

ENDING HUNGER • SAVING THE EARTH

# WorldArk



## Whose Children? AIDS ORPHANS IN AFRICA

BY GARY GUNDERSON



JULY/AUGUST 2004

A SPECIAL AIDS REPORT  
HOW HEIFER | FAITH-BASED GROUPS  
IS HELPING | BRING RELIEF

## Dear Friends ...

By Jo Luck  
President and CEO

Now it is more  
important than  
ever to remember  
that we are truly  
one world.

In March, I traveled to New Mexico to represent Heifer at the International Women's Forum. While there I happened upon a very special book in a Sante Fe gift shop—*Positively HIV: HIV and AIDS Education Through Beadwork*. This book showcases the work of Monkeybiz, a unique nonprofit organization that gives beads to women in Cape Town who create beautiful and unique works of art in the time-honored South African tradition of beading. The sale of these pieces provides income to the women, who have been either directly or indirectly affected by AIDS, and because they work at home, they can still look after their families. Using these fabulous beadwork creations to illustrate the book, *Positively HIV* delivers a simple education message laced with compassion and hope.

This issue of *World Ark* focuses on AIDS—not just on the terrible AIDS crisis in Africa, but on one of the most heart-breaking and devastating results of the illness: millions of orphans. A generation of the most productive members of African society, adults in their 20s and 30s, have been lost—dead or dying from AIDS. They leave behind their children and their elderly parents on a continent already racked by war, famine and other deadly diseases.

In its forward, *Positively HIV* reminds us that, “There is no medical remedy for HIV and AIDS as yet, but there is human kindness and care.” Following Heifer’s 12 Cornerstones, among them the guiding principle of “Sharing and Caring,” our Africa Program team is

working to provide income- and nutrition-generating animals to families living with the virus and to the orphans left in the virus’s wake.

The crisis in Africa affects all of us, and we all have a role to play. For Heifer International, our role is to alleviate the suffering caused by the disease and give hope to future generations. As Bernard Muyeya, Heifer’s program director in Uganda, says: “The first medicine is to eat.”

Rose Nalukenge, a 41-year-old widow and mother of two, is a Heifer recipient living with AIDS. She received a goat in 2001, after the members of her Heifer group helped her make preparations she was too weak to accomplish on her own.

“I had no money to buy milk,” she says. “I was sickly, so I couldn’t work. Now I get milk daily. It has increased my strength. I have some money. I can look after my children and improve their health.”

Our staff in Africa are not just working to help people like Rose; they themselves have taken AIDS orphans into their own homes, providing them food, shelter and love. They work long hours, interrupted by the necessity of attending yet another funeral of a friend or loved one.

Perhaps most frightening of all is this: AIDS is not just an African problem. The disease is becoming epidemic in China, Indonesia and Eastern Europe, among the most populous regions on earth. Left unchecked, some experts fear, it could topple entire societies, a result that would ripple around the globe, leaving a legacy of fear and instability that could touch us all.

Now it is more important than ever to remember that we are truly one world, one family. Heifer and many other faith-based organizations are seeking to provide solutions, striving to make a difference to those in need and offering hope for the future.



# PREVIEW

**WORLD ARK**  
JULY/AUGUST 2004

*// I think that through the churches  
God has an answer to this [AIDS] crisis  
that we haven't recognized yet. //*  
—Dorothy Hanson of the Presbyterian Church USA



## Whose Children? AIDS Orphans in Africa 6

By Gary Gunderson

AIDS is the most devastating disease since the Black Plague in the Middle Ages. It will kill 8,000 people on the day you read this article and on the next. But the situation is not hopeless—if faith-based groups, development organizations and governments step up their response.

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By the Rev. Peter Ssenkaayi

A Catholic priest describes how, with Heifer's help, his church is addressing the AIDS orphans crisis in one hard-hit area of Uganda.

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By Scott Morris

Heifer project partners are caring for AIDS orphans across Africa. We examine how the gifts of livestock and training are helping to ease their burden in Uganda and Rwanda.

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By Scott Morris

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"Hombre Blanco," who helps in Manabi province, is teaching farmers to use traditional Heifer methods to improve their crops, protect the environment and preserve their culture.

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By Janet K. Ginn

The president of Heifer Foundation explains how you can ease your financial worries in retirement and, at the same time, help hungry people around the world work toward self-reliance.

**Cover:** Angela Namatovu (sitting) and Fatuma Nansukusa, two of 14 AIDS orphans living with their grandmother, Teddy Nayiga. **Photo by Darcy Kiefel**

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## Seeds of Love

**Editor's Note:** *The following letters were submitted by the Rev. Melanie Miller, associate minister of families at the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, N.Y. Addressed to members of the church, they describe an inspiring effort by Sunday School students to raise money for Heifer.*

**Feb. 13, 2003**

Dear Parents,

Back in November, about the time of Consecration Sunday when we were considering our pledges to the Church, the lesson plan for my second- and third-graders was titled "Digging Deep." The focus of the lesson was ministering to others in light of God's love. The lesson was very much about investing. Feeling somewhat challenged by the task of discussing investing with children, I was happy to refer to an example in the curriculum called "A Little Money Grows," which explained the origins of Heifer International and illustrated this as a wonderful example of investment.

Coincidentally, I had just received Heifer's holiday catalog and shared this with the children. My hope was that, as a class, we could raise money to buy a beehive (\$30) or a

flock of chicks (\$20). The children were captivated by the catalog and even more so by the idea of helping people by giving them animals. When asked whether they would like to give bees or rabbits or chicks, they told me that they wanted to give an Ark. I told them that I thought \$5,000 would be too much for our class and that we should think about bees or chicks. One of the girls said we could get others in the church to help us raise money, but I was discouraging.

For the next month I thought about what the children had said, and I decided, Why not? If this was something they wanted to do, then why not reach out to others to

help make this worthwhile dream come true? I talked with the children about the work that would be involved and told them that raising this much money might take some time, but their enthusiasm was not diminished. Ideas started flowing: Ann said she would have a lemonade stand in the spring, Cameron said he would bake brownies, Katie suggested a toy sale, and so on.

Our Church School children of all ages have now adopted the Ark project. As a result of our successful bake sale, we raised enough money to buy two beehives, two trios of ducks, two trios of chicks, two trios of geese, two guinea pigs and one trio of

rabbits. We still have a long way to go to fill the Ark, but what a great start!

**Jana Peters**

**Oct. 17, 2003**

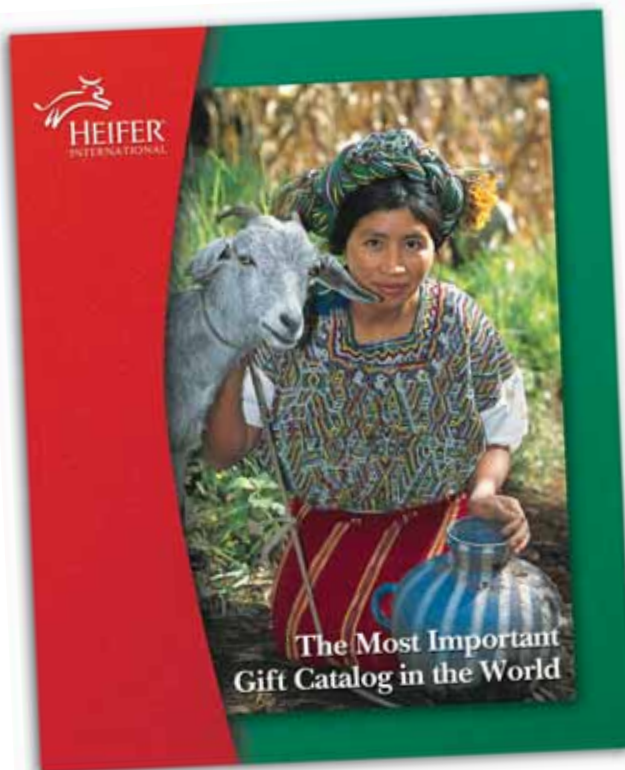
Dear Members and Friends,

We did it! We worked together and raised \$5,000 to purchase a Heifer International Gift Ark.

Something wonderful started to happen when we let the rest of the Sunday School classes, their teachers and their parents know what we were doing. Each class decided on an animal they wanted to raise money for and set about doing so.

We had bake sales, a car wash, recycling drives, penny rolling sessions and a toy sale. Much more than that, we had a wonderful sense of purpose and a common goal. Children from nursery school through high school participated. And parents, teachers, grandparents and other members of the congregation joined in. Donations came from as far away as Arizona. The \$5,000 that I thought would take a year or more to raise was raised by the end of the summer ... in less than eight months.

How amazing that we could meet our goal in such a short time. Thanks to the children's faith and all our



efforts, animals will be sent all over the world to help needy families. Equally amazing and wonderful was the way we worked together as friends, family and a church to make this happen. Certainly the children have learned much and grown from this experience and I believe that they are not the only ones who have done so; I know I have, too.

That little seed of an idea, nurtured with faith, love, hope and some hard work, grew and blossomed and produced a beautiful result. I feel proud, humbled and more than a bit awed by what the children, and all of us, were able to do.

**Jana Peters**

**World Ark** welcomes comment from readers. Heifer International reserves the right to edit letters to the editor for clarity, grammatical errors, spelling and space. Please include a telephone number or e-mail address so we can confirm your identity. Our address is in the box at right.

## Q&A

*In each issue we pose a question or two related to Heifer's goals of ending hunger and saving the earth.*

Do you think the global HIV/AIDS pandemic will affect you directly in the years to come?

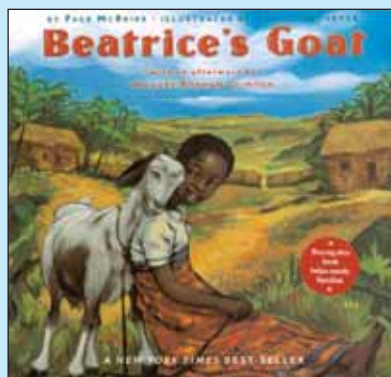
☐ Yes ☐ No

Send your answers, plus any additional comments you wish to make, to the address in the box at right.

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—from the afterword by Hillary Rodham Clinton

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Heifer International publishes *World Ark* bimonthly for donors and friends. Heifer has helped millions of impoverished families worldwide become more self-reliant through the gift of livestock and training in their care. A nonprofit organization rooted in the Christian tradition, Heifer works for the dignity and well-being of all people.

Heifer is a member of InterAction. Federal employees may designate gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign by writing in #0315. Heifer International is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization and gifts to Heifer are tax deductible and are used as designated until current needs of those projects are met. Further gifts are applied to similar projects so that gifts begin helping people immediately.



An abrupt global climate change could seriously threaten the security of the United States, says a report commissioned by the Pentagon.

"There is substantial evidence to indicate that significant global warming will occur during the 21st century," the study says. The report says that gradual global warming could lead to a dramatic shift in weather patterns, endangering the environment.

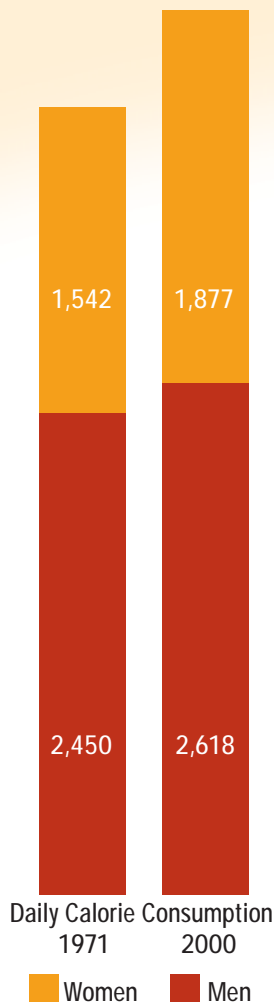
"Military confrontation may be triggered by a desperate need for natural resources such as energy, food and water rather than by conflicts over ideology, religion, or national honor," the study says.

The authors of the study, Peter Schwartz and Doug Randall, say, "We have created a climate change scenario that although not the most likely, is plausible, and would challenge United States national security in ways that should be considered immediately."

To read the study, "An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security," go to [www.ems.org/climate/pentagon\\_climatechange.pdf](http://www.ems.org/climate/pentagon_climatechange.pdf).

### Meanwhile ...

People in the U.S. consume more packaged drinks per capita than in any other country—about 350 aluminum cans per person per year, compared to 103 in Sweden, 88 in the United Kingdom and 14 in France. (Courtesy of *Good Stuff? A Behind-the-Scenes Guide to the Things We Buy*, an online guide from the Worldwatch Institute, [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org).)



### Cut the Carbs

It probably won't surprise anyone to learn that Americans are consuming more calories than they did 30 years ago. And the rate of increase in women is three times that of men, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control. Carbohydrates are to blame for most of the caloric increase.

Obesity kept pace with increased calorie consumption, with rates jumping from 14.5 percent of American adults in 1971 to 30.9 percent in 2000.



The loss of domestic animal breeds around the world appears to be increasing, the United Nations reports. Out of about 6,300 animal breeds registered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., 1,350 are threatened by extinction or are already extinct.

"Genetic diversity is an insurance against future threats such as famine, drought and epidemics," says Irene Hoffmann, chief of the Animal Production Service, a branch of the FAO.

Of the about 30 domesticated mammal and bird species, only 14 provide about 90 percent of the human food supply from animals.

The FAO says the greatest threat to domestic animal diversity results from the failure to appreciate locally adapted breeds. Many farmers rely on a limited number of modern breeds. FAO favors genetic improvement of local breeds.



# Keep on Truckin'

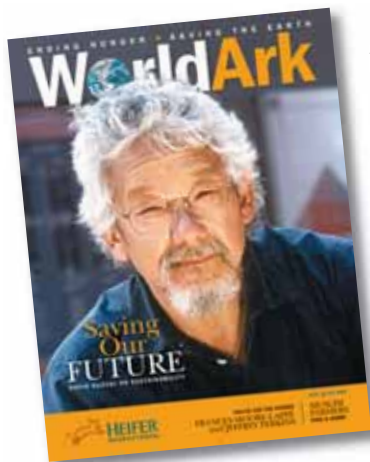
United Parcel Service and Federal Express are testing delivery vehicles that use cleaner fuels. The companies, with a combined fleet of 100,000 vehicles, are starting to switch from diesel-powered vans to hybrid vehicles.

