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Aids in Sub-Saharan Africa

By: Brittney Earle, Region III Vice President

Nowhere in the world has the impact of HIV/AIDS been more severe than in Sub-Saharan Africa. AIDS is caused by the virus HIV. AIDS was unknown to Africa about 25 years ago and is now the number one killer disease in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since the start of the epidemic, over 39 million people have been infected with HIV in this region of Africa.

It is estimated that 29.4 million people are currently living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. That is two-thirds of HIV/AIDS cases reported globally. In the regions of Zimbabwe and Botswana, one in four adults carries the virus. A child born in Zambia or Zimbabwe today is more likely than not to die of AIDS.

Africa, however, is no stranger to diseases that kill. Malaria still claims about as many African lives as AIDS, and preventable childhood diseases kill millions of others. What sets AIDS apart, however, is its unprecedented impact many adults in the prime of their working and parenting lives; therefore, decimating workforce. AIDS also fractures and impoverishes families, orphans millions, and shreds the fabric of communities. The gap between AIDS in Africa and the world will most likely increase in the next century. Other countries with the use of medical innovation are now trying to decrease the growth of AIDS/HIV in Africa.



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Placida Karigendo, severely ill with an AIDS-related skin infection, is watched over by her brother at their home near Bukoba in northwest Tanzania. Placida's father died from AIDS and her mother is very ill. Placida contracted the disease from a blood transfusion when she was just two years old. (June 97)



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"I have been sick for 10 years now," says Joseph, here carried by his mother Dorika outside their home in Bugarika, in Tanzania's Great Lakes region. "When it is warm and dry I spend my days sitting outside my house. I read the bible and people pass by and talk with me." AIDS was first documented in the Great Lakes region of central Africa 15 years ago. (June 97)



AIDS patients Lovemore Zamara, 15, and Lauren Toga, 11, spend their days at the Mashambanzou Care Trust in Harare, Zimbabwe.



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Mookhona Hlabou, 29, who is HIV positive, lives with his 21-member family in a two-room squatter shack. Mookhona said, "I was given some drugs which make me feel better, but I cannot afford to buy anymore. I have heard that in overseas countries the government provides drugs and food free for people with AIDS, but here in South Africa, there is nothing now. I am unhappy that people overseas can get better from the good drugs they are given, while we in South Africa have to die."



blood:water mission

By: Sierra Jenkins National HOSA President Elect

There are 37 million people worldwide that are infected with HIV/AIDS. Of the 37 million people suffering from HIV/AIDS, 2 million are children and 17 million are women. AIDS has already killed 22 million people in the world and threatens to kill millions more. The wide spread epidemic of AIDS not only causes grief and death, but it also decreases life expectancy, increases child mortality, orphans millions, poverty, powerlessness and social instability.

What is AIDS? AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and was first recognized in the 1980s. AIDS is caused by HIV, or Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus and can be passed from person to person through sexual contact, blood transfusion, and other bodily fluids. Mothers with HIV can pass the HIV to their babies during pregnancy, delivery, and by breast feeding. HIV weakens the immune system which prevents the fighting off of certain cancers. HIV eventually leads to AIDS that cause terminal illnesses. HIV/AIDS is treatable and preventable.

Sub-Saharan Africa makes up about 10% of the world's population with 60% (25 million) of its people infected with HIV. Sub-Saharan has the world's highest HIV rate and faces the greatest demographic impact. Other countries in Africa affected by the HIV virus include the following: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, and Swaziland.

4 children die every minute because of a lack of clean water

Why Blood? AIDS is carried in the blood and clean blood represents blood free HIV. Why Water? "Clean water is a basic human right and a foundational element in community health, and is in many ways the first step toward achieving overall community health. Unsafe water and poor

sanitation play a major role in the transmission of many diseases, including diarrhea, cholera, malaria, schistosomiasis and typhoid. Diarrhea alone is responsible for the deaths of 1.8 million people each year, 90% of whom are children under 5, and 88% of diarrhea is caused by unclean water and inadequate sanitation." (World Health Organization) For AIDS patients', clean water is a necessity because water helps prevent the aggravation of the disease and provides effective care for them.

