

Firelight Newsflash! 6 July 2010

Dear partners,

This Newsflash builds on Elijah's words from last week to share more personal and inspiring words about working with children, families, and communities from Firelight's grantees. Sharing what motivates and keeps them going gives us all a little encouragement in our day-to-day tasks and struggles! Please enjoy.

Sincerely,  
The Firelight Newsflash!

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### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **-Call for applications: NGO Forum Small Grants Facility**

The NGO Forum Small Grants Facility aims to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for sustainable development and ensure international commitments to SRHR, MDG 5 and the ICPD program of action. The NGO Forum Small Grants Facility provides small grants to civil society organizations to take forward the Berlin Call to Action and SONGS. Deadline: July 18th. More at [http://www.globalngoforum.de/forum\\_small\\_grants\\_facility/](http://www.globalngoforum.de/forum_small_grants_facility/).

#### **-Seek, Test, Treat, and Retain: Addressing HIV among Vulnerable Populations (R01) (RFA-DA-11-001)**

Application Receipt Date(s): November 15, 2010 <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-11-001.html>

#### **-Elton John AIDS Foundation: Funding Opportunity**

The mission of the Elton John AIDS Foundation is to provide funding for educational programs targeted at HIV/AIDS prevention and/or the elimination of prejudice and discrimination against HIV/AIDS-affected individuals, and for programs that provide services to people living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS. The Elton John AIDS Foundation funds nonprofit organizations providing direct care for persons with HIV/AIDS or prevention education programs directed towards

persons practicing high risk behavior.

<http://www.cdcnpin.org/scripts/display/FundDisplay.asp?FundNbr=2252>

**-The United States Agency for International Development, Mission to Kenya (USAID/Kenya), invites applications from all U.S. and Non-U.S. qualified organizations to implement youth activities in Kenya.**

First Closing Date for Submission of Concept Papers; June 25, 2010, Final Closing Date for Submission of Concept Papers: November 26, 2010  
[yesyouthcan@usaid.gov](mailto:yesyouthcan@usaid.gov)

**-Common Wealth Foundation Civil Society responsive Grants**

If your organization is planning a regional or international workshop or an exchange visit to another NGO or project, but you are in need of grant support for it, then one of the best possible options is applying for the Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Responsive Grants. Responsive grants are awarded on a quarterly basis. Applications should be submitted by 30 June, 30 September, 31 December or 31 March.

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com>

**-Ambassador's Community Grants Fund for HIV/AIDS Relief in the Tanzania**

Each year, the United States Ambassador's HIV/AIDS Relief Fund in Tanzania will award grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 to support some of Tanzania's most promising small community- and faith-based organizations (CBOs and FBOs) that are making significant contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

<http://tanzania.usembassy.gov/grants.html>

**-The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS works to promote human rights in developing countries and is currently inviting proposals**

Due to large number of applications and limited funds KIOS will accept applications only from its focus regions (South Asia and East Africa) from 15 March 2010 to 31 August 2010.

<http://www.kios.fi/>

**-United States Institute of Peace seeks proposals**

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) supports peace-building projects implemented by nonprofit organizations including educational institutions, research institutions and civil society organizations. Under its 2010 Annual Grant Competition, USIP is seeking applications from organizations and individuals around the world. Topic areas of interest to USIP include conflict analysis and prevention, mediation and conflict resolution, post-conflict peace and stability operations, religion and peacemaking, women and girls in peace-building, media, and more. Deadline: October 1st. More at <http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest->

funds-for-ngos/usips-2010-annual-grant-competition-for-peacebuilding-projects/#axzz0qrbvu6x7.

**-CNN seeks nominations for 2010 Heroes competition** CNN, the US-based international television network, is seeking nominations for its 2010 CNN Heroes competition. CNN Heroes is for individuals who have made accomplishments in their areas of work and left others inspired. The winner of this competition will receive a grant award of \$100,000 and each of the ten finalists will receive \$25,000 each. This competition is open only to individuals, and their accomplishments should have occurred on or after November 26, 2009. There is also a "Young Wonder" category in this award where nominees who are 25 years old or less than that. Organizations or groups are not eligible. Deadline: August 1st. More at <http://www.fundsforngos.org/latest-funds-for-ngos/cnn-invites-nominations-for-2010-cnn-heroes/#axzz0qrdhB5o3>.