Such vehicles can reduce emissions by 90 percent, but cost savings are a big motivator. Although vehicles using new technologies cost more, they are cheaper to maintain and operate because of increased fuel efficiency.

More than 500,000 hybrid vehicles will be in use by 2008, 40 percent of them trucks, according to estimates by J.D. Powers Associates.



## ... And Another Thing



The last issue of *World Ark* examined the importance of sustainable living and included some of the usual suggestions to achieve a sustainable world, such as recycling. But following are a couple more that might not be so obvious. They come from Umbra Fisk, who writes for *Grist Magazine*, an online environmental magazine ([www.gristmagazine.com](http://www.gristmagazine.com)).

"Private industries have very little incentive to improve their environmental practices. Our consumption choices must encourage and support good behavior; our political choices

must support government regulation.

"Vote. Political engagement enables the spread of environmentally conscious policies. Without public action, thoughtful individuals are swimming upstream.

"Enjoy what you have—the things that are yours alone, and the things that belong to none of us. Both are nice, but the latter are precious. Those things that we cannot manufacture and should never own—water, air, birds, trees—are the foundation of life's pleasures. Without them, we're nothing. With us, there may be nothing left. It's our choice."

Less than 1 percent of the United States budget goes to foreign aid, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ([www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)). But that's a far cry from what Americans think.

## GAP Perception

Most Americans believe that the U.S. spends 24 percent of its annual budget on foreign aid, a 2001 poll sponsored by the University of Maryland found.

As a percentage of gross national product, the U.S. foreign-aid budget ranks last among the world's richest countries (0.13 percent in 2002). The top donors, as a percentage of GNP, are Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, however, 81 percent of Americans backed increasing foreign aid to fight terrorism, a 2002 survey found.

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# Whose Children?



Lousi Benimana, 14, (foreground)  
is an AIDS orphan living in  
Masoro village in Rwanda.



# AIDS



## Orphans in Africa

By Gary Gunderson



Special report photos by Darcy Keifel,  
Heifer International photojournalist

*AIDS is the most devastating disease since the Black Plague in the Middle Ages, so it is not surprising that we struggle to comprehend its scale. The disease will kill 8,000 people on the day you read this article and on the next and the next.*

*But AIDS steals more than life. It steals the future.*

*Seventy percent of AIDS victims live in sub-Saharan Africa; more than 11 million children there have lost at least one parent already, with the number expected to reach 20 million in six years.*

*The numbers stun, then gradually blur.*

*I think about mothers in boxes.*



Orphans need adults who won't give up on them, who will keep the promises their parents would have kept.

**P**etros is a Lutheran pastor in Namibia whom I met while teaching a course on religion and the AIDS pandemic at the University of Cape Town. "I have not even one family in my parish who has so much as one brick in their home, they are so poor," Petros said.

"Our community health clinic has been replaced by an AIDS center. When the mother in our Lutheran church leading the AIDS care team was diagnosed with AIDS herself, her husband threw her out of the house and away from her children. Her birth family would not take her back, so she died in a box on the church grounds a month later."

This is AIDS in Africa.

"So, Dr. Gunderson, what word would you have for me?" Petros asked.

We both knew that, even as we spoke, thousands of women were dying in boxes in



a thousand villages, so his simple question had many dimensions.

The seven other students joined our silence. They all could have told the same story with accents from Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Namibia and Uganda. They knew I had no word for Petros or for any of them that would lessen the catastrophe of AIDS.

Petros wasn't asking how to run his church or how to improve his community health program. He was asking a question from the deep mystery of our time, caught between the astonishing capacities of our scientific knowledge and the primal suffering of mothers in boxes.

### AIDS Stalks the Globe

**H**ow are we to live in such a world, where by 2010 Africa will be home to 20 million AIDS orphans?

Africa, however, is just one continent. AIDS is stalking the entire globe, moving inexorably into Central Europe, Russia, Asia, into some of the most populous nations on the planet.

How can we in the United States afford to ignore this plague?

We can't. The pandemic is not just a moral crisis. The potential for political and social instability is vast. If history has anything to teach us, it's that the United States won't be able to turn away.

But how to confront, much less overcome, such an enormous crisis?

A paradoxical human trait has enabled us to survive global natural disasters, outlast sharp-toothed predators and even prevail over our own worst nature. Frequently, we are at our best when things are at their worst. Perhaps our unique human capacities—for transcendence, shared purpose and common sacrifice—will be adequate to this challenge as well.

### Feeding on Silence

AIDS thrives in the intimate spaces where people need each other in the most primordial and profound ways. It travels among us in relationships that are subtle and obvious, corrupt and noble, animal and transcendent.

AIDS, a sexually transmitted disease with no vaccine and no cure, thrives on our shame and our silences, hypocrisies, humiliations.

It turns our systems of ultimate meaning against us, trapping many religious leaders in silence at the very moment we are most filled with fear and confusion. AIDS gains strength where government is weak, where justice is feeble, where poverty is intractable.

The AIDS pandemic in Africa has been fueled by a complex array of circumstances that vary across the huge continent. They include cultural practices such as polygamy and the obligation of men to marry their brothers' widows. Few people are tested in advance of symptoms, which is deadly because years can pass between infection with the virus and full-blown AIDS. Widespread ignorance of the disease's causes and preventions plays a huge role, as does poverty that often destabilizes families, forces men to leave home for work and compels women into unstable sexual relationships and even prostitution.

Additionally, the spread of AIDS has been fueled by armed conflicts that also shatter families, use rape as a weapon and drive people into cramped refugee camps full of risks. All these factors are exacerbated

by stigmas concerning not only AIDS but sex and sexually transmitted diseases that still, even at this late date, make it difficult for more conservative African societies to acknowledge the terrible threat posed by AIDS.

AIDS, which kills individuals by destroying their immune systems, is its own best metaphor. It kills families, communities, entire cultures by destroying their ability to respond to threats.

Communities with a high prevalence of the disease lose the capacity to move forward. AIDS is not just another problem on the list; it compromises the fundamental capacity of communities to function.

Through the investment of billions of dollars and thousands of brilliant minds doing research, we now have anti-retroviral drugs that provide a glimmer of hope. In wealthy countries, these drugs, known as ARVs, have turned AIDS into a manageable chronic disease, at least for those with insurance and access to skilled medical treatment.

Almost nobody has insurance in Africa, and few have access to aspirin, much less a doctor. The poor do have a lawyer, however—Zachy Achmet—a gay, Muslim, multi-race lawyer from South Africa who has HIV but refused to accept ARV treatment until his government committed to provide free drugs to AIDS sufferers. Achmet has led the battle against the largest multinational corporations trying to protect their market and intellectual property.

Achmet galvanized a coalition of bishops, pastors, celebrities, grandmothers and poor people that has threatened the very fabric of intellectual property rights by keeping the focus on the basic question: Who can deny the claim of millions of mothers, grandmothers and orphans to life-saving drugs?

Nobody can say no outright, but the struggle over price continues. ARVs are available from India and Brazil at a fraction of the price United States and European pharmaceutical companies charge. Even an unprecedented commitment by the U.S.

Far left: Velerie Mukafrika comforts Divine Uwimana, an AIDS orphan in Masoro village in Rwanda.

Left: Isha Anambi, 4, of Kabale Bugonzi village in Uganda, lost her father to AIDS soon after she was born. Her mother, a Heifer project partner, is HIV-positive.





Lousi Benimana and her sibling stand in the shade of a banana tree.

government of \$15 billion is not adequate to provide U.S.-priced drugs to the 2 million people who have been promised them.

As always, AIDS thrives by compromising fundamental human relationships: mother-father-child, stockholder-government-patient. Meanwhile, 8,000 people die every day.

### Helping the Orphans

Ninety percent of the promised U.S. funding and much of the publicity are devoted to questions on the medical side of AIDS—who gets the drugs and how far will

companies go to protect their profits? Only 10 percent of the money is earmarked to assist a generation of orphans and broken villages.

What do the children need? Children need adults who won't give up on them, who will keep the promises their parents would have kept. Like AIDS itself, the children the disease leaves behind tear the veil off all we know about the world and lay it bare. Much is almost too ugly to name—the continued stigmatization and abuse of

the weak. And then in the middle of this human wreckage, a remarkable phenomenon emerges—people and organizations fighting world-scale despair.

A year ago, Dr. William Foege, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and an adviser to the Gates Foundation, asked several humanitarian organizations whether it was possible to hope for an unprecedented response by U.S. religious groups to the AIDS orphans. Almost every group said what you'd want them to say about the orphans, and just about everybody was already beginning to take action.

Compared with the scale of the need, however, the plans lacked at least one zero. We at the Interfaith Health Program at Emory University found that U.S. religious groups might be working to raise \$100 million when they needed to generate at least another zero—\$1 billion.

Money is only one way to keep track. Aid groups need to send 10 health professionals and agriculturalists instead of one. And they need to plan on doing it for 20 years, not two. A zero like that isn't nothing—it's the difference between life and death.

### Faith Groups in Action

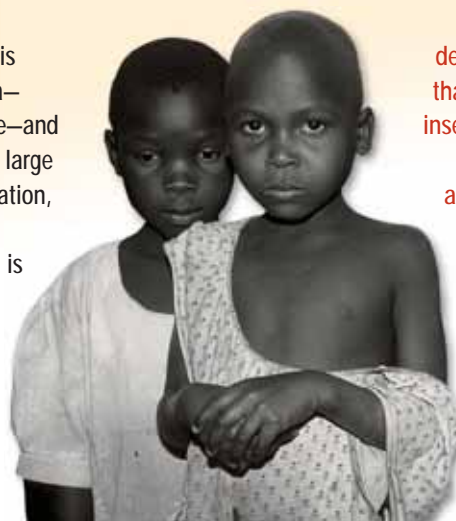
While the response is building among the wealthy countries, it is already under way in Africa. The World Council for Religion and Peace and UNICEF last

*(Continued on page 12)*

## The Bottom Line

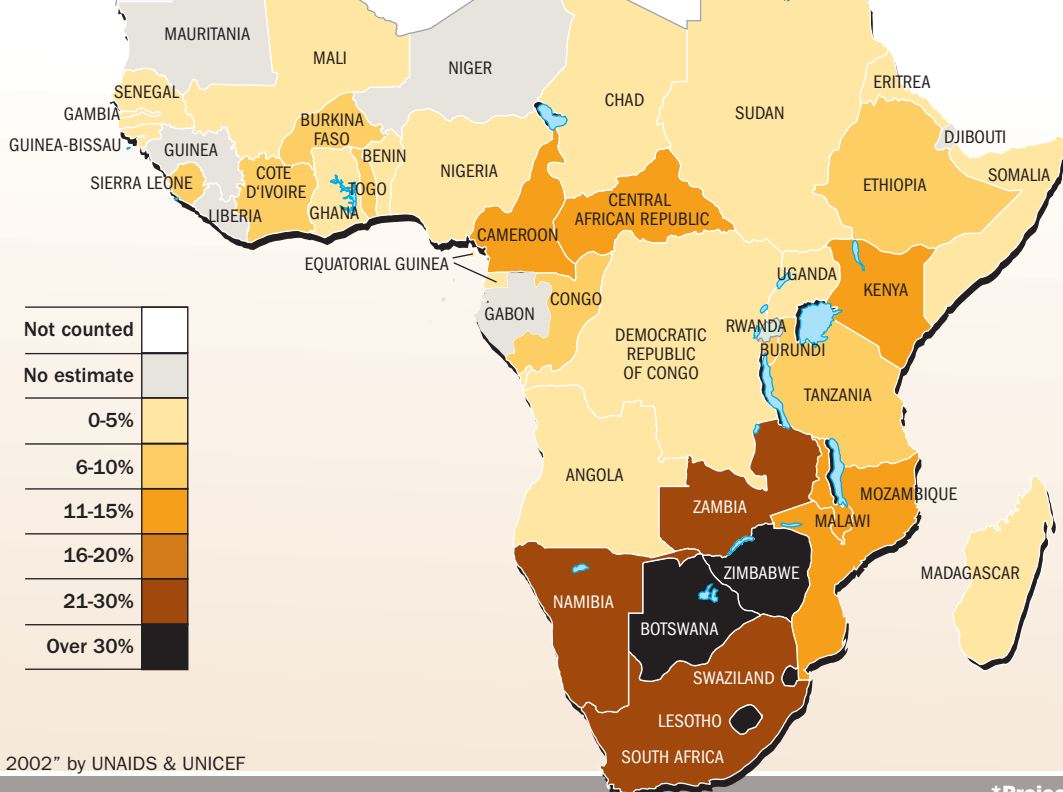
"The HIV/AIDS pandemic is profoundly increasing levels of hunger, poverty and environmental degradation throughout the world. By addressing the problems associated with the pandemic, Heifer is fulfilling its core mission to alleviate hunger, poverty and environmental degradation." From Heifer International's HIV/AIDS Response

AIDS is referred to as a "pandemic" because it is spread over a wide area—virtually the entire globe—and affects an exceptionally large proportion of the population, about 40 million. An "epidemic," by contrast, is confined to a particular population, region or community.



