

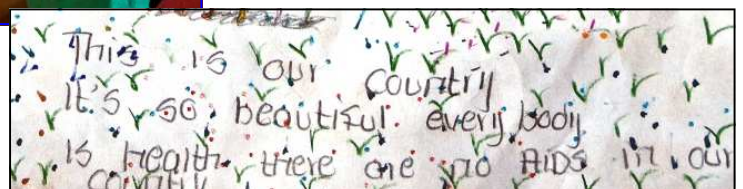
“My name is Alice and I am health.” When asked to describe a future without HIV/AIDS, that is how twelve year old Leah Wonoro, an HIV/AIDS orphan of Cura Village, Kenya, began her drawing. We hope that you will join Leah and the other Orphans and Vulnerable Children who live in the Cura Rotary Home and attend Primary School; the youth of the Valley View Academy in Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya; and Rotarians For Fighting AIDS as we honor World AIDS Day 2009 by imagining a future of hope, a future free of HIV/AIDS and a future made possible through the power of Rotary.



Cura is a rural village, located just outside of Nairobi, in an area of great poverty where many children have been orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. For more than 15 years, projects, grants and support from Kenyan and International Rotarians have improved living conditions for everyone in the area and allow 63 of the region's orphans to live in a safe, sheltered environment. In the village, these youth attend primary school, enjoying clean drinking water and plentiful food. Thank you, Rotarians!



Cura's orphaned children achieve academic levels far beyond standards set by their peers. They believe that healthy futures with happiness and success are possible...for them ...and their entire country. They can see better tomorrows and Rotarians worldwide are helping make those tomorrows a reality.



Mathare is one of Nairobi's "casual settlement villages" serving as home to over 600,000 people, one-half of whom are under 21 years of age. Mathare, and other settlements like it, were the scenes of violence and destruction so often seen immediately following the Kenyan elections in 2008.

HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children have an especially difficult life in Mathare's harsh environment of poverty, overcrowding, hunger and physical violence. Youth at the Valley View Academy see life's worst realities just traveling to and from school daily. During last year's most violent periods, students actually lived in the school because it represented the greatest protection in the community.



Valley View Academy's youth explored ways to achieve a future without HIV/AIDS through better health services and more early testing for the virus (VCTs).

Marvel Atieno, age 12, displays her poster and, below, is joined by Henry Ochieng (left) and Brian Dindi (right) whose posters were also selected for recognition in the RFFA AIDS Free World Vision" initiative.



While their living environments are generally less stable than those in Cura, the youth attend school thanks to Rotarian support - the Rotary Club of Nairobi and sponsored Rotary Community Corps, programs of Rotarians For Fighting AIDS, Inc. and Anchor partners, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation and HOPE worldwide.

Activities and messages, created by the Partnership for An HIV Free Generation and delivered by the power of Rotary, focus increased attention on Mathare's young people - showing them a future where hope guides healthy choices and builds confidence in a future of self-worth and accomplishment.

"This is our country. It's so beautiful. Everybody is health there and no AIDS in our country."

Leah Wanoro, Age 12, Cura Village, Kenya
When asked to imagine a world without AIDS

All photographs by Jennifer Huxta
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Many thanks from RFFA and the children of Kenya

