

Center for the Church and Global AIDS Action Newsletter

Fall, 2015
FOR MORE
INFORMATION:
[www.churchand
globalaids.org](http://www.churchandglobalaids.org)

Donald E. Messer
Executive Director
303 877 1955
globalaids@gmail.com

TAX- DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS

As a 501(c)(3),
gifts to the Center
are tax-deductible.
Contributors will
receive receipts.

Send donations:
Center for the
Church and
Global AIDS
7185 S. Niagara
Circle
Centennial, CO
80112

Inside this issue:

Golfers; New Bd. Members; 2
Feed Hungry on Birthday

Homeless & Incarcerated 3

Church Helps Hindu Women 3

Interfaith Book 3

Planned Giving & Upcoming Dates 4

OVER \$1 MILLION DISTRIBUTED TO HIV & AIDS PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD

The Center has raised and given away \$1,005,282 in the past nine years to help impoverished people—most of whom are marginalized, stigmatized, & ostracized in their own cultures and countries.

”Truly donors to the Center have fed the hungry, cared for the sick, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, given drink to the thirsty, and helped the imprisoned,” said Professor N. M. Samuel, M.D., president of the AIDS Society of Asia. “You have supported and advocated for persons infected and affected by HIV and AIDS around the world.” 2015 marks the 10th year since the Center for the Church & Global AIDS became a registered 501c3 charity.



“PRACTICAL HUMANITARIAN” JULIE WHITE NAMED HERO OF THE YEAR

A full-time teacher, wife, and mother, Julie White in Centennial, CO, also on a daily basis is involved in ensuring impoverished HIV positive women and their families are supported in Chennai, India. After traveling with the Center in 2006 to India, she created “One Mother,” an economic empowerment program that employs HIV positive women at a fair wage to make quilts, scarfs, placements, etc., from used saris. Julie tirelessly markets and sells their products in the USA. Additionally, she engaged Bethany Lutheran Church in raising funds to purchase equipment used to conduct eye clinics for persons living with HIV, who experience a loss of vision requiring glasses & cataract surgery. The Board of Directors of the Center for the Church and Global AIDS cites Julie’s “practical humanitarianism” in honoring her as the 2015 “Hero of the Year.”



Julie White comforts grieving mother at bedside of her son



“I DREAM A WORLD . . .”

BREAKFAST FOCUS: EDUCATING & FEEDING HUNGRY CHILDREN



The 4th Annual “Gathering to HEAL (*Helping End AIDS in our Lifetime*)” breakfast will focus on how the Center helps poor children—many with HIV—get an education and two meals a day in the Riruta slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Register for the October 17 event at Hope United Methodist Church in Greenwood Village, CO, by contacting annfort8269@comcast.net (\$10 per person). Rev. Dr. Valerie Jackson, Faculty Advisor at The Iliff School of Theology & Pastor of First United Methodist Church, Aurora, CO, will speak on “I Dream A World . . .”

DENVER/TUCSON GOLFERS “SWING” AGAINST AIDS

Two “Swinging@AIDS” golf events in 2015 have raised a total of \$50,000 to support HIV projects in India, Kenya, and the USA.. The first-ever Tucson, Arizona, event raised \$10,000 which was distributed to the Children of Africa Hope Mission School in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and to the Tucson Interfaith HIV and AIDS Network (TIHAN). A record 121 golfers joined the Denver event in August to raise over \$40,000. These funds are used to support projects in India and the USA. **Join us in Tucson for the 2nd Annual event on Monday, April 4, 2016.**



Center Director Claudia Svarstad presents check to leaders of Tucson Interfaith HIV & AIDS



Center Executive Director presents check to HIV positive children & teachers at Kenya school

TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS NAMED

Rev. Kay Farley, co-pastor of Faith Community Baptist Church, & Rev. Dr. Valerie Jackson, Iliff Faculty Advisor & Pastor of Aurora First United Methodist Church, were recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Center.



(L to R, back: Bill Graf, Bonnie Messer, Sue Hamm, Rhonda Dern, Marla Petrini, Kay Farley, John Blinn, Ben Galloway. L to R, front: Don Messer, Elaine Blinn, Claudia Svarstad, & Valerie Jackson)

FEED THE HUNGRY TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY



What do you want for your birthday? A common question many struggle to answer as the years go by and people have all—and maybe more—than they need. After helping feed the hungry street children of Kenya this summer, social worker Linda Lewis decided the best way to celebrate her 70th birthday was to ensure the 80 children had yet another meal. She made funds available, so those who live in the garbage heaps could be fed. Maybe others would like to do the same? Contact the Center!