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Mango services: Great people, great results.....

It takes great people to achieve great results. If you are struggling to find finance staff, we might be able to help you with our register of pre-screened finance professionals. They are all committed to working with NGOs and have the required technical and interpersonal competencies.

To keep up with demand, we aim to continually build this high quality resource and extend the reach in key NGO regional 'hubs' such as East Africa and Asia. With this in mind, we'd love to hear from you if you'd like to know more about our Recruitment and Placements service or to hire staff. Contact the Recruitment team

here: [http://www.mango.org.uk/recruitment/?dm\\_i=3SG,6RUZ,LCDI6,GSSG,1](http://www.mango.org.uk/recruitment/?dm_i=3SG,6RUZ,LCDI6,GSSG,1)

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AFRICA: Renewing the Promise of Education for All

Laure Pichegru

JOHANNESBURG, Jun 14 (IPS) - The World Cup is wreaking havoc with a key millennium development goal in South Africa: as the football tournament hit its stride, not a single child across the nation attended school.

It's temporary, of course: the winter holiday has been extended so schools are closed during the month-long tournament.

But there are 43 million children in sub-Saharan Africa who are truly unable to

attend school, according to the United Nations Development Programme - just over a third of the 115 million of children around the world who are out of school. Many millions more struggle to get an education under testing conditions - inadequate buildings, overworked teachers facing enormous classes.

The adoption of universal education programmes has led to an increase in the number of African children in school, but many problems remain.

In Kenya, the number of children attending primary schools has doubled since 2003, with 80 percent of school-aged children now enrolled. But, as the government does not have the financial means to pay and train additional teachers, classrooms are overcrowded and the quality of education is declining.

In Sierra Leone, school authorities have hired additional teachers - at their own discretion - to face the increase of children attending schools. Now the education department is refusing to pay those teachers.

"Even if young people have access to education as in Africa, a lot of their education is not quality education," says Salim Vally, spokesman for the Public Participation in Education Network, a citizens' group working for quality education for all South Africans.

Alongside trade unions and others, PPEN is one of 20-odd in South Africa participating in the 1GOAL campaign. The campaign was launched in 2009, with the aim of using the platform of the 2010 World Cup to mobilise public pressure on world leaders to fulfil the promises they have made in the frame of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

Two of the development goals to which African countries have signed up focus on education; the commitment is both to ensuring all children are able to complete primary school, and to providing opportunities to girls for education at all levels.

"We are all uniting with one voice to make sure that education is a top priority," said Alex Kent, head of 1GOAL South Africa. "We want to make sure that policies are put in place, that the money has been put forward, that girls get a chance to learn, that everything is being made possible out of this World Cup."

Access to education is particularly unequal in South Africa:

"Rich people benefit from good quality education. But the vast majority of children receive a low quality education. Only seven percent of our schools have a library. And the culture of reading is very important," Vally told IPS at a Jun. 10 march to Johannesburg's Constitution Hill.

"If we can host the World Cup, which costs over 60 billion rand (7.8 billion dollars - the more commonly provided estimate is \$4.5-5 billion), surely we can provide our schools with libraries, relevant books, and well-trained teachers."

Mthunzi Gcinumthetho, an 18-year-old student at the Albert Street School in the Johannesburg township of Soweto, says, "The government keeps lying to us, students. It is telling us that it is protecting the rights of every school child. But that is not true because the type of school you find in Johannesburg CBD is not the same type of school you find in Sandton."

Schools in Sandton, a wealthy area of the Greater Joburg municipality, lack for nothing: libraries, computers, teachers. But many schools in Soweto or in the central business district, five or six children may have to share one textbook.

"Here in South Africa we have the best schools in the world and the worst," said Kent. "We want to make sure that policies are put in place to fight against inequality. We want to see out of that summit new policies, some new commitment on education, we want all African countries to put 20 percent of their budget into education. We want them to recruit and train more teachers."

Just before the winter holidays end, and school resumes, South African president Jacob Zuma will host other heads of state at the world education summit in Cape Town. The Jul. 7 meeting is to draw up an action plan that will see every child in the world in school by the time the next edition of the World Cup is played in Brazil in 2014.

(FIN/2010)

For the article, go here: <http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=51821>

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South Africa and the 2010 World Cup: Pushing Women's Rights Further to the Fringe...