"... HIV/AIDS is a development imperative that can escalate global insecurity and not merely a health problem that afflicts mainly the poor in Africa." From Heifer Rural Africa HIV/AIDS Initiative

# AIDS IN AFRICA



**SOURCE:** "Children on the Brink 2002" by UNAIDS & UNICEF

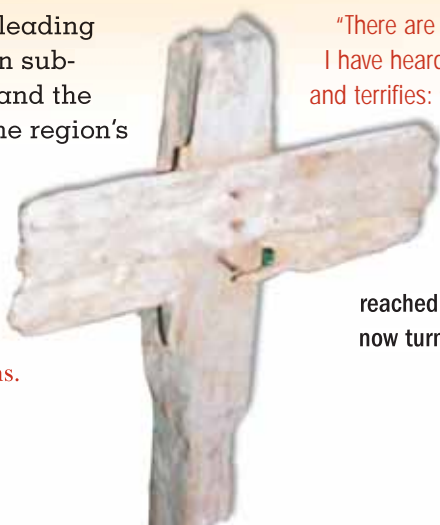
## Orphans due to AIDS

									*Projected
	2001	2010*		2001	2010*		2001	2010*	
Angola	104,000	331,000	Ethiopia	989,000	2,165,000	Niger	33,000	123,000	
Benin	34,000	113,000	Gabon	9,000	14,000	Nigeria	995,000	2,638,000	
Botswana	69,000	120,000	Gambia	5,000	8,000	Rwanda	264,000	356,000	
Burkina Faso	268,000	415,000	Ghana	204,000	263,000	Senegal	15,000	23,000	
Burundi	237,000	296,000	Guinea	29,000	57,000	Sierra Leone	42,000	121,000	
Cameroon	210,000	677,000	Guinea-Bissau	4,000	13,000	South Africa	662,000	1,700,000	
Cen. African Rep.	107,000	165,000	Kenya	892,000	1,541,000	Sudan	62,000	373,000	
Chad	72,000	132,000	Lesotho	73,000	169,000	Swaziland	35,000	71,000	
Congo	78,000	112,000	Liberia	39,000	121,000	Tanzania	815,000	1,167,000	
Cote d'Ivoire	420,000	539,000	Madagascar	6,000	17,000	Togo	63,000	127,000	
Djibouti	6,000	15,000	Malawi	468,000	741,000	Uganda	884,000	605,000	
DR Congo	927,000	1,366,000	Mali	70,000	117,000	Zambia	572,000	836,000	
Equatorial Guinea	<100	1,000	Mozambique	418,000	1,064,000	Zimbabwe	782,000	1,191,000	
Eritrea	24,000	55,000	Namibia	47,000	118,000				

GRAPHIC: Kirk Montgomery

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa and the main threat to the region's development.

Africa has two-thirds of all AIDS infections and more than two-thirds of all deaths.



"There are simply no words in the lexicon of nonfiction to describe the human carnage. I have heard, from African leaders and social commentators alike, language that startles and terrifies: 'holocaust,' 'genocide,' 'extermination,' 'annihilation,' and I want to say that on the ground, at the community level, watching the agony, the language is not hyperbolic." Stephen Lewis, U.N. Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa

"...[T]he current pace and scope of the world's response to HIV/AIDS fall far short of what is required. The struggle against AIDS has reached a crossroads: Either we inch along making piecemeal progress, or we now turn the full weight of our knowledge, resources and commitment against this epidemic. The choice is clear." UNAIDS/WHO, December 2003

year surveyed 686 faith-based organizations and found more than 9,000 volunteers supporting more than 150,000 orphans and other vulnerable children, mostly through community-based initiatives supplying spiritual, material, educational and psychological and social support. Though many individual congregational initiatives supported fewer than 100 children, the cumulative results are significant.

Researchers found that most of the local faith-based organizations operated as efficiently as many larger non-governmental organizations. Most faith-based initiatives rely on their own skills and resources, receiving little or no external technical or financial support.

**Group by group, people are working to help. To succeed, we must build on the human capacity to create meaningful covenants in the face of catastrophe.**

Sara Sievers is an economist who has done some of the basic research used by world bodies to estimate the true cost of meeting orphans' needs. If children survive to school age, the biggest factor determining their life expectancy then becomes their ability to attend school. The scale of the orphan crisis has caused many strategic thinkers like Sievers to focus on persuading governments to abolish school fees altogether.

No other generation has ever had to assume adult responsibilities so quickly and completely. Abolishing school fees only for AIDS orphans would be impossible, but no other single policy initiative could so quickly change the prospects for a generation—especially for girls. Such a

policy change would make programs aimed at disease prevention, health promotion and stigma reduction accessible to children.

Other benefits include literacy and the capacity to learn and adapt. The cost is another zero—about \$10 billion a year, or about what U.S. teenagers spent on personal care products in 2002.

### Deepening the Response

The connection between the first zero, which depends on all of us, and the second zero, which depends largely on government, is direct. Why would elected officials take any risk on behalf of children of dead parents if their constituents in religious, civic and humanitarian groups won't?

The AIDS pandemic pushes us to not just accelerate, but also to deepen our response. With no vaccine or cure and enormous challenges involved in rolling out anti-retroviral treatment on a large scale in poor countries, death rates are nearly certain to continue to spike in the next few years.

In Botswana, Swaziland and South Africa, HIV prevalence rates have reached levels experts thought impossible—30 percent or more. There is a significant time lag between HIV and the onset of AIDS and then a further lag until both parents die. In other words, the worst of the orphan crisis is yet to come. If we don't understand this, we are likely to be prematurely encouraged by our successful treatment programs and prematurely discouraged by the rising deaths and rate of orphans.

The "Children on the Brink" report issued by UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development and UNAIDS, a part of the United Nations, recommends five core strategies:

- Strengthen and support the capacity of families to care for their children.
- Mobilize and strengthen the community-based response.
- Strengthen the capacity of children and youth to meet their own needs.
- Ensure governments develop appropriate policies, including legal and programmatic frameworks, as well as essential services for orphans.
- Raise awareness to create an environment that enables support for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Who can accomplish these tasks? Government at all levels, businesses, private and voluntary organizations, and faith groups. The list above isn't a guide for specialists, but an invitation to partnerships of all kinds: congregation to congregation, hospital to hospital, Rotary Club to Rotary Club, city to city.

And that seems to be happening. Group by group, people are working to do what they can to help. Just as AIDS has thrived by exploiting the most profound human relationships, we must respond by building on the human capacity to create meaningful covenants in the face of the most difficult circumstances.

I use the word "covenant" on purpose. The answer will not be found in anonymous medical technologies or government policies. The answer to AIDS and its orphans lies in our capacity to form relationships equal to the challenges at every scale.

And nothing happens until somebody somewhere feels compelled to do the right thing. 🍀

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*Dr. Gary Gunderson is director of the Interfaith Health Program of the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, which in partnership with the University of Cape Town supports the Africa Religious Health Assets Program.*



# Listen to the Voice



By the Rev.  
Peter Ssenkaayi

**M**ASAKA, Uganda—The story of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda, and in particular in Masaka Diocese, is the story of a disaster that has touched nearly every household.

A survey we carried out in the four districts in our diocese found that many children below the age of 14 were living in homes where the adults had died of AIDS.

Extended families have traditionally handled such cases. But the growing number of orphans has overpowered that system, a lamentable development in a country where resources are limited and the cost of living is soaring.

After a family's wage earner is lost, widows and orphans often depend on handouts from neighbors, as well as on powdered milk and food provided by donors in the United States and other countries through nongovernmental organizations like the AIDS Support Organization in Uganda and Catholic Relief Services.

Caritas MADDO (Masaka Diocesan Development Organization), a social and developmental church-based organization, had to join the struggle after seeing the children's suffering. As assistant diocesan director and director of the AIDS desk, I had to draw up a plan to ensure these stricken families have a stable source of food as well as money to buy medicine and provide for their children's education and general welfare. Fortunately, I did not have to face this challenge alone. Heifer International was there to help.

Courses had to be improvised to provide psychological support along with technical know-how about sustainable agriculture, general hygiene and behavioral change. Heifer

offered financial support to train group members and then provided regular follow-ups. Instead of powdered milk, a pregnant heifer was given to those AIDS victims who had been trained.

One stone was used to hit three birds—we helped improve family nutrition through sustainable agriculture, improve poor soils to boost the quantity and quality of crops, and increase family income so needy children could attend school.

Now that drugs can be bought to alleviate AIDS sufferers' pain, desperate parents have new hope of living longer, enabling them to plan for their children's futures and teach them skills that will make them self-reliant and keep them off the streets, all thanks to the intervention of Caritas MADDO and Heifer International.

To provide project beneficiaries with a reliable market for their milk, MADDO Dairies was established in Masaka. The dairy allows farmers to earn a steady income while giving AIDS sufferers in distant places quality milk products that improve their diets and increase their ability to fight off infections.

The project also has impressed other farmers who have not been touched by AIDS, and they are now learning new skills to improve their own lives. Such "Sharing and Caring," a Heifer Cornerstone, is strongly stressed by Caritas MADDO.

The numbers of AIDS sufferers and orphans are growing beyond our capacity to help. More good Samaritans must be approached. Jesus' voice



urges us to have charity for others: "... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me ... ."

AIDS orphans and victims are in a desperate situation. One has to comfort them and assure them that they can still live, work and plan for their families in the same way as those who are not affected by the disease.

We encourage them to develop and fully use their resources rather than selling them off in despair. This is a real challenge for our office. So, I say to our beneficiaries—and to you, as well—that if we all work hand in hand with Heifer International and Caritas MADDO, we can give AIDS sufferers and orphans a new light of life and hope for the future. ✠

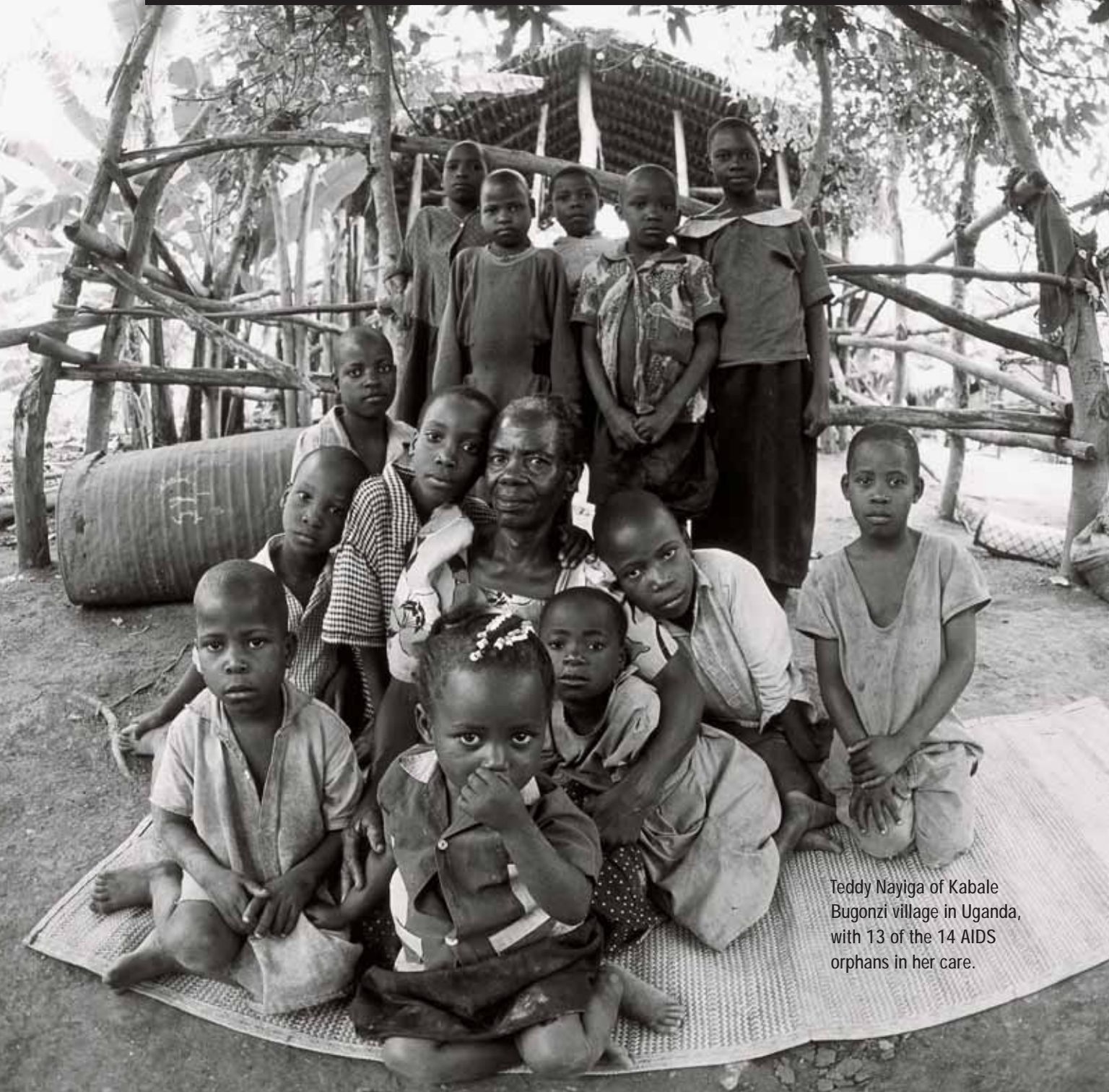
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*The Rev. Peter Ssenkaayi is a diocesan priest of Masaka Diocese. He was born in the Masaka District of Uganda in 1960 and was ordained in 1986. Since January 1995, he has been posted to Caritas MADDO. He is the project holder for MADDO Heifer Project.*



# 'They Are Our Children'

HELPING AIDS ORPHANS IN AFRICA



Teddy Nayiga of Kabale  
Bugonzi village in Uganda,  
with 13 of the 14 AIDS  
orphans in her care.



By Scott Morris *WORLD ARK* ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**K**ABALE BUGONZI, Uganda—AIDS has waged a 10-year war on Teddy Nayiga. One by one, the disease took the lives of four of her seven adult children, the first in 1993 and the latest just last year.

A fifth child died in an accident, and now Nayiga, who says she's about 60 years old, must care for 14 of her grandchildren who range in age from 3 to 15. Yet another grandchild, a 13-year-old boy, is sick with HIV/AIDS and lives with his older sister in the nearby city of Masaka, where it's somewhat easier to get medical care.

In many ways, Teddy Nayiga is emblematic of the AIDS orphan crisis in Africa. She is an elderly woman, a subsistence farmer and a primary caregiver to a generation robbed of its parents by the pandemic.

**In the wake of so much individual suffering and sweeping social dislocation stand some of the world's most vulnerable citizens—Africa's 11 million AIDS orphans.**

Thousands of women across this vast, impoverished continent face the same daunting challenge: providing food, clothing, shelter and schooling to AIDS orphans at a time in their lives when their own strength is waning.

And yet Nayiga is also an exception and, for all the hardships that she has endured, a fortunate one: She is a Heifer International project partner.

"Before," she says, "we were in a terrible state. We were not able to eat well. When we got a heifer, we were able to eat well and provide for the children's education."

Nayiga's story helps illustrate why Heifer has no choice but to confront AIDS in Africa, says Bernard Muyeya, the organization's Uganda director. "Our mission is to assist people in need," he says. "This is the thing that is affecting our beneficiaries. The only

way Heifer could avoid dealing with AIDS would be to shut down our program."

### **Development Destroyed**

**C**hiefly a heterosexual disease here, AIDS killed 2.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa last year. It infected another 3.2 million, bringing the total number of people living with AIDS on the continent to an estimated 26.6 million.

