

# Global Strategies for HIV Prevention



*Newsletter*

*December 2008*

## Commitment and Progress

*Unless **commitment is** made, there are only promises and hopes; but not plans.*

*-- Peter F. Drucker*



Because we deliberately select programs in countries that have recently become stabilized, or remain unstable, our commitment to our partners is absolutely essential. These countries – Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, the western region of Dominican Republic where the Haitian population lives in Bateyes – do not receive the proportionate funding from international organizations needed to carry out HIV prevention and care. They, too, deserve assistance.

**Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo** Within one short year following our first visit in 2005, we were able to obtain funds from individuals, faith-based organizations and foundations to initiate the first HIV prevention and care program at HEAL Africa Hospital. A training center was built that now educates physicians, nurses, members of the faith-based community, health care and community workers to address the needs of HIV-infected individuals and those displaced by political instability. Partnering with the Clinton Foundation, we are treating 356 HIV-infected children, the first to be treated in Eastern Congo. More than 100 health care workers have been trained to conduct HIV counseling and testing, as well as to provide drugs to prevent transmission of HIV to infants.

Since our first visit, groups of volunteers have come to help teach in the hospital and clinics, work with community-based groups and churches, improve Internet access, provide educational material, improve the quality of health care, work alongside the doctors and nurses and restore desperately needed resources. Our newest project, the ready-to-use nutritional supplement, is directed at providing lifesaving nutrition to malnourished vulnerable children.

While the political situation in Eastern Congo is distressing, it is also an opportunity to renew our commitment. We have invested in people who are now providing relief and emergency aid, and with hope and prayers, they will resume the programs that have been established when peace returns.

**Liberia** We began our work in Liberia in 2003 when we sent a supply of nevirapine and HIV tests to Dr. Lily Sanvee, the Hospital and Medical Director at St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia. Dr. Sanvee is one of the country's leaders in HIV prevention and care and has developed the country's most highly respected program to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT).

In 2008, we began providing combination antiretroviral drugs to extend the treatment time of the mother and infant to further reduce HIV transmission, as well as formula for mothers and infants who are not receiving enough nutrition to live or for drugs to take effect. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive PMTCT program that continues to lead in quality patient care and serves as a model to other Liberian health care providers and, through collaboration, to develop the first nationwide PMTCT program.

**Hope Walks** Hope Walks is a program of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, meeting the needs of orphans and vulnerable children (update enclosed). Our 2008 events included Hope Walks East Bay in Berkeley, California; Hope Walks Minneapolis, Hope Walks Sacramento and Hope Walks Davis, and the first Hope Walks Brea in the Los Angeles area. We are thrilled that additional churches and organizations have joined us in supporting each of these walks, increasing the commitment to educate and advocate for children affected by the HIV epidemic. This commitment and financial support has raised over \$400,000 since the program began in 2006, enabling us to support six orphan programs located in D.R. Congo, South Africa, Uganda, India and Cambodia. Over 1,800 orphans are supported with care ranging from HIV testing to purchasing basic preventative medicines to paying school fees. We look forward to our third year of Hope Walks, with new walks in Nashville, Tennessee; Morristown, New Jersey; Boulder, Colorado and Seattle, Washington. Please check our website, [www.HopeWalks.org](http://www.HopeWalks.org), for updates and locations. *Come walk with us!*

In closing, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you from all of us here and on behalf of the many women and children you have helped. Because of your commitment, we are seeing results. Our plans are firm – to move forward with ongoing support for HIV prevention and care. We enter into a new year with a renewed and enthusiastic commitment to care for and support the women, orphans and vulnerable children who continue to be disproportionately affected by this epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur J. Ammann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Arthur J Ammann MD, President