Fifteen years after the female condom was first introduced<sup>1</sup>, very few people even know of its existence. One would think that the silent genocide being perpetrated by holding back this life saving option would have received the attention that it so deserves.

In 2008, Thohoyandou Victims Empowerment Programme (TVEP), a rural-based women's rights organisation located in one of South Africa's most under resourced provinces, Limpopo, embarked on a training programme that sought to impart information to village women on the importance and correct use of the Female Condom.

As the only woman initiated tool that has been proven to be effective in the prevention of HIV, STIs and unplanned pregnancies, it seemed clear that this

technology should be a key feature of South Africa's response to the epidemic which for years has had a black, female, unemployed face.

The training also sought to position Female Condom use as 'sexy' for both women and men, essentially turning the device into a sex toy and winning half of the 'bedroom power battle'.

After training more than 70 women and men<sup>2</sup> on the Social Marketing of the Female Condom, TVEP began to receive complaints from the 'Female Condom Ambassadors'... "Where can we get this Female Condom we are now excited about?"...." The clinic has none, the hospital only gave me three...."

As an organisation that was for the last seven years fairly politically naïve, after several calls and enquiries to Government Departments at all levels, we found ourselves having to look at the bigger, more contentious issue of Female Condom Programming in South Africa, that of procurement. Always a sensitive topic in a country plagued by tender irregularities and mismanagement of public funds, we then realised that South Africa's National Strategic Plan (2007–2011) contained provision for the purchase of 425 million male condoms yet only THREE million female condoms!

As in the rest of the world, patriarchy is not unique to South Africa, and after encountering a range of responses from the Government's Department of Health<sup>3</sup> (female condoms are too expensive, women don't like them, how many men 'like' the male condom?, women don't demand them, etc.) we decided that the time was now to spark national debate around this issue.

More than 78 national NGOs convened at South Africa's first National Dialogue<sup>4</sup> on Universal Access to Female Condoms and one thing was clear: everyone agreed that the female condom was a key tool in the HIV prevention battle. The Human Rights Commission called the lack of affordable access to Female Condoms a human rights violation.

A declaration was adopted that contained several commitments to support the struggle for Universal Access to Female Condoms in South Africa. Unfortunately, TVEP remains one of the only South African NGOs that has Female Condoms at the core of its advocacy work.

## The Audit

In 2009, TVEP took a decision to facilitate a National Audit into the Procurement, Distribution and Social Marketing of the Female Condom in South Africa.

## Procurement

The procurement environment in South Africa is flawed, with tender guidelines

effectively excluding all but one manufacturer of Female Condoms from securing the contract. This has resulted in several court actions being brought to have the tender nullified. As a direct result of this we have seen persistent national shortages of Female Condoms. TVEP is currently looking into legal action against the National Department of Health and Treasury in this regard to ensure that the procurement environment is transparent, accountable and competitive to ensure reduction in the “high costs” of saving women’s lives!

## Social Marketing

This aspect of the Audit will document the extent to which Government (as well as civil society) has failed in the promotion of this life saving technology. The audit will cover an analysis of public nurses training curricula, home-based caregiver training content as well as Government’s communications systems on HIV prevention in general and Female Condoms in particular.

This audit is underway and the final report is due for circulation at the end of 2010.

Now, with the Soccer World Cup a few days away we wonder how far we as women’s rights activists need to go to ensure that this critical life saving (and sexy!) disease prevention tool remains on the agenda - free of profiteering, corruption and power games that strip away yet another option that women have to ensure a healthy, productive life, not only for themselves but for their children, partners and communities as a whole.

As long as the Female Condom remains off the Government’s radar, the efforts to stem the tide of the disease will have minimal impact and both civil society and Government continue to be the failed heroes of the struggle for health rights for all.

Perhaps that’s not such a bad thing, perhaps WE will be the new heroes that take up this struggle, on behalf of our mothers, sisters and daughters who die needlessly from a preventable disease but are denied the tools to protect themselves. We should be ashamed, shouldn’t we?

Some quotes from previous and current “leaders” on HIV prevention that, if taken seriously and backed by sufficient political will, I might not be writing this article!

Barbara Hogan: "It was imperative to get ahead of the curve of this epidemic 10 years ago," she said. "We all have lost ground. It’s even more imperative now that we make HIV prevention work..."