The victims tend to be society's most economically productive people, those between the ages of 15 and 49. The loss of millions of able-bodied laborers has slashed agricultural production and increased hunger, and as a result experts say the pandemic is wiping out the continent's development gains of the past 20 years.

Families afflicted by AIDS often must sell their few possessions to pay medical and funeral expenses. Children drop out of school to work and to care for dying parents and younger siblings. Hungry survivors may migrate to cities where HIV infection rates are relatively high, and where women and children often see little choice but to trade sex for food and money.

In the wake of so much individual suffering and sweeping social dislocation stand some of the world's most vulnerable citizens—Africa's 11 million AIDS orphans. They are likely to be poorer and less healthy than non-orphans, their mental, physical and emotional development stunted by the initial trauma and its resulting deprivations. And their numbers are increasing. By 2010, they are expected to exceed 20 million, a prospect that should discomfort the most complacent soul.

However, there is reason for hope even in the face of such an epic crisis.

A photographer and I spent 11 days in March traveling among the people of Uganda and Rwanda, two East African nations hard hit by the pandemic. We met a dozen or more elderly men and women caring for grandchildren as well as a few young adults sheltering nieces and nephews.



**Above:** Kanamugire, a young girl with AIDS in Masoro village in Rwanda, holds a hand-made soccer ball.





We met farmers who, though they could barely feed their own families, had taken in numerous orphans because, as one of them explained to us, “they are our children. There’s no way we can tell them to go away.”

We met determined government officials and energetic social workers who find ways to assist desperate orphans despite towering caseloads and minuscule budgets. And we met Heifer staff members who work long hours to help project partners whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic while at the same time caring for AIDS orphans in their own households.

Everywhere we went, we were humbled by the strength, dignity and grace of the people we encountered. They were without pretense or self-pity, and so grateful for Heifer’s assistance that we could not help but feel abashed by our own prosperity and good health.

Grandmothers put on their best dresses for us. Proud teenagers showed off their livestock. And children sang and danced for us, or else thronged around us to exchange joyous “high-fives.” It is not maudlin, even in the midst of so much suffering, to say there is hope in such fierce spirit.

## Two Perspectives

Uganda and Rwanda offer two perspectives on Africa’s response to AIDS. In Uganda, the stigma associated with AIDS has been largely eliminated by a government-sponsored public awareness campaign. It is impossible—at least in urban centers such as the capital, Kampala—to tune in a radio station, pick up a newspaper or venture down a crowded street without encountering a public service warning against AIDS.

In Rwanda, a country still recovering from the slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus by Hutu militias in the spring of 1994, the stigma lingers. People

speak more or less openly of the atrocities they suffered during the genocide but are apt to say a relative or neighbor died of “natural causes” rather than acknowledge the pandemic.

Drocella Kantarama, whose husband died in the genocide, is a member of a Heifer group in Masoro village north of Kigali that received cows in January. Like others in her group, she was so moved by the plight of the area’s orphans that she adopted two children who are no relation to her.

“I went to the orphanage and felt touched and picked the ones I thought I could help,” she says.

Kantarama didn’t know the children’s parents; she knows only that they died of “natural causes.”

“When I went to the orphanage to pick them, the children had already been screened for AIDS and were found negative so I didn’t ask if their parents had died of AIDS,” she says, adding that the fact the children were tested implies they are indeed AIDS orphans.

Kantarama, who also cares for her young niece, says it was “a big problem” to feed the children at first. She grew beans, sweet potatoes, cassava and a few bananas, but her land—almost five acres on a steep hillside—was poor and the yield was meager.

Now she has high hopes for the cow she received from Heifer.

“It has calved and started giving milk,” she says, adding she plans to sell the surplus milk and has begun collecting manure for use as fertilizer. “I believe this cow is going to be a tool to help me look after the children in terms of paying school fees and buying scholastic materials and food.”

## “I Was Terribly Afraid”

In Ssaza village, northwest of Masaka in Uganda, Asiyati Kirale, a 30-year-old mother of four, is living with AIDS. A devout Muslim, she starts each day with prayer, then milks the cow she received from Heifer, the first task in a long day that includes





cutting fodder, tending her banana plants, selling vegetables to neighbors and preparing meals for her children.

"At times I feel a bit weak, but at the moment I am OK," she says.

She discovered her status when her husband, Sulaimani, fell sick and suggested they both be tested. "I was terribly afraid," she recalls. "I thought we were going to leave our children in a miserable situation."

After counseling, the couple began planning for the future—among other things, Asiyati found someone to take care of her children after her death—and joined the Heifer group.

Sulaimani was already sick when they began taking Heifer training in April 2002. He died a week before Asiyati received a cow in August 2002.

Heifer staffers taught Asiyati to improve her banana crop by using contours to trap water and reduce soil erosion. Before the training, she produced barely enough bananas to feed her family. Now she has a surplus of five to six bunches a week, which she sells for the equivalent of about \$2 each. That's a good price and indicative of the quality of her crop.

"Now I can afford to buy books and pencils for my children along with other necessities that I couldn't afford before," she says.

And she worries less about what will happen to her children, who range in age from 8 to 16. "I think the future of my

children will be better if they adhere to the [Heifer] training. They can survive because they have a gift [the cow] in place."

Not far away in Kitenga village, Stephen Kiberu, 15, is also thinking of the future, though the past pulls at his heart and mind.

"I remember my father," he says. "He was paying our school fees and gardening for us."

Stephen's father died of AIDS in 1995 and left four orphans, including two—Stephen and his younger sister Cissy Nambejja—who now live with their grandmother. Berna Namatovu, 75, received a goat from Heifer three years after she took in the orphans. The goat increased her income so that she was able to improve their diet and build a better house.

Stephen is a serious, soft-spoken boy who loves school. Chemistry and East African history are his favorite subjects, and he has a particular interest in studying the slave trade, another grim period in Africa's history.

Just as that earlier evil caused enormous suffering—stealing parents from children, and children from their siblings—AIDS has cast its killing shadow over an entire generation. Stephen hopes to help give future generations the carefree childhood that he has been denied.

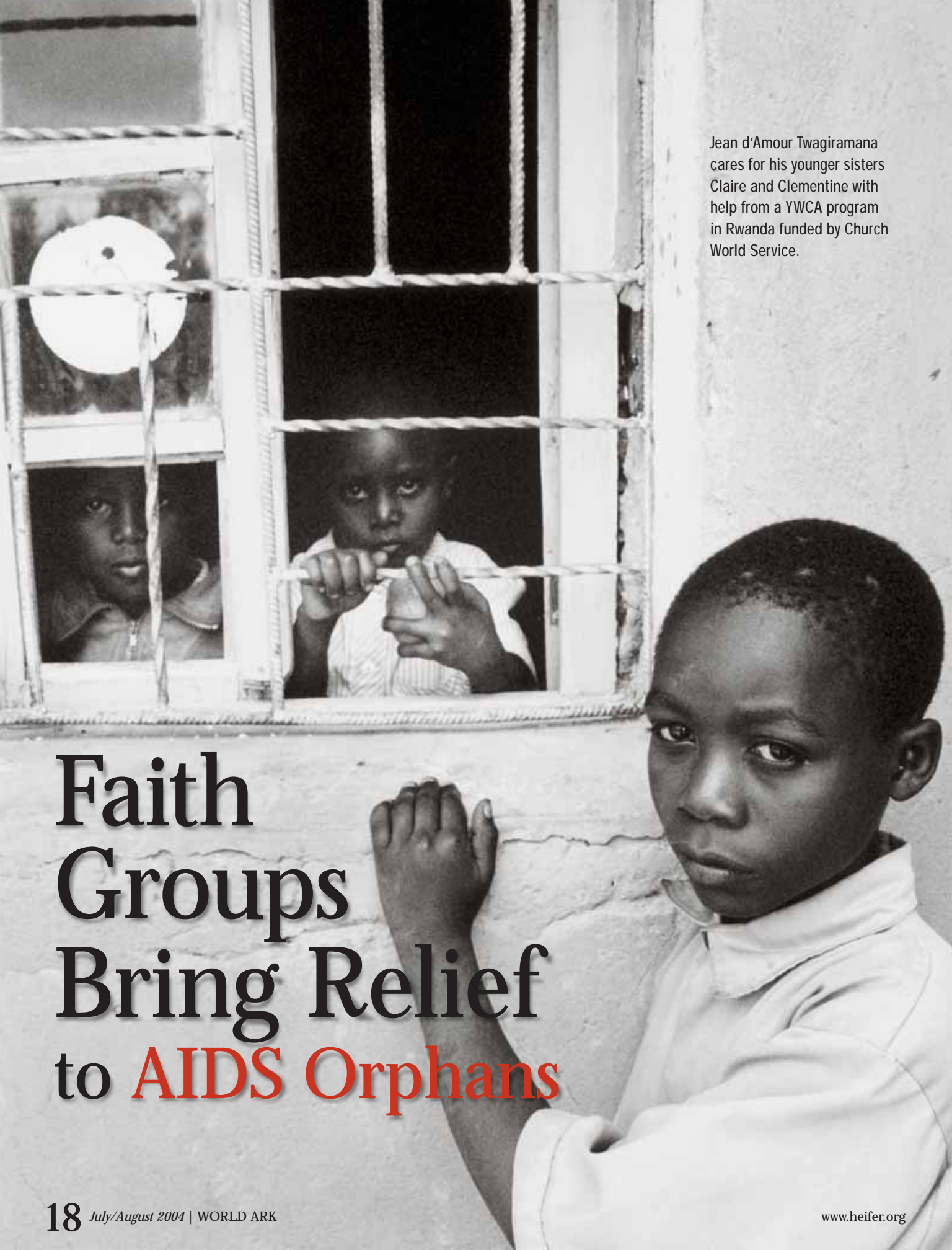
"I would like to be a doctor," he says shyly, studying his shoes, "because they treat sick people." 🐾

**Far left:** James Mujumba of Kabale Bugonzi village in Uganda, a Heifer project partner, gets a helping hand in the garden from his 4-year-old grandson Umaru, an AIDS orphan.

**Above left:** Berna Namatovu, a Heifer project partner in Kitenga village in Uganda, poses with two of her four grandchildren who are AIDS orphans, Stephen Kiberu, 15, and Cissy Nambejja, 12.

**Above right:** Asiyati Kirale, a Heifer project partner living with AIDS in Ssaza village in Uganda, and her daughter Sulayina Nabaseke bring in green bananas to sell at market.





Jean d'Amour Twagiramana  
cares for his younger sisters  
Claire and Clementine with  
help from a YWCA program  
in Rwanda funded by Church  
World Service.

# Faith Groups Bring Relief to **AIDS** Orphans





By Scott Morris *WORLD ARK* ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**G**ITARAMA, Rwanda—Jean d'Amour Twagiramana says he's 15, but he's small-boned, almost delicate, and looks younger—much younger. He might be 12, or even 10.

Whatever his age, he's the closest thing to an adult living in his small mud-walled house, a surrogate father to his two younger sisters. It's up to him to put food on the table and to see that his sisters get the education, health care, clothing and emotional support they'll need growing up in an impoverished country still reeling from the dual calamities of genocide and AIDS.

It was AIDS that claimed the lives of Jean d'Amour's parents, his father in 2000 and his mother in 2003, leaving him to shoulder an adult's burdens.

Because he does not want his sisters, Claire and Clementine, to know what killed their parents, he sends them outside before answering a visitor's questions.

Their house, though sparsely furnished, is spotlessly clean and boasts a tile roof that appears sound. There's no running water, of course, and no electricity. The house is dark as a cave once the sun goes down, and the first nights after their mother died were difficult ones.

"We were scared to stay in the house alone," Jean d'Amour acknowledges. "We are no longer scared. We have gotten used to it."

### Families Breaking Down

**U**nfortunately, his plight is increasingly common in Africa, a continent where the extended family system that has sheltered orphans in the past is now buckling under pressure from the AIDS pandemic. In response, churches and other faith-based organizations, known by the acronym FBOs, are stepping up their efforts to assist child-headed households and shore up extended family networks.

Jean d'Amour and his sisters have no other living relatives. They have no livestock, not even a hen. For food, they rely on the

beans that Jean d'Amour grows in his small garden and on whatever else he can cadge from neighbors and local humanitarian groups.

**The extended family system that has sheltered orphans in the past is now buckling under pressure from the AIDS pandemic. In response, churches and other faith-based organizations are stepping up their efforts to assist child-headed households and shore up extended family networks.**

To date, most of the help he's received has come from the YWCA in Gitarama, a city of 19,000 people situated south and west of the capital, Kigali. The YWCA has provided vocational and other training to more than 200 child-headed households in rural areas around Gitarama through a pilot program funded by Church World Service, a ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican denominations in the United States. The program also supplies small loans to enable heads of households to start businesses so they can support themselves and send their siblings to school.

"What we have done," explains Adelphine Mukashema, national general secretary of the YWCA in Rwanda, "is organize the child-headed households in groups so they can help each other. They can cultivate gardens for a member who is in school, for example."

Jean d'Amour is already a member of a group organized by the YWCA, though he has not yet received training. Epiphanie Mujawimana, the program coordinator, hopes the funding will continue so that Jean d'Amour

More and more children across Africa face the prospect of growing up without the protection of an adult relative.





works—primarily the extended family—and encourage new ones, like community centers. Orphans often “gravitate to the physical infrastructure of the church for security, looking for assistance in meeting their basic needs,” notes a report from Episcopal Relief and Development.

The American Jewish World Service, for example, has programs that train community groups to provide services and support, from basic care to trauma counseling, for orphans. Some programs, like one the United Methodist Church is beginning in Zimbabwe, provide



can get a loan that would allow him to sell small items, like gum and cigarettes, on weekends while he goes to school during the week.

Such income-generating projects are crucial because Africa’s AIDS pandemic is a development issue as much as a health issue: With one generation dying and the next left parentless, much of the development work of the last decades is at risk of being undone. As the pandemic worsens across

Africa and the number of orphans climbs, support from programs like this one becomes even more important for orphans.

### Caring for Orphans

**B**ecause faith-based organizations already have a presence in communities that are struggling with the disease, they are well-placed to provide short-term relief and long-term aid—with the result that they often shoulder, at the ground level, a great deal of responsibility for both.

