

Mufindi Orphans, Inc.

(a 501-C-3 Public Benefit Oregon Corporation)

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HABARI YA MUFINDI



A quarterly Newsletter designed to inform donors about progress made in the implementation of the Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project in Mufindi District of Tanzania, East Africa.

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HIV/AIDS/ORPHANS CENSUS UNDERWAY

2nd Quarter 2007 Highlights

Project donations fell off during the quarter with only 44% of targeted funds realized. However, a pledge of \$1,000,000 has been offered to support the infrastructure and programs initiated by the Project for 10 years after Project end. Dr. Patrick Ney and family arrived on site in early April. Patrick and Kate have volunteered to head up the medical and orphans' placement Project components. Work started on an HIV/AIDS/Orphans Census and on refurbishing abandoned hospitals and clinics in order to accommodate HIV/AIDS victims.

In summary, Project works completed to date are:

- All building sites excavated
- Three dormitories completed & government approved
- Orphanage Matron & two housemothers under training
- Assisted in the improvement of local schools & clinics
- HIV/AIDS/Orphans Census started to verify statistics provided by a UN study in 2002.
- The Medical and Orphans Placement components now under professional management.

3rd Quarter 2007 Strategies

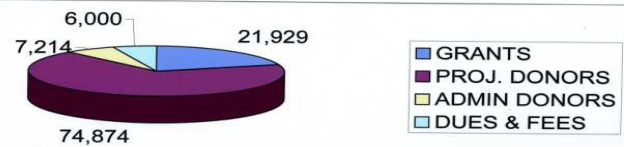
Emphasis will continue on starting up Project components not yet underway. The first 3 dormitories will be made fully operational by end June and work will start on construction of an additional 3 buildings. Other items to be addressed are:

- Finalize plans for providing electricity and water to dormitories and other buildings to be built.
- Continue to provide Project employment for local people not otherwise gainfully employed.
- Complete planning for the HIV/AIDS prevention and abatement programs and begin to implement seminars and medical treatment activity.

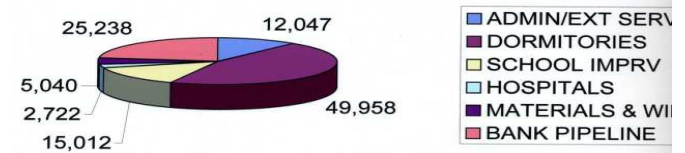


PROJECT FUNDS STATUS

INCOME TO JUNE 2007 = \$110,017



SPENDING TO JUNE 2007 = \$ 110,017



NOTES ON FUNDS ALLOCATIONS:

- Funds shown above include only money that has gone through the Project bank accounts. A small amount of other funds have been donated directly in the form of payments for materials and labor.
- Administrative costs have been totally covered by funds solicited expressly for that purpose.



TOP: Mdbulo Hospital showing the need for major repairs before putting it back in service for HIV/AIDS victims - May 07

LEFT: A view from one of the functioning wards in Mdbulo Hospital - May 07

Kate's Comments

So good to be in touch! We're underway on the HIV/AIDS/Orphans Census but the going is slow due to my pathetic Swahili and the fact that P and I have to share looking after our kids. I have been "training" a couple of the people who work here; Fred, who has been translating for me, and Ilena. They both may be at the point where I can send them out to cover villages on their own and that may speed things up considerably. I'm trying to get a letter to the Chairman of Luhunga to get permission to do that village next after we finish Igoda on Tues. The inspectors for the orphanage were here yesterday and seem ready to give us a letter allowing us to open, even though we aren't quite ready - training the house mothers, etc. That is fantastic news. It will mean that orphans already moved in are now legally there. I also have some fabulous "community outreach" houses for the other orphans to go to, so hopefully that will be OK. The inspectors were quoting the government line about keeping kids in the community, so maybe what may work out is just to accept that we are ahead of where we thought we'd be with putting kids in foster homes and be able to start the vocational school much more quickly? We really need to brainstorm when Geoff gets back and Bruce and Jane are still here to ensure that we start off right. The community outreach thing seems to be the most in line with what people in the community want and what the government wants, but I also have a couple of families where there is only the mother left and 5 or 6 kids and the mother is on ARVs - that'll fill the homes fast! What I really need is a way to figure out how to do all this supporting without handouts, although some are just going to be necessary, I think - like thatching the roof of a super-old Bibis (grandmother's) house who is looking after two little kids, etc. Income generating ideas are coming, but it is hard to move fast enough to help people now. I am going to need a workshop somewhere!!! Either at the community center in Igoda, or at the Orphans Center so we can begin to combine vocational training and income generation. Right now I am researching making clay beads and jewellery as fast as I can, and I'm ready to move on training for batik stuff, but that's the thing I need space for. I do have some comments on progress in refurbishing the Mdabulo Hospital, but they must wait until later when the kids are in bed and when I've had a chance to talk with Patrick. He's now at Mdabulo negotiating a contract and talking to the Dr there. Please thank all those wonderful people who continue to support this desperately needed Project. The things that have already been done have improved things for so many people here. And there's just so much more that we can do. Take care, Kate

Editor's Note: Dr. Patrick Ney and wife Kate are Canadians now living in Mufindi who have volunteered to help implement the medical and orphans' settlement aspects of the Project.

**ABOVE**

Geoff Fox with students in a new classroom. The additional 12 classrooms have reduced the average class size from 90 to 35 and made room for orphans not previously able to attend school due to lack of space.

**ABOVE**

Orphans and more fortunate children mix at functions sponsored by the Orphans Center. Whether orphans move into foster homes or into an orphanage dormitory, they will eventually lose the stigma of "orphan" and become respected members of the community. The Tanzanian government and Igoda Villagers have promoted this concept of keeping orphaned children within the community rather than sending them to institutions in more urban areas.

LEFT

A newly constructed orphans' dormitory.

Initial census results indicate that it may be possible to find foster homes for most of the orphans now in Igoda village. If this observation proves correct after census completion, it may be possible to free up some dormitory space earlier than expected and allow the Project to start the Vocational School ahead of schedule. Training would first concentrate on agriculture practices in order to grow food for the orphans, and Arts & Crafts to produce saleable items made by the older orphans.