’s life.

The Sisters, staff and clients of Upendo Village wish each of you a blessed holiday season. We ask for your prayers and we all hold you in prayer.

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The St. Joan of Arc Oktoberfest in Lisle was a great success! The festival was attended by more than 300 people and \$6000 was raised and donated to Upendo Village. Thank you for your support!



Upendo Village Missionaries



Dr. Michelle Tansey, an anesthesiologist, led a team of 24 healthcare professionals and other dedicated missionaries in more than two weeks of service. Missionaries traveled to and from Upendo Village at their own expense and served in heart-rending circumstances for long hours each day. Dr. Tansey’s team helped the people of Upendo Village as well as others who came for surgeries and other urgent care needs. At the return of this mission, Dr. Tansey was determined to provide help for Millicent, whose life is in danger due to a serious thyroid problem. With her donation, Upendo Village will now be able to provide for the surgery that will save Millicent’s life. We will communicate via email on Millicent’s progress.

Upendo Village is on

You Tube

Visit us at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMk71kh8JWI>

Upendo Village Holiday Marketplace A Community Affair!

As we go to press, we are preparing for our Holiday Marketplace fund raiser on November 10. We are delighted and humbled at the many who are donating and helping to make this event a success. It is truly a labor of love – a big thank you to all who have donated hours of time and items!



Stay Connected

Throughout the year we have been able to keep in touch by way of email. We recently upgraded our communication system so that messaging will be timelier. Please excuse us if you missed a newsletter or received multiple emails as we tussled with our previous method. Keeping you in the loop is important to us! If you haven’t done so already, **please send us your email address and notify us if there are any changes. Send your email to Marybeth: mmedrano@wheatonfranciscan.org.**