

Orphan Rescue Kits- Launch

Distribution of School Uniform and Issuing Of School Fee Cheques

FUNDS RAISED BY DISTRICT 9700 & PDG Fred Loneragan 08/09

At Mathare Polytechnic - 8TH March 2010

Name of RCC: Mathare and Huruma
Rotary Club Contact: PDG Mohamed Abdulah Rotary Club of Nairobi
Rotary Action Group: Rotarians for Fighting Aids (RFFA)
RCC Chairman Mathare: Steve Arodi
Event Date: 8TH MARCH 2010

Welcome and Introduction of Rotarians

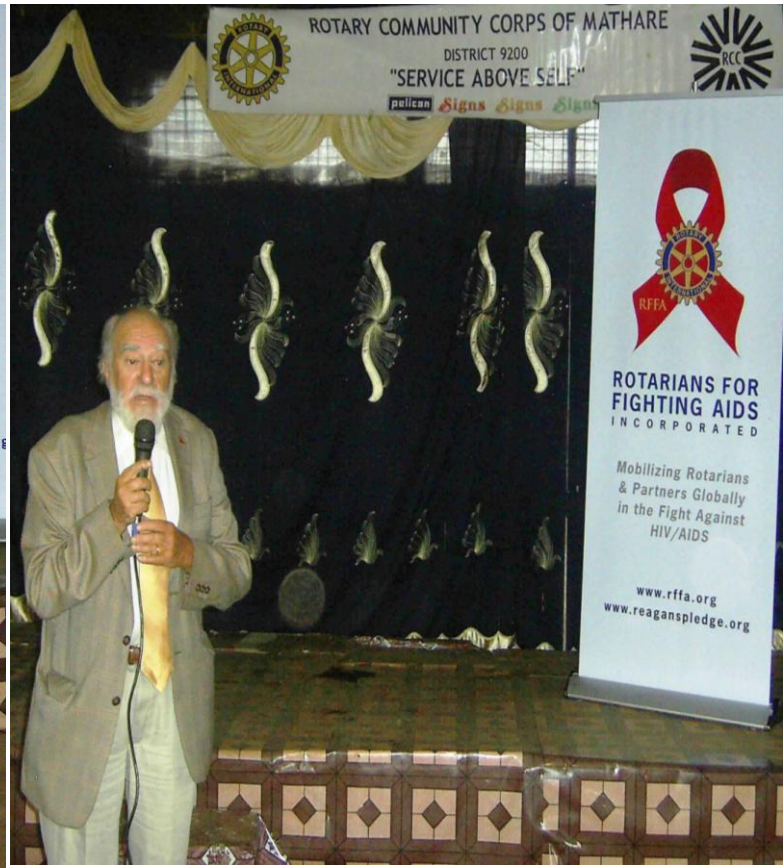


Mathare RCC Chairman Steve Arodi, and Rtn Malinda Wheeler

Speech by RFFA Representative Rtn Keith Castellino and Rtn Erick Krystal



Keith Castellino RFFA Chairman – Kenya



Erick Krystal –District 9200 HIV/AIDS Officer



Event: Distribution of Checks for School Fees and School Uniforms



Selection Criteria

1. The beneficiary produces a death certificate of either one or both parents accompanied with a request letter from the school confirming that the child is an orphan and in need. The parent must have died of HIV AIDS. This may be re-evaluated – do we also want to support children who are orphaned by other means than AIDS?
2. Those with burial permits supported their case with a notification from the area chief confirming the cause of death of the parent.

Guest Rotarians Present

1. Rtn Keith Castelino RFFA Chairman-Kenya from Rotary Club of Nairobi Utumishi
2. Rtn Erick Krystal - District 9200 HIV/AIDS Chairman, Rotary Club of Nairobi
3. Rtn Malinda Wheeler – Rotary Club of Nairobi
4. Rtn Michele Ostertag – Rotary Club of Karen

Other Guests

Area Chief Mr. Bernard Musau

HOPE *worldwide* KENYA

Community opinion leader and Child Protection Officer – Mr. Michael Wanjahi

Others Present

RCC Mathare

Caregivers

Teachers

Beneficiaries

Group Picture



Challenges

- Some of the HIV positive children cannot trace their parents' death certificates. This document is VERY important related to the desperate needs in the community and the temptation of people to lie.
- Related to the short time frame in regard to the Launch of Orphan Rescue the uniform maker was only able to do 100 school uniforms to enable the Launch of the Program. The other uniforms are now under procurement.

Lessons Learned

- HIV still poses a big threat to psychological development of children who require a comprehensive approach in mitigating its impact to the orphans.
- The caregivers appreciated the efforts by Rotarians for Fighting AIDS (RFFA) and HOPE worldwide Kenya and for supporting them in paying of school fees and buying uniform for the children. Some of the children who had dropped out of school due to lack of school fees were very happy seeing their hope of learning come back.
- Some of the caregivers were not supportive when they were asked to provide the required documents. They thought that it's like other groups who come to ask for the documents but don't fulfill their promises. But to their surprise, they were joyful and encouraged seeing their children receiving school uniforms and cheques for school fees.
- One of the children was unable to sit for her National Exams because she was unable to pay the fees required. Now both the caregiver and the child are very happy since she is assured that she is going to sit for the exam this year after receiving the check.
- Phoebe Obonyo has been at home for the last 2 years unable to get any well wishers to sponsor her to finish her education; her caregiver is also down with HIV/AIDS and no income. Our teammate on the ground intervened and she got a vacancy at St. Teresa Girl's Secondary School. She is now a happy and encouraged girl.
- Children's needs are dynamic. They keep changing from one need to the other depending on a specific child.
- The community feels that they can trust Rotary and HOPE worldwide more since we keep our word compared to the other NGOs which have not grown to their integrity.
- The area Chief and the Elder were encouraged and felt honored that RFFA and HWWK chose their community and invited them for the Launch of the Orphan Rescue Funds support. This effort improved our relationship with the community in a great way.

Ideas on Way Forward

- Application of the Four-Way test in our service to the underprivileged is a great way to assure quality service provision and to begin paving a path towards an HIV free generation.
- We need to STOP referring to these children as 'orphans' or 'AIDS orphans' in public forums where they are present. It is discriminatory and stigmatizing. There are other children who are also orphaned. Let's look for more positive language that conveys our love and concern for the children, their caregivers, and their community in a less stigmatizing way.
- The paying of School fees and uniform distribution is ongoing. There are many children who have not yet brought the required documents, but are working on this.
- HWWK is looking at procuring uniforms from a Community Based Organization in Mathare who are made up of women infected with HIV and have been trained in dress making. This will also support women in the community and enable them to support their own and community children at the same time.

- Hope World Wide Kenya is looking at how to maintain a data base of supported children to monitor how they're doing in school and at home over the course of support.
- To come up with a working structure and whether to be paying school fees per term or yearly.

Report by : Steve Arodi and Tom Owili

THANK YOU SONG



<http://www.rffa.org>

<http://theork.com>

<http://www.mountainsofthemoon.org>