"Blood: Water Mission, committed to clean blood and clean water to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to build clean wells in Africa, to support medical facilities caring for the sick, to make a lasting impact in the fight against poverty, injustice and oppression in Africa through the linking of needs, talents and continents, of people and resources."
(www.bloodwatermission.com)

The 1,000 Wells Project is a project to help clean the water in various African communities. The goal is to build 1,000 wells that will provide clean and disease free water to the African communities. One simple dollar makes such a difference. It provides one year of clean water for an African. Think about it: Make water your only beverage for just two weeks. Save the money you would usually spend on beverages. After two weeks, send the money to Blood: Water Mission and it will be used to drill clean water wells where the need is great. For more information on this amazing project and on how you can make a difference go to www.bloodwatermission.com.





HEALTH CARE CRISIS

By: Marko Mijic, Region I Vice President

Health care is a prominent issue that affects people worldwide. Everyone makes a visit to the doctor or dentist and many fill their prescriptions at the local pharmacy. However, in the United States the health care system is failing and citizens are becoming the number one victim. With health care premiums at an all-time high, many low and middle class Americans have to decide whether a prescription or food on the table is more important. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2004, sixteen percent of our population was uninsured, which categorizes an estimated 45.8 million people. Out of the sixteen percent, twelve percent are children under the age of eighteen who are not receiving proper health care. This vividly illustrates that we must invest our time and money in health care. As a nation that prides itself on a strong and advanced health care community, many are left behind. What becomes even more disturbing is the number of people who have neglected their rights.

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Health care has been a debated topic at state and federal levels, and as future health care providers we must make sure that we are aware what HMO's (Health Management Organization) and our federal government are doing to better the health care crisis in our country. We have the best health care in the world and we need to be using it to benefit all members

of our society whether they are rich or poor. For many, the health care system is a very complex topic that can be discussed in length, however, we as the future pipeline of health care professionals must focus on results and ensure that all protected.

FIRE FIGHTING Occupations

By: Sierra Jenkins National HOSA President Elect

Thousands of lives are affected everyday by fires, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies. Fire fighters help protect people by rapidly responding to various emergencies. In most cases, fire fighters along with first responders are the first to arrive on an emergency scene to provide care. While on duty, fire fighters must be prepared to respond to any emergency that arises. Fire fighting is complex and dangerous and takes an extreme amount of organization and teamwork. It is all about working well with others and never leaving anybody behind. Firefighters work in many different environments that include: urban and suburban areas, airports, chemical plants, and rural areas such as grasslands and forests. Some fire fighters also work with hazardous materials units to assist with control, prevention, and clean up of materials. These are only limited examples of what fire fighters do, because there is so much more to the job then can be explained, every emergency is different.

When the alarm sounds, fire fighters must rapidly respond no matter the hour or weather conditions. Fire fighting does come with the risk of injury, death from cave-ins, toppling walls, and traffic accidents when responding to calls. They are also exposed to flames, smoke, and other hazardous materials. Fire fighters dress in protective gear to protect them from the heat and hazardous materials.

Fire fighter applicants must pass a written exam, tests of strength, physical stamina, coordination, and a medical exam that includes drug testing. Most fire departments require a training center or academy. Through classroom instruction and practical training, the rubrics include: fire fighting techniques, fire prevention, hazardous material control, local building codes, and emergency medical procedures, including first aid and cardiopulmonary. They also learn how to use axes, chains saws, fire extinguishers, ladders, and other fire fighting and rescue equipment. Almost all fire departments require fire fighters to be certified as emergency medical technicians.

Fire fighters work more than 50 hours a week. In some companies fire fighters work a 24 hour shift and then are off for 48 hours. According to what position a fire fighter holds determines their salary. Salaries range from \$41,000-\$68,000.