By far the largest task is caring for the orphans, and virtually all projects work in some way to bolster traditional support net-



vocational training to help children add to their household income, as well as material support to help them feed and clothe themselves and stay in school.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has programs that connect orphans in Nairobi with U.S. sponsors, and the American Friends Service Committee collects and distributes hygiene kits, with toothpaste, soap and other articles, to orphans in Mozambique.



Many faith-based programs also include an education component, teaching the causes and effects of the disease. HIV and AIDS are taboo topics in many African countries, and programs often work simply to “break the silence,” as the Presbyterian Church USA’s Dorothy Hanson puts it.

Some faith-based organizations target clergy, like Episcopal Relief and Develop-

**“We don’t see them as children.  
We see them as young people  
with huge adult burdens.”  
—Dianne Forte**



ment, which has begun an HIV/AIDS curriculum at seminaries in sub-Saharan Africa. Some, like the Evangelical Lutheran Church, educate local groups, including youth, about the transmission and prevention of the virus; these groups then teach in the field.

Lessons include hygiene, abstinence, monogamy and condom use—whatever will help people protect and care for themselves, without violating a religion’s

beliefs. And local groups find ways that work best for them: A woodworker in Senegal, remembers Belletech Deressa of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, went so far as to carve models, anatomically correct, for a demonstration of proper condom use.

Another important component of many FBO programs is farming, a primary source of food and income. Programs encourage community farms and gardens and teach proper techniques, like food storage, crop rotation and irrigation, to young people supporting their brothers and sisters.

“We don’t see them as children,” says Dianne Forte, of the American Friends Service Committee, which has a rural development program aimed at teenagers. “We see them as young people with huge adult burdens.” And agriculture programs often include everyone in the community, because, as Catholic Relief Services’ Christine Tucker says, “Everyone is burdened, everyone is affected.”

For people too sick to farm, and for child-headed households, faith-based organizations also provide training and micro-financing for non-labor-intensive means of income, like raising bees and selling small items. “Just because people don’t have much money doesn’t mean that they aren’t credit-worthy,” says Tucker.

In addition to working directly with affected communities, some FBOs do advocacy work, working here in the United States on policies that support funding for the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS, make generic drugs available for treatment and eliminate foreign debt for developing countries.

In the best-case scenario, an infusion of resources and help with organization gives



**Above:** AIDS orphans from a child-headed household in Rwanda gather sticks to use in their cooking fire.

**Far left:** Ernestine Usabyimana, 17, and her 15-year-old brother Tarsis Ngenzi, AIDS orphans in Musumba, Rwanda, pound cassava, one of the few foods they have to eat.

**Center:** AIDS orphans dance and sing in Citarama, Rwanda, to show their support for people living with AIDS.





**“My mother died [of AIDS] in 1995 or 1997. My father died in 2000. We started living on our own from that time. The major problem was I was very young and had the responsibility of looking after five other children who were also young. It was very difficult to get food.”**  
—Mediatrice Kakuze, 17

**Above:** Mediatrice Kakuze (center), 17, helps members of other child-headed households cultivate a garden they rented in Gihuma, Rwanda, with a loan from a program funded by Church World Service.

**Right:** Maria Josee Nyirabisabo, 17, learns to fashion note cards from banana leaves at a Church World Service vocational program in Gitarama.

people what they need to lead the projects themselves.

One group the Presbyterian Church works with is trying to purchase a mill, to grind corn for flour and use the proceeds to fund its own programs. A community the American Friends Service Committee worked with in Mozambique devoted all its efforts to securing access to AIDS patients in a remote village in the mountains.

“We gave them wheelbarrows,” says Forte, “and they used them as ambulances. Finally we were able to help them procure gravel and earthmoving equipment. They cut a road and built a bridge, and they maintain it.”

In a place that seems visited by devastation and loss more often than comfort, faith in any form is a powerful force. “I think that through the churches,” says Hanson, of the Presbyterian Church USA, “God has an answer to this crisis that we haven’t recognized yet.”

### **“Passing on the Gift”**

**I**n Gihuma village, southwest of Gitarama, a group of 13 child-headed households organized by the YWCA has leased a small plot of land with a loan provided by the association. At about 11 a.m. on a balmy March day, 10 group members were hard at work fertilizing the ground with manure and planting cabbage and carrots.



The lease, seeds and manure cost about \$8, money loaned to them out of the profits of another YWCA group that raised and sold pigs in 2003. When the members of the Gihuma group repay their loan, they’ll in

effect be “Passing on the Gift”—in this case, providing start-up capital for a new group of orphans eager for the chance to become self-sufficient.

Mediatrice Kakuze, 17, was on her way to prepare lunch for her five brothers and sisters when she stopped to talk to visitors.

“My mother died [of AIDS] in 1995 or 1997,” she said, trying to remember. “My father died in 2000. We started living on our own from that time. The major problem was I was very young and had the responsibility of looking after five other children who were also young. It was very difficult to get food.”

Mediatrice tried to plant a garden next to her house. “It was a very small piece of land and it wasn’t very productive. I taught myself because I didn’t have anyone to teach me.

“At times,” she added, “we would go without food for a day. We never ate more than once a day. We were without food many times.”

She heard about the YWCA program from other orphans in the area, and joining the Gihuma group has given her hope. Still, the responsibility of caring for her siblings, who range in age from 6 to 15, as well as for a 2-year-old left in her care by a friend, has worn on Mediatrice. She has the somber demeanor and heavy movements of a much older woman.

At her home, Mediatrice displayed all the food she had on hand to feed her siblings: a sack about the size of a standard grocery bag no more than a third full of sweet potatoes.

Still, she can reasonably look forward to a better future. Barring disaster, she can expect a modest income from the garden she shares with the other YWCA group members. And at home she and her siblings are caring for a neighbor’s pig. When the sow farrows, Mediatrice will get to keep one of the piglets—another small step on the road to a sustainable income. 🐷

*Heifer Staff Writer Lauren Wilcox contributed to this report.*

## What You Can Do

Spread the word. Educate yourself. Call your friends, tell your neighborhood groups or invite a speaker to your church, synagogue or mosque. Just raising awareness can help debunk some of the myths and stigmas still associated with AIDS.

Write your legislator.

Support a project. Many faith-based and nondenominational organizations are working directly with African communities affected by AIDS, and can help a congregation or other group contribute material support.

Raise funds for food, basic drugs, soap and necessities for the communities with the fewest resources. Hold bake sales and yard sales, or take up a collection.

“Adopt” a congregation. Partner congregations can arrange to use the same scriptures and songs for their weekly services, and share photographs and letters.

Keep an open mind. Two U.S. pastors visited a church in Africa that was doing AIDS relief work. One, asking what the congregation needed, was told, “A pastor.” He quit his job, and moved to Africa to take the position. Not all decisions will be this radical, of course, but opportunities may present themselves when you least expect them.

Pray.

## Faith-Based Organizations

**African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
Check website for regional contact information.  
[www.amecnet.org](http://www.amecnet.org)

**American Baptist Churches in the USA**  
P.O. Box 851  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
1-800-ABC-3USA  
[www.abc-usa.org](http://www.abc-usa.org)

**American Friends Service Committee**  
1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 241-7000  
[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

**American Jewish World Service**  
45 West 36th St.  
New York, NY 10018  
(212) 736-2597  
[www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**  
P.O. Box 450329  
Atlanta, GA 31145-0329  
(770) 220-1600  
[www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info)

**Church World Service**  
28606 Phillips St.  
P.O. Box 968,  
Elkhart, IN 46515  
1-800-297-1516  
[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

**Church World Service**  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10115  
(212) 870-2061

**Disciples of Christ**  
130 East Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 635-3100  
[www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)

**Episcopal Relief and Development**  
815 2nd Ave.  
New York, NY 10017  
1-800-334-7626  
[www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
8765 W. Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631  
1-800-638-3522  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

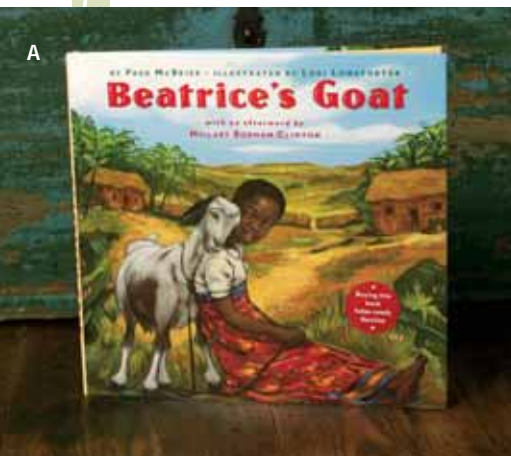
**National Catholic Rural Life Conference**  
4625 Beaver Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310  
(515) 270-2634  
[www.ncrlc.com](http://www.ncrlc.com)

**Presbyterian Church USA**  
100 Witherspoon St.  
Louisville, KY 40202  
1-800-872-3283  
[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

**United Church of Christ**  
700 Prospect Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
(866) 822-8224  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)**  
Room #330, 475 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10015  
1-800-554-8583  
<http://gbgm-umc.org>

# WORLD ARK MARKET



## NEW HEIFER NOTE CARDS

In the summer of 2003, artist Betty LaDuke participated in a Heifer Study Tour to Uganda and Rwanda. She was so inspired by the places she went and the people she met that she painted these portrayals of Heifer's project participants, now reproduced on colorful notecards. Each set contains 12 notecards, 6 each of 2 designs, packaged in an attractive pocket folder.

**Heifer Notecards, Uganda:**  
#NNU004, \$8.00

**Heifer Notecards, Rwanda:**  
#NNR004, \$8.00



### A **BEATRICE'S GOAT** by Page McBrier

Illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter, *The New York Times* bestselling children's picture book (Simon & Schuster 2000). Read to your children the amazing story of how young Beatrice's life was changed when her family received a goat from Heifer International.  
#NB0700, Hardback, \$16.00 #NB0700S, Softback, \$6.99

### B **THE COW THAT SAVED THE EARTH T-SHIRT**

Show your support for the mission of Heifer International by wearing this attractive shirt featuring an African batik cow proclaiming "The Cow That Saved the Earth," along with the Heifer logo on the sleeve. Black, 100% cotton.  
Adult sizes: S-XXL #NS4800, \$12.00

### C **BEATRICE'S GOAT TOTE BAG**

Perfect for carrying books or items for work. *Beatrice's Goat* imprinted on canvas tote bag; designed to promote Heifer's Read to Feed® program in conjunction with Simon & Schuster. Illustration by Lori Lohstoeter. #N00401, \$7.50





#### ARK T-SHIRT

This beautiful, vibrant shirt was designed by artist Stephanie Carter and its message signifies animals bringing happiness around the world. White, 100% cotton.

**Adult: #NS4700;**  
**Sizes: S-XXXL, \$12.00**  
**Child: #NS4700;**  
**Sizes: XS-L, \$10.00**



#### HEIFER 2004 WALL CALENDAR

Beautiful photographs taken around the world show Heifer's project partners in their communities. 12-month calendar.

**#NV2004, \$6.50**

#### HEIFER MUG

A coffee mug with Heifer's logo on it makes a great gift for almost anyone, even yourself.

**#NM0411, \$8.00**



#### HEIFER DENIM SHIRT

This classic denim button-down shirt is perfect for any casual occasion. Heifer's embroidered logo can clearly be seen above the left breast pocket. Available in **long sleeve** or **short sleeve**.

**Adult sizes: S-XXXL**  
**Long sleeve: #NS4100, \$30.00**  
**Short sleeve: #NS4200, \$28.00**



#### ARK T-SHIRT AND SWEATSHIRT

This colorful T-shirt, designed by Roxanna Villa, shows Heifer animals on parade. Available in a **T-shirt** or **sweatshirt**. White, 100% cotton.

#### T-SHIRT

**Adult: #NS4400; Sizes: S-XXXL, \$12.00**  
**Child: #NS4400; Sizes: XS-L, \$10.00**

#### SWEATSHIRT

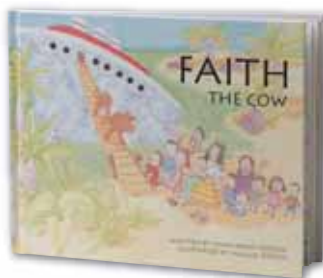
**Adult: #NS4500; Sizes: S-XXXL, \$20.00**  
**Child: #NS4500; Sizes: S-L, \$15.00**



#### HEIFER GOLF SHIRT

Perfect for that hard-to-shop-for man in your life. However, women also like the classic look of this golf shirt. Available in **white** or **natural**.

**Adult sizes: S-XXXL**  
**#NS4300, \$20.00**



#### FAITH THE COW

**by Susan Bame Hoover**

Illustrated by Maggie Sykora.

Read the story about how the idea for Heifer International came to life and how Faith the cow helped families in Puerto Rico.

**#NB0705, Hardback, \$16.00**



#### HEIFER CAPS

Sporting this ball cap will indicate your support of Heifer International. 100% cotton with a relaxed front; easily adjustable. Available in **stone** or **khaki**.

**One size fits all.**  
**#NS4000, \$10.00**

# WORLD ARK VIDEOS

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

\$00.01 – \$20.00 .....	\$4.50
\$20.01 – \$30.00 .....	\$6.00
\$30.01 – \$50.00 .....	\$7.00
\$50.01 – \$80.00 .....	\$8.50
OVER \$80.00 .....	\$12.00

WE4490000



How do children in India and Uganda live? Award-winning children's video illustrates how the animals Heifer provides give hope and the promise of a brighter future. 10 minutes  
#NV0213. \$10.00

# Heifer Online: [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)



## Heifer's Gifts Mean Hope for the Future

Giving to Heifer means giving someone a permanent victory over hunger, poverty and environmental degradation.

[Discover More ►](#)

The Most Important  
**GIFT CATALOG**  
in the World

[► Give a Gift Animal](#)



OUR WORK

GET INVOLVED

GIVE

LEARN

INSIDE HEIFER

Take your interest in a *World Ark* feature story further and learn even more about Heifer's work around the world through our award-winning website [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org), which now offers highlights and special online features of the current *World Ark* magazine.

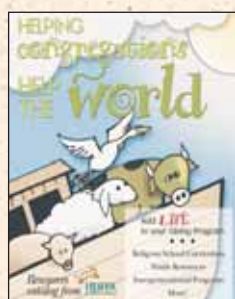
Visit the magazine online to:

- View more breathtaking photos and interactive slideshows from Heifer photojournalists.
- Get easy access to the issue's top stories and e-mail them to friends and family to spread the word.
- Find web feature stories on a variety of topics the magazine covers, including global water shortages, AIDS, children and hunger, and more.
- Browse past issues in an online archive.
- Click through all of [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) to read country-specific success stories, search an interactive world map of projects and shop for a meaningful alternative gift.

