

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

CHILD HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION
UPDATE: FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

Child hunger and malnutrition are serious problems in the villages served by the Kenya Kisesini Community Health Project. As in other parts of Africa, malnutrition causes many preventable deaths of young children. GHP started a food supplementation program this year to treat and to prevent severe malnutrition. PlumpyNut, a therapeutic food shown to be very effective for treatment of children most severely affected, is being distributed along with a fortified soy-corn blend flour for the less severe cases.



A mother feeding her child PlumpyNut that was provided by the GHP nutrition program.

The results thus far have been very good, with good weight gain of the children and no childhood deaths. Food is also being provided for some of the youngest children to prevent malnutrition. Community health workers are monitoring child growth to assess the effect of the prevention effort.

ARUA UGANDA PMCT
LIFE STITCHES

The HIV/AIDS mothers participating in the Life Stitches sewing workshop have achieved very tangible goals in 2009! Approximately 40 mothers now participate. In 2009 the mothers produced over a thousand high quality napkins, which were sold at private napkin parties in Santa Fe, Denver, and Bozeman, Montana. The money from these sales will go directly to the mothers account in Uganda before Christmas. With this money, the mothers will pay themselves, their tailor teachers and set aside dollars to purchase more fabric. They will also set aside, one third of all profit into the building fund which GHP will match dollar for dollar. Completing the sewing workshop space is a huge priority for the mothers. They want to be able to move out of their cramped borrowed space in the hospital laundry and run the Life Stitches workshop at full capacity.

Our next goal after completion of the workshop space? Business classes have begun this fall to prepare mothers to run their own business via a planned co-op run micro credit program using napkin profits to begin in 2010.

For more information, and to donate to Life Stitches, see the web site: www.LifeStitches.org



Mothers planning new tableware products Summer 2009

GHP VOLUNTEERS IN KISESINI

A team of GHP health care professionals worked in Kisesini and the surrounding villages in July and August. Dr. Rifka Stern provided medical care in Kisesini Clinic and in an outreach clinic. Dr. David Broudy, Lorna Marchand, and Ashley Alberts worked in the villages with the community health workers to develop a system to monitor child mortality, as a way to assess the progress of the projects that improve child health. Lorna is a UNM student in the Masters in Public Health program, and Ashley is an undergraduate student at BYU in Utah. Dr. Angelo Tomedi worked on the child malnutrition problem with the other volunteers.



Dr. Stern examining a child in Kisesini clinic



Lorna and Dr. Broudy with community workers

Global Health Partnerships is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible. Over 90% of donations are used for direct program services.

WATER!

The rain arrived (finally!), breaking a prolonged drought in Kenya. An earthen dam that was constructed with GHP funding is now filled with water. The reservoir will provide a desperately needed source of water for Kisesini and many surrounding villages. The villagers are deeply grateful to Dr. Ruth O'Keefe, a GHP volunteer and generous donor, and the champion of this project.



The dam before the rain



The dam after the rain

DONATE: send checks to:
Global Health Partnerships
P.O. Box 4385
Albuquerque, NM 87196

Regular monthly contributions to GHP help sustain our work to deliver life-saving health care to those most in need. Please consider making a monthly donation through United Way or by credit card from our web site: www.GHP-USA.org