South Africa’s Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, "...let me assure you that the government of South Africa will continue to support research into microbicides as well as to procure and distribute large numbers of female

condoms.”

20th August 2009, SANAC Women’s Sector Prevention Summit

South Africa’s Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe answering a question in parliament “ With regards to the prevention of new HIV infections, Government and all SANAC sectors are rolling out targeted prevention programmes to ensure that those who are HIV negative remain so. Examples of these are: social mobilisation; information, communication and education programmes; risk reduction campaigns, the provision of male and female condoms, the treatment of sexually transmitted infections and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programmes.”

9 September 2009, Parliament

It’s times like this that I wish I could use our World Cups pay off line... “Ke Nako...It’s Time!”

- Tian Johnson is Research, Advocacy and Special Projects Advisor at the Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Programme.

For the article, go here: <http://www.ngopulse.org/article/south-africa-and-2010-world-cup-pushing-women-s-rights-further-fringe>

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HelpAge International Resources

Visit the link below for policy reports and resources on topics such as: Achieving income security in old age for all Tanzanians; Forgotten Workforce: older people and their right to decent work; Why it's time for a convention on the rights of older people; and many more. All resources are downloadable and can be ordered for free.

<http://www.helpage.org/Resources/Policyreports>

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The New York Times  
April 30, 2010

Rwanda Pursues Dissenters and the Homeless

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN

IWAWA ISLAND, Rwanda — A few months ago, Gasigwa Gakunzi was hanging around a ramshackle house where poor children pay to watch television when the Rwandan police arrested him for loitering. The next thing he knew, he said, he was taken away from his family and carted off to this remote island in the middle of Lake Kivu.

Gasigwa, 14, now spends his days learning patriotic songs and how to march like a soldier. At night, he sleeps in a huge sheet-metal shed with hundreds of men and boys packed mattress to mattress.

“Please call my father,” he whispered. “He has no idea where I am.”

Nearly 900 beggars, homeless people and suspected petty thieves, including dozens of children, have recently been rounded up from the nation’s neatly swept streets and sent — without trial or a court appearance — to this little-known outpost. They will spend up to three years here being “rehabilitated,” learning skills like bricklaying, hairdressing and motorcycle maintenance.

It is one of the country’s newest self-improvement projects, and it seems a fitting symbol for what many political analysts and human rights groups say Rwanda has become: orderly but repressive.

Under President Paul Kagame, this country, which exploded in ethnic bloodshed 16 years ago, is now one of the safest, cleanest and least corrupt nations on the continent. The capital, Kigali, is not ringed by sprawling slums, and carjackings — a deadly problem in many African cities — are virtually unheard of here. The roads are smoothly paved; there is national health insurance; neighborhoods hold monthly cleanups; the computer network is among the best in the region; and the public fountains are full of water, not weeds. All of this has been accomplished in one of the world’s poorest countries.

But while the nation continues to be praised as a darling of the foreign aid world and something of a central African utopia, it is increasingly intolerant of political dissent, or sometimes even dialogue, and bubbling with bottled-up tensions. Recent grenade attacks in Kigali and a shake-up in the army showed that even one of the cornerstones of the new Rwandan state — personal security — might be in danger.

“Kagame’s strategy for stability is a dangerous, long-term gamble,” said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. “By stymieing a political opposition, an independent press or a critical civil society — in short, by not allowing democratic institutions to form — Kagame is leaving people little to identify with but their ethnic group.”

With less than four months to go before national elections, few of the major opposition parties have been allowed to register. Some opposition supporters have been attacked inside government offices; others have been jailed. Several prominent government officials who recently broke ranks with Mr. Kagame defected to other African nations, saying they feared for their lives. The BBC local-language radio service was shut down for a time because the Rwandan government did not like the way it was talking about the genocide of 1994.

That dark period, when death squads from the Hutu majority massacred hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsis, as well as moderate Hutus, remains the touchiest subject of all. In the past three years, Rwandan officials have prosecuted more than 2,000 people, including political rivals, teachers and students, for espousing “genocide ideology” or “divisionism.”

Mr. Kagame and his disciplined military quickly restored order after the genocide, and this stability has been the foundation for Rwanda’s remarkable comeback. The foreign minister, Louise Mushikiwabo, says that after all Rwanda has been through, the government has to remain vigilant about ethnic divisions.

“Rwanda will not allow any politician, political party, any individual, to tamper with the reconciliation and unity in Rwanda,” she said in an interview.