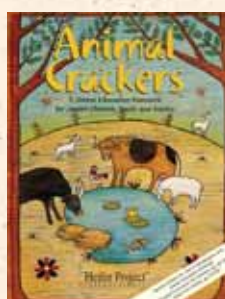
## FIGHT HUNGER AND POVERTY with Heifer International's Free Resources



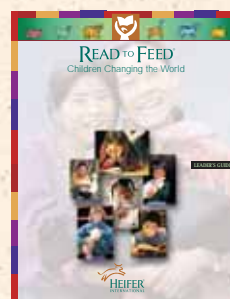
**Living Gift Market Guide**  
Step-by-step guide to a successful alternative gift market  
**#RLX000**



**Congregation Resource Catalog**  
Describes Heifer International resources available to congregations and other groups  
**#RP5002**



**Animal Crackers**  
Faith-based global education for children, youth and adults  
**#RAX009**  
for Jewish Congregations  
**#RAX000-J**



To learn more about Heifer's Read to Feed® program, visit our website at [www.readtofeed.org](http://www.readtofeed.org)

To learn more about Heifer's work around the world, sign up for our free e-mail newsletter and updates at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).  
Call (800) 422-0474



# Chicago Cluster Serves Heifer

By Lauren Wilcox HEIFER STAFF WRITER

Their signature color is a pretty, girly pink, but don't be fooled—the women of this Chicago-based organization aren't messing around. Dubbed the Metropolitan Cluster, what started as a loose association

goat spoke about the difference Heifer had made in her life. Bray wrote down Heifer's website, and began researching its work and its supporters. The following summer, during the Cluster's annual "Celebra-

theme is "Hares to Haiti," and donations will go for rabbits in Heifer's Caribbean-area projects. While many of the Metropolitan Cluster's projects are supported by members' dues, their donations to Heifer come entirely from the Sisterhood Luncheons, which include non-Cluster members—a way, Bray says, to keep people in the community involved with the group, and with organizations such as Heifer.

Members of the cluster include educators, physicians, architects, homemakers and entrepreneurs, all with impressive records in national and community service. In addition to Heifer, the Cluster has supported, among others, the Chicago Theater Company, the Bone Marrow Donors Program, the DuSable Museum of African American History, and a program that repairs cleft palates of children in developing countries.



of bridge-playing friends has become a dynamic organization that is making a difference to Heifer International projects around the world.

"A group of us got together and decided we wanted to do service," remembers charter member Mae Ruth Carr. That was in 1996. Since then, the Metropolitan Cluster has supported community groups and projects domestically and abroad.

In 2001, Mrs. Irby Bray, chair of the Cluster's "Global Connection" program, saw Beatrice Biira on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America," when the now-famous recipient of a Heifer

tion of Sisterhood" luncheon, the group collected donations of \$2 apiece toward a pair of goats to be sent to Kenya.

"We wanted to have a catchy name," Bray says, "so we called it '\$2 for 2 Goats to Africa.' We used a goat piñata—guests just dropped their donations right into the goat."

Encouraged by their success, the following year the Cluster's members repeated the collection—this time calling it "\$2 for 2 Goats to Africa: Part 2"—and raised enough money to send four goats to Cameroon. For the 2004 Sisterhood Luncheon, the

The Cluster's youth committee reads to children weekly at a community center on Chicago's South Side, and gives scholastic achievement awards to students at an annual Christmas party. Every second year, the Cluster hosts a gala fundraiser with guests dressed to the nines in traditional African attire.

And the pink?

"At one of our first meetings, we used some pink folders I happened to have," Carr says, "and we all thought the color was appropriate. We really look nice when we all wear pink. We even have pink hats."



## Hong Kong Students Help End Hunger

By Sherri White HEIFER STAFF WRITER

International Section Students at the Kiangsu and Chekiang College in Hong Kong kicked off Heifer International's Read to Feed® program in February. They joined students from the Hong Kong International School, Science Workshop and Chinese International School already participating in the program.

Students ask friends and family members to sponsor them as they hone their reading skills.

According to Bianca Lam, development director for Heifer Hong Kong, participants not only raise money to help Heifer International end hunger and poverty, they also improve their English language skills and broaden their awareness of global issues. Students participate in classes about hunger, poverty and farm animals.

"I have become more aware of the poverty in China, and that farm animals are their livelihood. It makes me feel great that I can help them by just reading," says Amanda Ho Shing-yan, student and chair of Kiangsu's student council.

"Read to Feed plays an important role in raising awareness of Heifer in Hong Kong," Lam says. "This is our key fundraiser. Some people even thought that we were called Read to Feed."

Hong Kong International School raised over \$77,000 in 2004 alone, making it the largest worldwide contributor to Read to Feed for the third consecutive year.

For more information about Read to Feed, visit [www.readtofeed.org](http://www.readtofeed.org). For more information about Heifer Hong Kong, visit [www.heiferhk.org](http://www.heiferhk.org).

## Family Continues Tradition



Claire Frueauff, daughter of David and Melanie Frueauff, and Tag Grace, son of Anna Kay Williams, filled peace pipes with quarters to support Heifer's mission.

Sue Frueauff knows a thing or two about giving—it's a part of her everyday business. She is the chief administrative officer of the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, which provides grants for education, social services and health issues. In fact, the Frueauff Foundation has supported Heifer projects in Chicago for the last five years. But to Frueauff, it's more than a career; it's a way of life.

That's why Frueauff encourages her grandchildren to continue her tradition of giving.

Claire, age 8; Tag, age 6; Will, age 4, and Emma, age 2, all saved quarters to fill Heifer peace pipes their grandmother purchased for them so they could help end world hunger. Tag also collects money for Heifer by participating in the Read to Feed® program at his school.

"All my grandchildren have always been involved in doing things for other people, but this was their first introduction to the idea of saving money to help," Frueauff says. "They learned that you start with a little—just with what you have. One quarter won't even buy a candy bar anymore, but a bunch of quarters can help feed someone. They learned that they could make a real difference in someone's life by saving all those quarters."

To order your own peace pipes, call the Heifer Ranch Gift Shop at (501) 886-5124.

# Legacy of *Giving Lives*



Louise and John Brockschink on a Heifer study tour.

By Barbara Justus

In January 2004, Louise and John Brockschink were among the winners of the “9 Who Care Jefferson Awards” in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The award, given to nine outstanding volunteers, is sponsored annually by television station KCRG-TV9. Louise, who died Sept. 5, 2003, was honored posthumously.

John Brockschink’s response was in keeping with his commitment to ending hunger and helping project partners around the world. “I was thrilled we received the award because it brought Heifer International into the spotlight for so many people in Iowa,” he says.

The television station ran a special spot about Brockschink and Heifer International on the evening news. It was illustrated with slides Brockschink took on his study tour trips.

John and Louise first heard about Heifer International at their church 20 years ago. John, a farmer, was intrigued with what he heard, especially with the idea of “Passing on the Gift.”

John and Louise decided to investigate Heifer firsthand, so they visited Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Ark., on their way to the New Orleans World Fair in 1984. They never quit coming back.

Brockschink says, “Louise and I have taken study tours to Honduras, India, China and Cameroon, and we visited Bóthar in Ireland [one of Heifer’s partner organizations]. You cannot imagine until you see it yourself how a simple gift of even one animal can completely change the destiny of a family.”

Brockschink tells of one family he met in Honduras who had received a goat from Heifer. He

asked the man how many children he had. The father replied he had three. Two were “in heaven with God”—they hadn’t survived infancy because of malnourishment. But, the father added proudly, his third son was healthy because the family had received a goat shortly before the child’s birth.

Brockschink adds that each study tour compelled him to do more. He and Louise set up Heifer booths throughout Iowa and Florida, particularly at the Iowa State Fair and Methodist conferences. When Louise died, John donated a \$5,000 Gift Ark in her memory and in honor of the wonderful times they had working side-by-side to help end hunger.

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*Barbara Justus is a freelance writer living in Little Rock.*



Every object tells a story.  
Are you listening?



Shona Lovers Sculpture  
\$98.00  
Item #E11938  
Made in Zimbabwe  
Dimensions: 9" H x 8" L  
[www.eziba.com/shona](http://www.eziba.com/shona)

#### COAXING JOY FROM A STONE

In Zimbabwe, where an estimated one third of the population is infected with AIDS, Shona sculpture nevertheless reveals a celebration of life. Through dire conditions, strong relationships remain sacred to Shona culture. Here, two lovers entwine in a musical embrace with no beginning and no end. Timmy Sandu, the creator of this intimate work of art, describes it as "loving ones dancing, celebrating the different stages of life."

#### A CONNECTION BETWEEN ARTIST AND EARTH

Shona sculptors speak of releasing the spirit trapped in stone. Slowly, a rough block of ropaka sandstone is worked to reveal touching portraits inspired by tribal traditions. Sandu quarries his own ropaka stone using a pickaxe and crowbar; his hands guide every movement of the rough chisels that bring his vision to life.

#### TESTAMENT TO THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Despite the crises of AIDS, chaotic land reform initiatives, and political unrest, Shona sculpture perseveres. Eziba is proud to support Sandu's work, and that of fifteen other artists in the Tazorora Arts & Crafts collective, as this vibrant art continues to evolve and bring joy to its creators and collectors alike.

#### PURCHASE WITH PURPOSE

Eziba is delighted to work with Heifer International to foster and strengthen social and creative initiatives in craft communities worldwide. When you use the code **HEIFER** at Eziba's online checkout, we will donate 10% of our proceeds from your purchase to Heifer International.

Visit [www.eziba.com](http://www.eziba.com) or call **1-888-404-5108** to learn more about our mission and request a free catalog of our handcrafted goods from around the world.

# EZIBA

CHANGE THE WORLD BY HAND

## THE HEIFER CALENDAR



### CERES CENTER

July 12-16

#### DAY CAMP

Hands-on program for youth ages 6-12 will include farm-type service as well as cottage industries such as candle-making.

Oct. 1-2

#### YOUTH FOR HEIFER

An ecumenical event including hands-on experiences with animals and gardening for junior and senior high youth to learn about Heifer's program to overcome world hunger and poverty.

Nov. 6

#### FALL FEAST

Fall outing for the whole family. Learn more about Heifer with a video and tour while dining on fall foods.

Year-Round

**FIELD TRIPS:** Learn about Heifer International and Ceres Education Center with a video, cart ride, walking tour and hands-on activities in the barn.

**GLOBAL VILLAGE:** Get a taste of the real world with this overnight experience.

**MEETING FACILITY:** Have your meeting or gathering "down on the farm" and learn about Heifer International's mission to overcome world hunger and poverty.

### HEIFER RANCH

Sept. 23-26

#### HEIFER UNIVERSITY AT THE RANCH

This unique experience is focused on helping you help Heifer International in your community and region. Get the tools you need to promote Heifer.

Oct. 16

#### ANNUAL GLOBAL VILLAGE DAY

Take a "world tour" at a free daylong celebration of the Global Village. Entertainment, hayrides, hands-on

native crafts, educational tours and more.

Dec. 3 and 4

#### HEIFER RANCH LIVING NATIVITY

See the Nativity story as told in five scenes with live characters and animals—domestic and exotic. Enjoy refreshments and hands-on activities, and shop in the International Gift Shop.

Summer

**"GVR" PROGRAM:** Combines two popular programs in this multi-day event that includes Global Village, Challenge Course, Cottage Industry and more.

**SERVICE LEARNING:** Weeklong "mission trips" for youth that include both service to the Ranch and learning opportunities for the group.

Fall

**"GVR" PROGRAM:** Combine two popular programs (see above).

**ADULT WORK GROUPS:** Fight hunger through service with these opportunities for adult groups.

**GLOBAL EXPLORERS:** Become a Global Citizen in this two-day residential program designed to help teachers meet Social Studies Standards for grades 5-8.

**E.A.R.T.H. LEARNING:** Learn how to help save our planet in this new standards-based daylong or overnight environmental education program.

Spring

#### ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Become a part of the solution through these multi-day Service Learning programs for youth or college groups.

**"GVR" PROGRAM:** Combine two popular programs (see above).

**ADULT WORK GROUPS:** Fight hunger through service with these opportunities for adult groups.

**GLOBAL EXPLORERS:** Become a Global Citizen in this two-day residential program designed to help teachers meet Social Studies Standards for grades 5-8.

Year-Round

**FIELD TRIPS:** Learn about Heifer International and the Ranch with a video, hayride and walking tour.

**GLOBAL VILLAGE:** Get a taste of the real world with this overnight experience.

**CHALLENGE COURSE:** Learn the ropes about teamwork and problem solving skills.

**COTTAGE INDUSTRY:** Engage in workshops that turn animal products into marketable items.

CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

**FACILITIES:** Leave the busy world behind and relax in the beauty of the Ouachita Mountains.

### OVERLOOK FARM

July 5-Aug. 27

#### SUMMER DAY CAMP

Eight weeklong sessions (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) for kids ages 7-12. Program includes morning farm chores and cottage industry activities.

Sept. 12-17

#### FARM ANIMAL HOME SCHOOL CAMP

A residential camp for home-schooled youth, ages 12-18.

Oct. 2 and 3

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Horse-drawn hayrides to "pick-your-own" pumpkins. Food and children's activities.

Oct. 10-15

#### "HARVEST YEARS" SERVICE LEARNING

A program for people ages 55 and older. Help construct baskets of farm products, do farm chores and attend hunger education sessions.

Nov. 19-21

#### HEIFER VOLUNTEER TRAINING

A full program of information and speaker training for people interested in taking Heifer International to their hometowns.

Dec. 11 and 12

#### LIVING NATIVITY

A live Nativity presented hourly, international gift shop, sleigh rides, hot cider and more.

Year-Round

#### DAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT

**OVERLOOK FARM:** Full- and half-day education programs for groups include a video and tour and may include a Peasant Meal in the Global Village, a hunger education session, a farm work experience and a horse-drawn hayride.

#### MULTI-DAY SERVICE LEARNING

Two- to five-day stays during which groups enjoy farm work and hunger/sustainable agriculture education. Global Village overnight included.

