

Mufindi Orphans, Inc.

(a 501-C-3 Public Benefit Oregon Corporation)
90420 Hill Road
Springfield, OR 97478
Tel : (541) 747-2246
Fax : (541) 747-2236
Email : info@mufindiorphans.com
Website : www.mufindiorphans.com

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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NEW FOLKS EXPAND THE PROGRAM

Project Management Changes

Dr. Patrick and Kate Ney, who were instrumental in planning and implementing early Project activities, left the Project in late 2nd Quarter to accept new opportunities in their native Canada. This couple, who had done so much to help so many local people, left a large void in top Project management. The people of Mufindi will never forget them.

Fortunately, a young couple who were friends of the Neys, and who had lent a hand in Project activities over the last few years, came to the fore and volunteered their services to carry on the work started by the Neys. Geoff Knight and Jenny Peck have now officially joined the Project. (See picture caption below).

Other new volunteers have joined the Project to help out in the Orphans Center, the various medical facilities being re-furnished, and the local schools. These volunteers will provide training and instill the motivation needed to help the local people help themselves overcome the problems brought on by the on-going HIV/AIDS epidemic in Mufindi. New volunteers are:

Dr. Leena Pasonen has been a doctor with a Finnish Lutheran hospital in Tanzania for the last 27 years. She speaks the language and is accustomed to living in rural Tanzania. She has expressed interest in working with HIV/AIDS patients and children orphaned by AIDS. She will be able to administer ARV medications and look after the other medical facilities the Project supports in this community of 45,000 people.

Paulina Visulo now works as a volunteer head nurse and midwife in the Mbabulo hospital. She is 34 years old and comes from Ntuchi in southern Tanzania. She has a 4 year nursing degree and many years experience in Tanzanian hospitals around the country.

Sausa Sebastian is 22 years old. She was born and raised in nearby Mbeya where she graduated A-level with grades in the first division. She will join the Project as Head Librarian at the Igoda Primary School where she will also teach English.

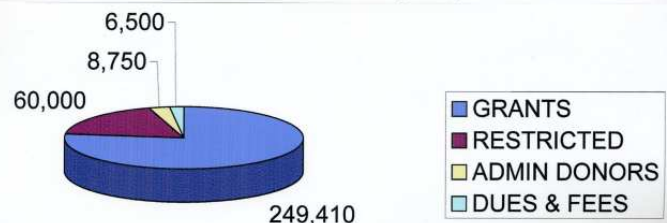
It should be noted that these people have joined the Project as volunteers for altruistic reasons. However, the Project will need to support these people with living expenses and accommodation. Funds must be raised to support the volunteer program.

MOI Management Changes

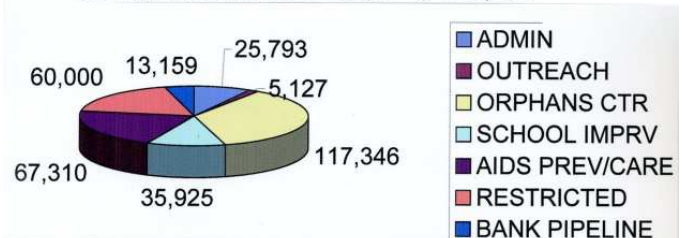
Paulette Bufano and Gary Molyneaux have joined Mufindi Orphans as Directors and will lend their many years of fund-raising experience to the development and implementation of an improved fund-raising program.

PROJECT FUNDS STATUS

INCOME TO JUN 2008 = \$324,660



SPENDING TO JUN 2008 = \$ 324,660



NOTES ON FUNDS ALLOCATION:

- Funds shown above include only money that has gone through the Project bank accounts. Administrative costs have been totally covered by funds solicited expressly for that purpose. (Admin Donors & Dues shown above)
- Restricted Funds are donations made for specific Project programs or activities not yet underway.



Geoff Knight and Jenny Peck recently joined the Project as Administrative Manager and Orphans Center Supervisor respectively. Both volunteers have worked in Mufindi as teachers in local schools and both speak Kiswahili fluently. They met at the University of Kansas where they earned degrees in Anthropology, Biology, and Mathematics before traveling to Tanzania together. The couple plan to marry later this year.



ABOVE: Orphans Center Housemothers Lina Kyando and Eva Mahali. Lina is senior member of the volunteer staff. She is 34 years old and comes from Makete, Tanzania. She attended a tailoring school in Sumbawanga and then graduated from a Teacher's School in Makete. She has 5 years experience with the village government in Makete and became the first Orphans Center Housemother on 7 July 2007.

Eva was born in Njombe, Tanzania and lost her mother early in life. She lived with her grandmother and then in various foster homes. She says that this is why she understands the children she now cares for. She says that the Orphans Center has become "one big family for her and her kids"



ABOVE: Sausa Sebastian takes students to the library to teach them English. She works with groups of 25 at a time in order to avoid over-crowding the classes. Sausa's sister does the same thing at the nearby Luhunga Secondary School. Sausa joined the Project in March this year.



ABOVE: The Project draws many volunteers who perform services not adequately recognized. Volunteers did much of the clearing and site preparation for buildings. Other volunteers helped set up administrative programs such as accounting, used clothing dissemination, programs to keep track of medical assistance to HIV/AIDS victims, issuance of school uniforms, etc.

The picture above shows volunteer artists decorating the school library building. The maps, painted from memory proved quite accurate. The skeleton came with a heart, as did each of the efforts made for the children by local folk.



ABOVE: Rosaria Haugland, Letty Morgan, and Mary Ellis visit with Kate Ney and her charges. Rosaria and Letty have given substantial donations to support the Project before and after this February 2008 visit. Mary has been active in fund-raising and makes annual visits to the Orphans Center to monitor the Project's activities and financial accounting. Kate worked long hours on her bicycle to canvass local villages for incidence of HIV/AIDS and homeless orphans. Kate also started up the first orphans' houses along with programs like food subsidies and provision of school uniforms. A great team and a job well done.