

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 TREATMENT PROGRAM

Dr. Leena Pasanan's First Report - Feb 2009

During my first visit I went with Geoff Knight, our Project Administrator, to meet the workers at Mdabulo Hospital and Ibwanzi Dispensary and we fixed the dates for monthly Children's Consultation Clinics through June.

During my second visit I experienced what a clinic day can be like. At Mdabulo Hospital, where Dr. Ndenga is working, I examined about twenty children. At Ibwanzi Dispensary, where there is no doctor, there were ninety children of which I examined about sixty. I also had a clinic day for twenty children at Luhunga Dispensary.

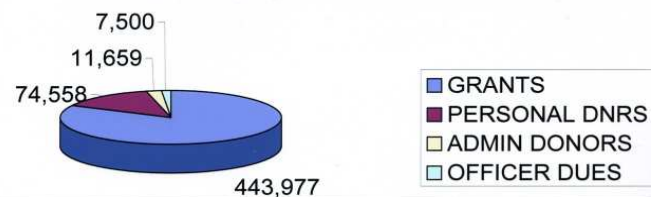
In addition to my pediatric work, at Mdabulo Hospital I also attend the CTC (Care and Treatment Clinic for hiv-positive people) once a month. To learn more about CTC work I am currently at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi, where for one week I have the chance to observe the work of their Child Centered Family Care

Clinic for hiv-positive children and their parents. With Jenny Peck, who is running the Orphan's Village and Outreach Program, we have visited the homes of hiv-positive women. Each time we have spent over eight hours visiting more than twenty houses. Even after having lived in Tanzania for more than twenty years, I have never before visited such poor houses! Only a few of them have proper beds or mattresses and some have only one blanket for the entire family.

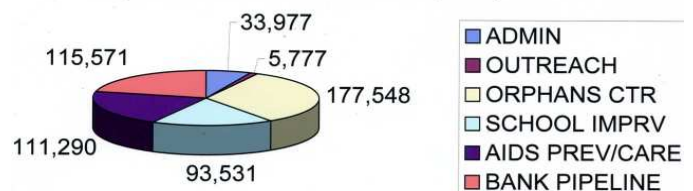
Mufindi is very cold during the cold season. Jenny has been recording details on the families and their urgent needs, and by good luck it has been possible to provide them with some clothing, shoes and blankets. I am very thankful to some friends who have donated funds for buying more blankets. I have carried my stethoscope and otoscope with me on these visits, plus some basic medications. It has been good to be able help the people in their homes, as sometimes the distance to the nearest healthcare facility can be extremely long. The hospitality of these

PROJECT FUNDS STATUS

INCOME TO MAR 2009 = \$537,694



SPENDING TO MAR 2009 = \$ 537,694



NOTES ON FUNDS ALLOCATION:

Funds shown above include only money that has gone through the Project bank accounts. Our financial statements do not include the monetary value of donations-in-kind.



Dr. Leena Pasanen with her youngest foster child Noel, aged 13 years.

EVER WONDER what "Habari ya Mufindi" means? It just means Mufindi News. Habari is frequently used when meeting people to enquire about news of work, family, crops, etc. Habaris usually follow the opening greeting of Jambo.

poor people is so touching. Despite their poverty nobody has hesitated to invite us into their homes and offer us treats such as tea and boiled potatoes.

Susan Vinton has been collecting data on more than 1100 hiv-positive people living in the nearby villages. She is also connected with many chronically ill children with other diseases.

Every month I spend two days with Susan visiting these people in their homes. We drive to distant villages and have a local guide lead us to the people needing help.

Sometimes it has taken more than one hour's walk to reach people in deep valleys and I get excellent exercise while climbing up the long steep hills. We have met so many malnourished children and it is quite difficult to teach about "chakula bora", (nutritious food), when people do not have cows, milk, hens, eggs, peanuts, meat and sometimes not even beans.

We have seen children with vitamin A deficiency causing eye problems, including difficulty to see in dim lighting. The best sources of vitamin A in Tanzania are yellow colored fruits such as mango and papaya, but they do not grow in the high altitude in Mufindi. Therefore we try to encourage people to grow carrots as a source of vitamin A.

During every visit I try to spend time at the orphanage to talk with the mamas who take care of the children and to examine the children.

The youngest child at the orphanage is Hezekia, whose mother died of aids. One of the children is hiv-positive with psychomotor delay, but he has shown great progress after joining the orphanage. There are also children with learning difficulties and one has congenital heart disease. At the orphanage there is a feeling that the children are members of one family, with loving caretakers. They are the lucky ones, in this country of more than one million orphans.

In Mufindi I have met very many handicapped Children and a physiotherapist is more than needed. Susan Vinton has considered having the physiotherapist also teach some secondary school students in basic skills so they could help the mothers by performing home visits.

Some of the children we meet would need to be referred to consultant hospitals, but often their families cannot afford this. A 'poor peoples fund' for such cases seems to be crucial!

The work in Mufindi is very challenging and I am very, very happy to be able to spend some days each month among such lovely people! Dr. Leena Pasanen



Jenny Peck on one of her daily visits around Igoda and several other villages to seek families needing help as well as to follow up with whatever help is required.
Dr. Leena—Feb 2009



Stella, an HIV+ woman was close to death 6 weeks before this picture was taken. MHOP personnel found her and cared for her children while she went under treatment and onto antiretroviral medicines. She is now able to care for herself and her children.

Mary Ellis—Feb 2009

ANNOUNCEMENT :

Orphans in the Wild Director Simon Shercliff and friend Olly Griffith have just completed a bicycle trip from Washington, DC to Africa (in Indiana) to raise money for the Mufindi Highlands Orphans Project. Their goal is \$25,000. As we go to press, donations were creeping towards the goal. You can help by sending your donation to the MOI address or by using the Donation Now button on the MOI website.