Instigators of violence have been prosecuted for divisionism, but so have people trying to discuss the country’s past or its current direction. Critics contend that the government wields Orwellian-sounding laws that are intentionally vague to stifle any inkling of opposition.

Even programs like the one on Iwawa Island, which the government says will give street people a second chance, are not exactly what they seem.

As a boatload of officials recently glided onto shore, one police commissioner gestured to the birds, the trees and the young men with uniformly shaved heads fetching water and said, “Welcome to our Hawaii.”

But on the mainland, people describe it as an Alcatraz.

“We call it the island of no return,” said Esperance Uwizeyimana, a homeless mother of four.

None of the vocational training programs had started by mid-March. Protais Mitali, the youth minister, insisted there were no street children here, just adults. Yet squeezed in with the men were many adolescents like Gasigwa, and employees confided that several dozen boys were incarcerated here.

“This isn’t a good place for children,” one employee said in hushed tones because the minister was nearby. “They could get abused.”

Rwandan officials are prickly about complaints. President Kagame lashed out at foreign critics this month, saying, “Who should be giving lessons to Rwanda’s 11 million people about what is good for them?”

He called opposition leaders “hooligans” and said Rwandans were “as free, as happy, as proud of themselves, as they have never been in their lives.”

Several leading opposition figures, like Victoire Ingabire, say it is impossible to challenge the government, arguing that it is controlled by a cabal of Tutsis who were refugees in Uganda before the genocide and now unfairly dominate the economy.

Mrs. Ingabire, a Hutu, was an accountant living in the Netherlands until she returned in January to run for president. Today, she lives in a new housing development called Vision 2020 Estate; her sturdy, two-story brick town house is indistinguishable from dozens of others, except for the guards out front.

“There’s no space to talk about what happened in our country,” said Mrs. Ingabire, who has been charged with genocide ideology, being a “divisionist” and collaborating with rebels. It is not just Hutu politicians who feel persecuted. Charles Kabanda used to be a leader of the Rwandan Patriotic Front, the Tutsi-dominated ruling party, but split with it in the late 1990s, he said, because “they were ruthless.”

He recently worked with the Green Party, but said it had been repeatedly blocked from competing in the elections. Government officials said the Green Party failed to meet requirements like getting 200 valid signatures from all over Rwanda. Mr. Kabanda simply shook his head.

“ ‘Enemy, enemy, enemy’ — that’s what they call anyone who thinks differently,” he said. “This government’s record is dreadful. It’s only you, the international community, who is showering them with flowering praise.”

Josh Kron contributed reporting.

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Helpful Manuals on-line

### **Mobilizing Religious Communities to Respond to Gender-Based Violence and HIV**

This manual guides trainers in conducting workshops for religious leaders and women leaders of faith on gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV. The resource includes details about activities to be conducted on each day of the agenda, as well as handouts and sample prayers and reflections...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/313740/347>

### **Engaging Faith-Based Organizations in HIV Prevention: A Training Manual for Programme Managers**

This document is a training manual that details step-by-step descriptions of how to effectively partner and engage faith-based organisations in mitigating the spread of HIV. It seeks to equip policy makers, programme managers, and development communicators with the awareness of social, cultural, and

economic complexities that impact HIV prevention...  
<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/315340/347>

### **Fact Sheet on Gender Based Violence: A Responsibility to Protect**

This fact sheet provides basic information about gender-based violence (GBV) and its link to HIV and AIDS, including information about the issues, forms, and factors that fuel GBV amongst women and girls, showing that violence against women is a political issue...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/315209/347>

### **Living with X - A Body Mapping Journey in the Time of HIV and AIDS: Facilitator's Guide**

This manual, developed in the context of HIV/AIDS, is designed to assist facilitators to carry out body mapping exercises to help people understand and explore their own lives and emotions. The technique can also reach out to other people in social and political ways...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/284318/347>

### **Together for HIV and AIDS Prevention: A Toolkit for the Sports Community**

This toolkit is designed to provide practical advice to National Olympic Committees (NOCs), sports clubs and federations, managers, administrators, employees, coaches and trainers, and athletes who have to deal with the numerous and complex issues surrounding HIV/AIDS that arise, both on and off the field. It focuses on HIV prevention, care, and treatment simultaneously...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/284451/347>

