



July 2010

Dear Friends,

During our first HIV workshop in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo in 2005, an extremely thin man raised his hand, slowly stood up and asked, "Sir, if I have only a small amount of money what should I do? Buy food and die of HIV or buy HIV drugs and die of starvation?" I was stunned.

Today we face a similar dilemma with children we care for in the Children's AIDS Program at HEAL Africa. Before I left that conference Dr. Vindu our pediatrician, ran up to me smiling broadly with an armful of drugs. She had received donated drugs left over from neighboring Rwanda. Unfortunately, they were expiring soon and I told Dr. Vindu not to use them since short-term treatment inevitably results in drug resistance.

When I returned home I contacted the Clinton Foundation seeking a donation of antiretrovirals for the newly created Children's AIDS Program. They provided coverage for 300 children for at least three years, leaving us to provide drugs for opportunistic infections, nutrition and salaries for Dr. Vindu and her nursing staff. Today, there are 700 children in CAP thriving because of our joint services.

We recently learned that the Clinton Foundation, UNICEF and the Global Fund for HIV will end their support for CAP in 2011. We are thankful for their years of partnership, but deeply concerned.

In 40 years of medical practice, I never had to tell a parent that I must discontinue lifesaving treatment because of cost. In Congo, I will not have to face parents of these children – in many instances there are none - but their lives are no less valuable. We need urgent financial support to provide antiretrovirals after December. Without them, the children's health will deteriorate and the virus will become drug resistant.

We are turning to you, our partners, who made CAP possible from the beginning. We need your help to raise \$52,000 by September 1, 2010 to purchase medications through June 2011. During that time we will seek a long-term supply of donated antiretrovirals for future years. We hope the stories from CAP in this letter and on our website will reveal the changed lives that are at stake. We thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Arthur J. Ammann.

Arthur J. Ammann, MD

Because you gave...

- Eight-year old Melissa may become a mother one day
- 13-year old Din dreams about owning a bicycle & singing his favorite pop songs
- Nine-year old Eliki has a “family” at CAP helping him meet more than his medical needs
- Two-year old Makemba claps & smiles when her mother, a widow, sings playtime songs.

Global Strategies has one of the largest “family albums” imaginable. When you give to our programs, you are linked to children around the world as part of the Global Strategies family.

We thank you.

Elizabeth Lincoln
Executive Director

Nine-year old Eliki* wants to spend more time at the Children’s AIDS Program (CAP) than anywhere else. Eliki comes to CAP at HEAL Africa to receive medication for HIV which he contracted from his mother at birth. But much more than medical care is being dispensed at CAP. While many reject him because of the lesions on his skin and head, CAP’s staff care deeply for him, and he knows it.

Dr. Eulalie Vindu sees more than 150 patients in her six-day work week, but she still makes time for home visits and takes notice of each individual patient. In Eliki’s case she has provided much-needed clothes including something special, a prized karate uniform that he wears almost daily.

Eliki is one of 700 children who have found a “home” with Dr. Vindu and her staff at CAP, which was created through the support of Global Strategies donors in 2006. It has nearly tripled in size since then. UNAIDS estimates over 120,000 children under age 15 are HIV positive in Congo.



Dr. Eulalie Vindu

Eliki’s father died when he was an infant and his mother died as a result of HIV when he was just three. The only remaining adults in his family included his uncle, whose wife refused to care for Eliki and his brother because of his family’s history of HIV. So the brothers have managed on their own. The daily struggle to survive has taken a great toll on both boys.

As a result of this ongoing emotional trauma, Eliki has been looking for love and acceptance. He often goes to other homes, uninvited, to be with other families.

Dr. Vindu emphasizes that this child who she describes as brilliant and brave, still needs the nurturing of a family. For now, his brother and the staff at Heal Africa are Eliki’s only family. As a supporter of Global Strategies’ CAP, you have become like an extended family to Eliki and many others. Thank you.

Meet one of our 700 “dreamers” served by the
Children’s AIDS Program
in our latest video.

www.globalstrategies.org

*Although Eliki’s story is true, his name has been changed to preserve confidentiality.