**FIELD TRIPS:** Learn about Heifer International and Overlook Farm with a video, guided tour and hayride.

### INFORMATION

#### CERES CENTER

Ceres, California  
(877) 841-7182 or  
[cerescenter@heifer.org](mailto:cerescenter@heifer.org)

#### HEIFER RANCH

Perryville, Arkansas  
Ranch Events Office  
(501) 889-5124 or  
[ranch@heifer.org](mailto:ranch@heifer.org)

#### OVERLOOK FARM

Rutland, Massachusetts  
(508) 886-2221 or  
[overlook.farm@heifer.org](mailto:overlook.farm@heifer.org)

#### HOWELL NATURE CENTER HEIFER GLOBAL VILLAGE

Howell, Michigan  
(517) 564-0249  
[HCNC@howellnaturecenter.org](mailto:HCNC@howellnaturecenter.org)

*All locations are open year-round for drop-in visitors, or schedule a field trip for your group.*



# Travel

## WITH A PURPOSE

Join us on a journey of hope and understanding as you travel to the heart of Heifer's work, where you visit country offices and project partners. As a study tour participant, you can interact with local people and learn about their lives and their rise to self-reliance.

On these inspirational journeys of knowledge, you can see the common thread that connects all places, peoples and cultures. You will return committed to make real and lasting changes to end hunger and care for the earth.

For more information about Heifer's study tours, please call (501) 907-2957 or send an e-mail to [studytours@heifer.org](mailto:studytours@heifer.org).

### 2004 STUDY TOURS

**OREGON—Small Farms, Aug. 4-11**  
**Leader:** Catherine Knott  
 Heifer North America Program Director  
[studytours@heifer.org](mailto:studytours@heifer.org)  
 (501) 907-4934

#### **Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Systems**

We invite you to learn more about our North America Program while being part of a movement to support local agricultural systems. Heifer supports connecting our food system to the ecosystem, with emphasis on local food security and self-sufficiency. This trip does not visit Heifer projects; rather we bring the Heifer philosophy to you in this educational tour.

**PERU, Sep. 6-18**  
**Leader:** Diomaris Gonzalez  
[diomaris.gonzalez@heifer.org](mailto:diomaris.gonzalez@heifer.org)  
 (501) 907-4934

Starting in Lima, you will tour Piura, in northern Peru, where you will see Heifer's work with the fragile Dry Forest Region. You'll visit projects in Lambayeque, Cusco and Puno. You will also visit Machu Picchu.

**ECUADOR, Nov. 4-16**  
**Leader:** Jan Schrock  
[jan.schrock@heifer.org](mailto:jan.schrock@heifer.org)  
 (207) 878-6846

#### **Women to Women**

Jan Schrock, daughter of Heifer founder Dan West, returns to Ecuador to explore

gender equity. You'll see new projects and learn more about participants' crafts and their desire to merchandise items. The trip concludes with a three-night visit to the Amazon Basin.

**ROMANIA, Sep. 7-23**  
**Leaders:** Drs. Jim and Barb Geistfeld  
[emg23@frontiernet.net](mailto:emg23@frontiernet.net)  
 (845) 758-1783

#### **Special Animal Management Trip**

This trip will focus on Heifer's Improved Animal Management program. Everyone is welcome to join our group. We'll see the "Farmers Feed the Children" Project and visit children's hospitals and special school orphanages which are participants in this project. Meet farmers, have dinner in their homes and overnight in a village as we visit a variety of projects including the "Furioso North-Star Horse" project. After meeting with veterinary faculty and the trip's conclusion at the Heifer Romania office, you will travel to Budapest for three nights.

**N. THAILAND/LAOS, Nov. 19-Dec. 3**  
**Leader:** Michael Haddigan  
[michael.haddigan@heifer.org](mailto:michael.haddigan@heifer.org)  
 (501) 907-2954

Travel to remote areas of northern Thailand and see how Heifer is working within hilltribe cultures. In northern Laos, a two-day trek will take us through forests and rice fields to hilltribe villages. Then you'll fly to the former royal capital of Luang Prabang. This study tour is more strenuous than most.



**Top:** Dancers and children celebrate the opening of a new school in Cameroon.

**Bottom:** Cameroon Study Tour participant (left) receives honey after visiting a Heifer project.

#### **Costs and Lengths of Stay**

Prices include airfare (except where noted), accommodations, meals and local transportation.

#### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

10-14 days, \$2,000-\$4,000

#### **Central and Eastern Europe**

10-14 days, \$3,000-\$4,200

#### **Africa**

17-24 days, \$4,000-\$5,500

#### **Asia and the South Pacific**

14-21 days, \$3,500-\$5,000

#### **North America (airfare not included)**

5-10 days, \$800-\$1,500

Please check our website, [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org), and click on "Get Involved" for the most current information.



# Ecuadorian Farmers Find Future in Ways of the Past

Story and photographs  
by Darcy Kiefel

**P**ORTOVIEJO, Ecuador—Farmers in the Ecuadorian province of Manabi are learning that to move forward sometimes they must first look back.

Helping them do that is a man some call Hombre Blanco—White Man—for the white clothes he always wears.


He is from the village of El Limon, and his name is Yobanny Fortis. He is local coordinator of Manabi Microcredit and Livestock, a project funded by Heifer International through the Provincial Union of Campesino Organizations of Manabi, known by its Spanish acronym, UPOCAM.

Fortis works tirelessly to share his knowledge of organic farming and health and education with the Manabi farmers. He also seeks to help them preserve their environment and customs.

“This project has helped our farmers understand that after many generations, we are losing our rich, traditional ways of producing food for our families,” said Vincent Conforme, who lives in the village of Cañitas. He is a partner with Heifer and the Provincial Union.

“Today, through UPOCAM and Heifer International support, we are investigating results from past organic farming practices. We must relearn what our parents taught us, and then, once again, teach and treasure those traditions for ourselves and our children,” Conforme said.

Heifer International began working several years ago with UPOCAM, also targeting soil conservation and



Project participant Manuel Rosendo shows off peanuts he grew in his organic garden in the Manabi province of Ecuador.

crop improvement through environmentally sustainable practices.

## Disaster Strikes Villagers

In the last decade, an unstable economy, environmental change in the form of El Niño and a new water policy united to bring disaster to the local villagers, whose livelihoods largely depend on agriculture. Some of them sought the solution to their problems in unsound farming practices, such as the heavy use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Unfortunately, such practices led to further environmental damage. Farmers who applied chemicals to their crops saw an increase in certain illnesses.

At the same time, traditional cultural customs and values were falling away.

It took time and patience, but, working together, Heifer International and UPOCAM (the Union Provincial de Organizaciones Campesinas de Manabi) have demonstrated a better approach.

Fortis explained that in the 1980s, the countryside of Manabi province and the coastal area of Ecuador were perpetually green and beautiful. Agriculture provided an abundance of healthy produce for the markets of Portoviejo, Manta, Guayaquil and Quito, as well as economic and nutritional survival for the local population.

Although farming has been the main source of family income, fluctuating production costs resulted in irregular earnings. Because of continuing price increases, few families can afford to buy fish and meat. As a result, local diets lack essential protein, minerals and vitamins.

"Our economy has always been unstable, but to make matters worse, one day our environment and the livelihood of our people abruptly changed," Fortis said.

The government built a dam near the Portoviejo River Valley and constructed canals, forcing residents to pay for water that before had flowed freely.

Manabi also suffered from a 10-year

drought. The periodic weather phenomenon known as El Niño hit the Portoviejo area particularly hard.

During El Niño events, the ocean water along the coasts of Ecuador and Peru warms, disrupting weather patterns.

One such event from fall 1997 to spring 1998 shortened crop cycles, decreasing the time that crops had to mature and be harvested, and destroyed fruit trees. Increased rainfall also caused landslides, severely damaging the soil.

## "There Was Nothing Left"

"My own family and I were forced to move because there was nothing left of our home," Fortis said. "Houses were destroyed and families found it difficult to feed their children. For months after El Niño, locals were drowning not only in two or more meters of water but in poverty."

He said, "After El Niño, these families had lost absolutely everything.

"There were many nongovernmental organizations in this area, along with government-run rural development organizations, but the community farmers collectively approached UPOCAM and Heifer International," Fortis said.

"They understood right away that Heifer was different and would listen," he said. "UPOCAM and Heifer International worked side by side with the objective that before animals were distributed, farmers had to understand and respect the rest of the proposal.

"For a year and a half, recipient families planted and grew trees—without the presence of animals," Fortis said. "UPOCAM stuck to its objective, which was 'First food for the family and then for new animals.'

"Each participant who received a tree had to show and demonstrate to everyone that the tree would continue to grow and



"Houses were destroyed and families found it difficult to feed their children. For months after El Niño, locals were drowning not only in two or more meters of water but in poverty."

Yobanny Fortis





**Above:** Yobanny Fortis, known as “Hombre Blanco” or “White Man” for his white clothing, shares his knowledge of organic farming with Manabi farmers.

**Right:** Rafael Baque (left) and his father, Roberto Baque, say organic farming techniques, including the use of worms like those shown here, have greatly improved their gardens.



remain healthy in his or her care,” he said.

### Five Communities Involved

The program includes five communities located in two counties served by the canals of the Poza Honda dam in the Portoviejo River Valley. About half the 150,000 residents of the two counties live in rural areas.

Only 2 percent of those rural residents have telephone service. Residents get their drinking water by catching rainfall in containers and from the few wells.

“Several of the farmers who suffered the consequences of El Niño had their own ideas, and it was difficult to work with their agricultural approach,” Larrea said. “In their minds it was not possible to produce without chemicals, and UPOCAM’s presence in the area became weak.”

### Illnesses Reportedly on Rise

Larrea and Fortis said an alarming percentage of farmers in the province of Manabi used large quantities of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on their crops.

The chemicals, applied without adequate protective gear, have been blamed for a higher than normal incidence of stomach cancer and hepatitis infections in the area.

The word “organic” was one few area residents recognized and even fewer practiced until UPOCAM and Heifer International began working with local communities. UPOCAM sought to promote organic farming and improve living conditions for families while still observing the traditions and cultural values of the communities.

“It wasn’t easy to develop our practices in the communities,” Fortis said.

But tangible results, “Passing on the Gift” (the gift of a donated animal’s firstborn offspring to another family), the availability of credit and the success of organic farming persuaded many farmers.

Manuel Vera Loor, an enthusiastic participant in the UPOCAM/Heifer project from El Limon, warmly welcomed Heifer staff.

The use of chemicals by many of his neighboring farmers had begun to disturb him, he told his visitors. The project has alerted Vera Loor to the danger of chemicals, and he is spreading the word among his neighbors.

While Vera Loor walked proudly with Heifer staff through his organically grown lemon grove and peanut plantation, he said, “What I know of Manabi and the situation here is what others can see with their own eyes—poverty and the unsafe use of chemicals for crop production.

Fortis accompanied Heifer staff to the home of project recipients, digging in the dirt, picking peanuts and checking the health of a lemon tree. At the end of the day, Fortis remained spotless in his white attire.

“At the beginning, the situation was very interesting in the Portoviejo River Valley,” said Fernando Larrea, Heifer’s Ecuador director. “I remember that when the proposal was completed and Heifer supported the project, many difficulties occurred.



"Our people barely have enough money to buy bread, and at the same time, they are using chemicals on their crops," he said.

"I have a neighbor who is 38 years old but looks 58 because he has become very sick from chemical production," Vera Loor said. "I am telling him to stop. I ask him, 'Who will care for your children when you are gone?' I explain to him that I am working organically, he can come over any time, talk with me, and I will teach him.

"I'm so happy with the project of UPOCAM and Heifer International," Vera Loor said. "I now have healthy, organic production and work extremely hard and with dedication so my family can enjoy the fruits of my labor.

"Our training has proven the dangers of using chemicals to many of our families," he said.

"After two and a half years in the program, I received a pig, which has also helped us in our gardens," Vera Loor said. "Our pig is like a bank. When we have problems, we sell an offspring, and the manure is used for fertilizer on our lemon trees. The results have been incredible.

"Today, my produce is 100 percent organic," he said. "Other families are experimenting, seeking to farm safely and to become independent of chemicals."

### Sustainable Methods Adopted

Through the project, farming families are adopting sustainable methods. They are improving the soil and planting vegetation on sloped ground to prevent erosion. Land has been reforested and fruit species are being preserved in small community seedbeds.

Low-cost alternative irrigation systems such as micro-sprinklers have been constructed to permit crop production throughout the year.

In addition to agricultural training, UPOCAM and Heifer International have given project participants poultry and pigs. The return on this investment, in the

form of the animals' offspring, and in seeds and income, will comprise a local rotating fund that will help other project participants and communities.

UPOCAM, with administrative support from the Maria Luisa Gomez de la Torre Foundation, will manage the fund, charging interest on loans and requiring donations of animal offspring. This arrangement guarantees Passing on the Gift to other needy families indefinitely.

The farmers will share their training with others, strengthening the communities.

For more than 21 years, UPOCAM has been working in Manabi to improve people's lives while reintroducing time-honored customs and cultural values.

Jorge Loor, the founder and former president of UPOCAM, said, "We are working to understand better what we can do for our future—to either quit or move forward."

At the end of day, our Hombre Blanco walked with Heifer staff through Vincent Conforme's beautiful lemon groves, saying, "UPOCAM has trained many families like Manuel and Vincent to work with an organic model of production. This care has brought a healthy food security for their families, who no longer have to depend on markets.

"They are provided with native and natural foods," Fortis said. "Some say, 'Eat bread.' I say, 'No. Eat green bananas.' Children must consume native products that are healthy and will nourish our people. We must look at traditional values in life for our survival and sustainability. With training from UPOCAM and Heifer International, our farmers have developed strong self-esteem and, hopefully, many positive, lasting results."

"Today, the families ask for more and more information," Fortis said. "We believe the more we can do for our farmers to look beyond their doors and windows, the more we are doing for their future." 🐾

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*Darcy Kiefel is a Heifer International photojournalist based in Boulder, Colo.*



**Above:** Jorge Loor, founder and ex-president of UPOCAM, demonstrates a new irrigation system in the Portoviejo River Valley.