### **HIV Stops with Me "Positive Prevention" - Prevention for People Living with HIV**

This booklet was written for people living with HIV and AIDS in order to provide up-to-date information on "positive prevention". It has sections that discuss: coming to terms with an HIV-positive status, dispelling myths related to HIV, adopting a lifestyle of positive prevention, and playing an active role in HIV prevention efforts in communities...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/311877/347>

### **Sex, Sexuality, and HIV Prevention for Women, Men, and Couples: Addressing the Challenges of HIV Prevention in Southern Africa Trainer's Guide**

This trainer's guide was developed as part of a programme to mainstream HIV and AIDS into cultural practices in order to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls in southern Africa to HIV infection. It begins with separate sessions for female and male participants and ends with a couples' session...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/288466/347>

## **Facilitating Youth Caregiver Solidarity and Empowerment - An Animator's Guidebook to the Giving Hope Empowerment Methodology**

Prepared to facilitate a youth empowerment approach among organisations working with orphan- and youth-headed vulnerable households, this guidebook was created to focus the efforts of social workers and community volunteers on creating spaces where youth who have become the caregivers of their families can come together and take charge of their futures...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/312045/347>

## **Advocacy in Action - A Toolkit to Support NGOs and CBOs Responding to HIV/AIDS**

This toolkit shows how to use advocacy to influence people in power to create an environment that protects the rights, health, and welfare of everyone - whether HIV-positive or -negative. It sets out to build practical skills and provide a training resource for continued learning...

<http://www.comminit.com/en/node/312161/347>

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Quotes from others on why they do the work

“Children continue to be a great inspiration to me. Each time I want to give up this work, they remind me that we all need each other. I feel privileged to learn from them. Their hope represents our future.” Louis Mwewa, Founder and Executive Director of Lupwa Lwabumi Trust, Zambia, Firelight Resource Person

“Through this work I have learned my weak points and my strong points. I have learned to do the best in whatever I do. In my life, my best teachers are not the doctors or professionals, but the people I work with in Alexandra, and the children. I have also seen these children grow and change through their involvement in [our] program. They respect each other. They listen to each other. They have opened up with their feelings. They teach one another.” Sonto Manyathi, Outreach Worker, AFXB South Africa

“When I started, I wanted my work to say thank you to the caregivers, for being there, for making me know I’m not alone. Esandleni Sothando means ‘hands of love.’ What I mean is to say I was in the right hands. Counselors shared their love, caring, and patience with me. I want to extend those hands of love to other children.” ~Beven Mwachande, Founder and Director of Esandleni Sothando Trust of Zimbabwe on why he founded his organization

“To grow from a child into an adult is a journey—the journey of life. Along the way, children may encounter problems. Often they are strong enough to continue their journey without additional help. However, sometimes especially in

times of HIV/AIDS, and family disintegration, the problems are too many or too difficult. Therefore, the child requires the strength and caring of the family or community to continue onward with the journey.” ~from report by Mara Widows Development Group, Tanzania

“Community-based care gives a child a sense of belonging, a sense of confidence, protection from the community, and the community also becomes happy to find that at least they are doing something and they get the satisfaction, and that satisfaction brings everybody to become one as strong human beings.” ~Lydia Muso, Lesotho Child Counseling Unit

“The small, small community-based organizations can do wonders with the funding and training we provide. They understand the issues on the ground. They are still there doing the work during the rainy season when the roads are not passable, or when there is no electricity or telephone service. They are still working, visiting the children and providing them counseling, whether all of the funding is there or not.” ~Saeed Wame, Namwera AIDS Coordinating Committee, Malawi

“If a child is given a supportive environment, a child can become someone. Give children a chance and an environment, and you will discover great, great heroes in them.” ~Moses Zulu, formerly with DAPP Children’s Town, Zambia

“Share your heart with the community and the community will share their hands with you.” ~Howard Kasiya, Firelight Resource Person in Malawi

“Children give us hope – hope that as a community, when we stand together, we can overcome our fear. In the togetherness, we give one another courage to take action.” ~Mathobo Tsepa, Mohoma Temeng, Lesotho

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Why do you do the work? Please feel free to share your stories, thoughts, and comments with us for future Newsflashes.

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As part of the Firelight Foundation’s Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides “Newsflashes” to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes

at [newsletter@firelightfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@firelightfoundation.org).