HIV & AIDS: HOMELESS & IMPRISONED



Often overlooked in the United States are the homeless and recently incarcerated who are living with HIV and AIDS. Each year the Center provides funds to provide temporary shelter for African-Americans who seek out *It Takes A Village* in Aurora, CO, for assistance. Imani Latif reports “without the Center’s help, many would be left out in the cold and snow. Homeless shelters are often a breeding ground for diseases that impact an already weakened immune system.” She reports one HIV-positive man, suffered a stroke, leaving him without the use of one arm and leg. “Very sad, but together we could make a difference.”

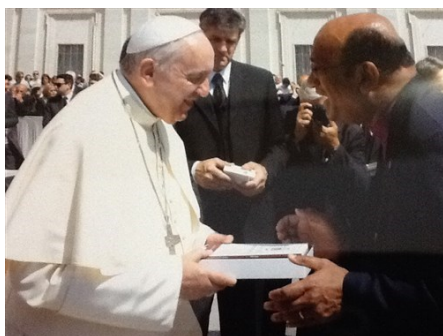
BUILDING HOUSES OF HOPE: CHURCH REACHES OUT TO HINDU WOMEN



When the vibrant, new storefront United Methodist Church in Elizabeth, CO, led by Rev. Teri Todd, engages in ministry, it builds not just houses for Hindu women in India, but creates havens of hope for families on the impoverished edge of despair. Having encountered HIV+ women without shelter, Rev. Todd and her congregation have raised funds to purchase and build cottages. Young girls with no bathrooms, previously forced to risk snakes & rape, now have clean sanitation & safety. Last December the church has raised funds to support a school in the slums of Kenya. Perhaps the newest church in the Rocky Mountains, this congregation has raised over \$15,000 to transform life for persons in India and Kenya.



NEW INTERFAITH BOOK EDITED BY DON MESSER



(Pope Francis received copy of Messer’s book in St. Peter’s Square from Bishop Sudarshana, Boston)

The 16th book by Center Executive Director, Donald E. Messer, “*Celebrating God’s Love: Living into Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships*,” was “launched” in Berlin, Germany, in May, when Messer addressed the United Methodist Council of Bishops. The book underscores the need for people of faith to work together to address global poverty & disease. Writers are from Germany, USA, the Philippines, & Angola. Copies are available via *Amazon.com* In October, Messer has been invited to speak on these topics in the Philippines, where AIDS is increasing.





**Center for the
Church and
Global AIDS**

7185 S. Niagara Circle
Centennial, Colorado 80112

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1644
DENVER, CO

Return Service Requested



*Little girl in Kenya slums
is intent on learning*

Thanks!

**For returning the
enclosed envelope.**

www.churchandglobalaids.orn

DOING GOOD BEYOND ONE'S OWN LIFETIME

“The work of the Center in the world will extend beyond the lifetime of us all,” says Dr. Suzanne Hamm, prominent Denver child psychologist. “Teaching prevention & treatment, caring for widows and orphans, and overcoming stigma & discrimination will continue.” Planned giving & estate planning are imperative for people who want to do good beyond their own lifetime.



Dr. Hamm, a Center Board Member, has challenged others to join her in including the Center for the Church and Global AIDS in their estates. “In my will I have designated 10% to be used for the Center’s mission.” Persons may (1) designate percentages or specific amounts, (2) indicate how they want the funds to be used or leave to Board’s discretion, and (3) place money in a permanent endowment or specify a bequest be spent for current programs. Contact Dr. Donald

Messer for more details (303 877 1955). Center ID No. 20-4199173

While still very much alive, gifts can be given to a permanent endowment fund, managed by the Community First Foundation. The Center’s endowment, just started this year, totals \$44,499.92.

***In 2015 every dollar up to \$10,000,
given for the Center’s endowment is matched
by 25 cents on a dollar by Community First.***

GIVE NOW & PLAN TO KEEP ON GIVING!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Gathering to HEAL, 9:00 a.m.

October 17, 2015

Colorado Gives Day

December 8, 2015

Tucson “Swinging@AIDS”

April 4, 2016

“Spring is A Time For Hope Brunch”

April 30, 2016

For Details: call 303 877 1955