*"We are investigating results from past organic farming practices. We must relearn what our parents taught us, and then, once again, teach and treasure those traditions for ourselves and our children."*

**Vincent Conforme**

# Humanitarian Moves Mountains

*MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS*

TRACY KIDDER

RANDOM HOUSE PUBLISHING

HARDCOVER, \$25.95

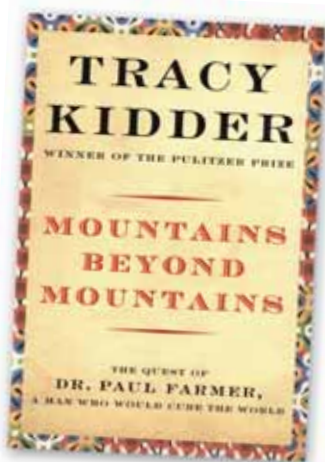
The Pulitzer Prize-winner and bestselling author Tracy Kidder mesmerizes readers with the story of Paul Farmer, medical doctor, anthropologist and paladin.

Kidder reveals Farmer the man—not just Farmer the doctor (although the two are almost indistinguishable)—through a deceptively simple portrayal of his life's work and the voices of his closest companions. And with the same fervor and eloquence that Farmer "narrates" Haiti, telling the true account of his beloved people, Kidder narrates Farmer.

Farmer has a medical degree and a Ph.D. in anthropology, both from Harvard, and it would be easy to describe him as intelligent and hard working. But perhaps the best description of him is "scrappy." Taking on the World Health Organization, the United Nations, major pharmaceutical companies and the governments of Haiti, Peru, the United States and Russia, Farmer would not be deterred by politics, bureaucracy, money or personal exhaustion—he would cure the world.

"He [Farmer] said patients came first, prisoners second, and students third, but this didn't leave out much of humanity. Every sick person seemed to be a potential patient of Farmer's and every healthy person a potential student. ... Farmer wasn't put on this earth to make anyone feel comfortable, except for those lucky enough to be his patients... "

Through Farmer's eyes, the reader sees that simply wishing for a world without sickness isn't good enough. Changing the WHO's policy on tuberculosis treatment isn't enough. Raising millions of dollars



—Reviewed by  
Sherri White,  
Heifer Staff  
Writer

and battling the big drug companies' pricelists aren't enough, either. Hiking

for hours in the remotest part of Haiti to see one patient isn't enough. Even eradicating AIDS and TB isn't enough.

Farmer truly understands "beyond mountains there are mountains," a Haitian proverb meaning as you solve one problem, another arises. Indeed, the only thing that will ever be enough for Paul Farmer is a world without disparity, full of healthy people equitably sharing the earth's natural and medical resources.

Kidder writes, "I felt as though, in Farmer, I'd been offered another way of thinking about a place like Haiti. But his way would be hard to share, because it implied such an extreme definition of a term like 'doing one's best.' "

Farmer also teaches that it isn't enough to simply treat the symptoms of an illness; you have to treat the symptoms of poverty—with clean water, adequate food, shelter, preventive medicine and an understanding ear.

" 'Medical education does not exist to provide students with a way of making a living, but to ensure the health of the community. The physicians are the natural attorneys of the poor, and the social problems should largely be solved by them.' "

The world could be a much better place if *Mountains Beyond Mountains* were required reading for every medical student, especially those in America.

# "King

An Environmental  
Classic

The 1933 classic "King Kong" has been called a classic adventure, a tragic love story, a monster movie and a fable. The American Film Institute named it one of the top 100 films and one of the top 100 romances of all time.

Now Peter Jackson, director of "The Lord of the Rings" movies, is filming a remake. Will the New Zealander make this millennium's "Kong" another Beauty-and-the-Beast fable?

Hard to say, but recent interpretations have the ape opera as an environmental film.

The Big Monkey movie may not be as obvious an environmental statement as "Koyannis-quatsi" or "The Burning Season."

But consider Kong's storyline:

A boatload of adventurers, armed to the teeth with guns and gas bombs, heads for a mysterious jungle island in the Indian Ocean. The men violently overcome

# Kong"

—Reviewed by  
Michael Haddigan,  
Heifer Communications Director

the island's native population and seize a huge ape the locals consider a god. They plan to exploit the ape for profit in the developed world.

"We're millionaires, boys!" their leader exclaims.

Back in New York City, then perhaps the most technologically advanced city on the planet, the marauders put Kong on vulgar display.

Rebelling against his conquerors, Kong breaks his chains and escapes. Rampaging through civilization, Kong climbs to the top of the city's tallest "tree," the Empire State Building.

When all attempts to subdue the wild ape fail, Navy biplanes—advanced technology in the 1930s—machine-gun Kong until he falls to his death on a crowded Gotham street.

The 1976 remake made the environmental theme explicit. The leader of the adventurers in that version of the story was a rapacious oil executive.

## Children's Classic

### Delivers Fun, Earth-Friendly Message

"FERN GULLY: THE LAST RAINFOREST" (1992)

DIRECTOR: BILL KROYER

RATED G

76 MINUTES (ANIMATED)

—Reviewed by

Sherri White,  
Heifer Staff Writer

If you want to introduce your children to easy-to-understand environmental messages that will inspire them to make a difference in a world where fragile ecosystems are facing seemingly insurmountable challenges, look to the classic animation feature "Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest."

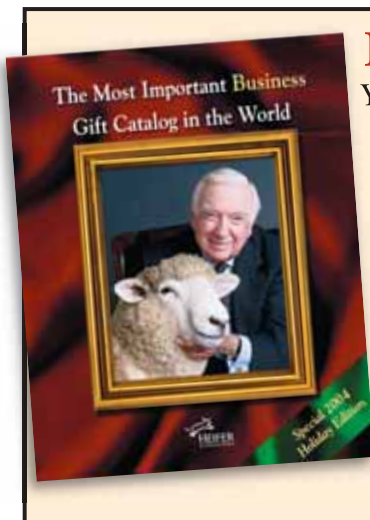
"Fern Gully" captivates the imagination with vivid colors, lush animation, humorous dialogue, magical characters and lively musical scores. At the same time, it delivers wide-ranging lessons.

"All the magic of creation exists within a single, tiny seed," Magi Lune, fairy keeper of the Fern Gully rainforest, instructs her apprentice Crysta, an adventurous fairy more fascinated with "human" tales than learning.

However, the impatient and aloof Crysta must soon focus her efforts to save Fern Gully because, unbeknownst to its inhabitants, Hexxus, the spirit of destruction, has been unleashed by the humans who are clear-cutting the rainforest.

Crysta finds her human tale come true when she discovers Zak, one of the workers clearing the trees. He's oblivious to the harm he is inflicting on the rainforest. As they explore the wonders of the forest, Zak realizes the damage he has caused and the importance of being mindful of one's environment.

"Fern Gully" will leave children with a meaningful message about caring for the environment and the interdependency all living creatures have with the earth and with one another.



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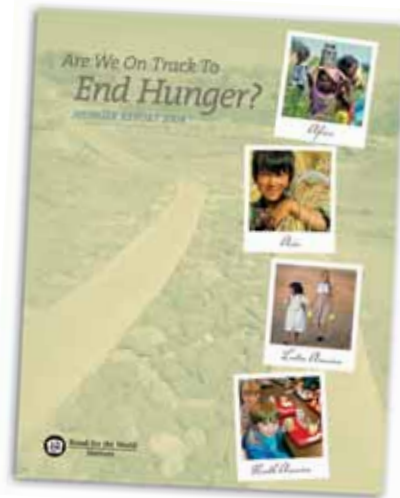
# Hunger Numbers Rise

The number of hungry people in the United States and the developing world is growing, reversing gains made during the last 30 years, the Bread for the World Institute said in its 14th annual report on the state of world hunger.

Polls show that American voters want to fight hunger around the world, the report said. But despite goals set in the

mid-1990s to cut hunger in half globally by 2015 and domestically by 2010, political leaders are failing to follow through, the institute said.

"We know what needs to be done to turn the corner in the battle against hunger," said the Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World Institute, a nonprofit anti-hunger education and research organization in



Washington, D.C. ago, more than one in every three people across the globe were hungry. By the mid-1990s, that number had decreased to less than 20 percent. For the past several years, however, that number has jumped by 5 million people annually.

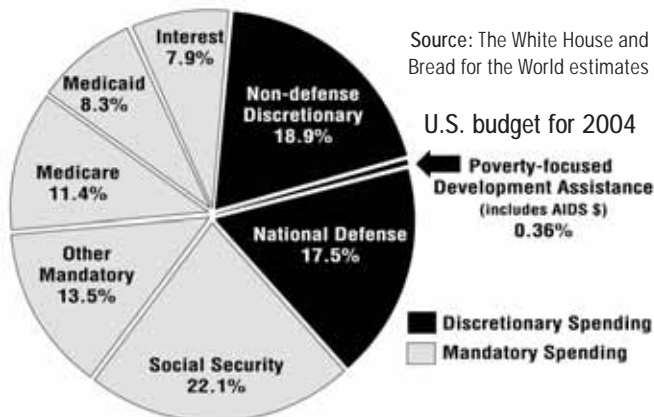
The Bread for the World Institute said that reducing hunger depends on an international development agenda that seeks to strengthen people and communities so they can stand on their own feet and provide food for themselves.

For more information, visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org), the website of the institute's sister organization, Bread for the World.

Washington, D.C.

"Far too many children go to bed hungry each night, be they in Malawi or Milwaukee," he said. "The problem is not the lack of food. Hunger is a political problem, and people need to demand change from their elected officials."

From the 1970s through the mid-1990s, hunger in the developing world decreased. Thirty years



## Partner for Progress

Business sponsorships have made many Heifer International programs possible, and now Heifer is offering small and mid-sized businesses the opportunity to do something good for themselves and support the organization, all at the same time.

By giving a small percentage of the sales amount of their products or services to Heifer, a business can increase revenues and awareness for both organizations.

"Customers or clients like to patronize a business that is socially responsible and gives back because it makes them feel better about themselves," said Cynthia Hester, corporate relations director for Heifer

International. "These kinds of relationships can really help increase a company's sales."

In discussing the benefits of becoming a Heifer partner, Hester cited the 2002 Cone Corporate Citizenship Study, which reported that 78 percent of Americans thought that companies had a responsibility to support social issues.

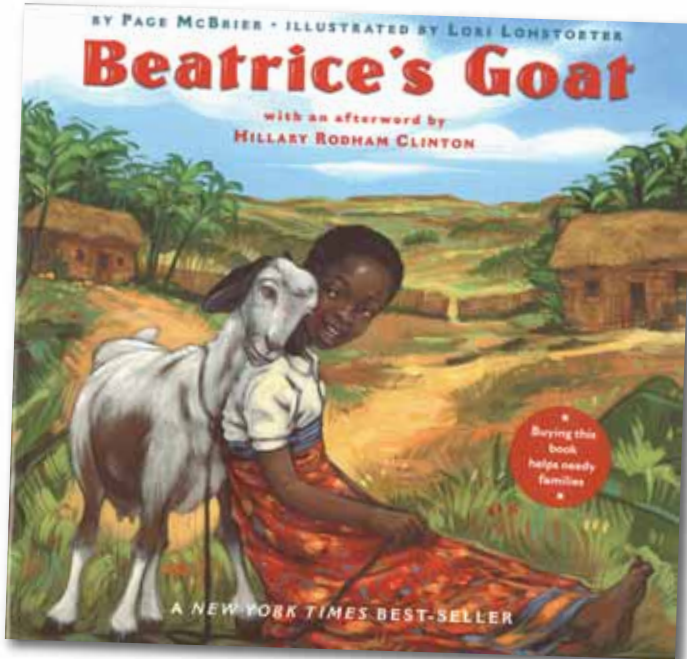
The corporate relations team will work with businesses to determine exactly how to structure a partnership that benefits both the business and Heifer.

For more information about becoming a business partner of Heifer International, call (501) 907-2880 or e-mail [corporatepartners@heifer.org](mailto:corporatepartners@heifer.org).

# Now in Paperback

A paperback edition of *The New York Times* best seller *Beatrice's Goat* will arrive in bookstores this month.

*Beatrice's Goat*, a picture book first published in 2000 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Anne Schwartz Books, tells the true and inspiring story of Beatrice Biira, a Ugandan girl whose life was changed forever by the delivery of a Heifer International goat. Income derived from the goat enabled Beatrice to fulfill her lifelong dream of attending school.



Simon & Schuster's children's division will publish the paperback edition of the book by author Page McBrier and illustrator Lori Lohstoeter.

Now 19, Beatrice is preparing to attend college in the United States in the fall. Mugisa, Beatrice's first goat, is still alive, though she no longer bears kids.

The paperback edition of *Beatrice's Goat* will sell for \$6.99. A portion of Simon & Schuster's proceeds from each copy sold will be donated to Heifer International.

## New SVP Named

Mark Schnarr, director of Heifer Ranch, has been named senior vice president of External Relations at Heifer International.

Raised on a farm in Indiana, with a degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University, Schnarr worked for the Quaker Oats Company for 15 years, rising through various management positions. Prior to joining Heifer eight years ago, Schnarr had already left the corporate world and served as president of the Edward Lowe Foundation, a private nonprofit whose mission is to provide assistance to small businesses.

Participating in a Heifer Study Tour to East Africa led by Rosalee Sinn in 1995 convinced Schnarr that "this organization does make a difference." Because of this experience, he accepted the position as director of Heifer Ranch in 1996 where, with the aid of an excellent staff, revenue and the number of visitors have doubled over this time period.

Schnarr feels that his business background coupled with his knowledge of Heifer has and will continue to benefit the organization in its goal of "being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us by our donors." The Development, Communications/Marketing, and Education departments will report to Schnarr.



### Heifer Thailand Celebrates 30 Years of Service

Prince Bhisadej Rajni (left), chairman of the Royal Project Foundation, and Charles Stewart, chairman of Heifer International's Board of Directors, take part in ceremonies marking Heifer Thailand's 30th anniversary in February.

# Plan for Retirement

CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

By Janet K. Ginn, CFRE

PRESIDENT, HEIFER FOUNDATION

**H**ow would you like to retire and ease your financial worries AND those of struggling people around the world? By planning for your retirement with charitable gifts through Heifer Foundation, your lifetime of work can give you greater peace of mind in retirement than you ever imagined.

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When you plan for retirement through a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) with Heifer

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**B**y establishing a CRT and supplementing your other retirement programs, you set aside more than the standard amount in a tax-favored program. Another advantage to a CRT is the possibility to save estate taxes. You'll receive a charitable income-tax deduction for a portion of your contribution, and if you can't use the full deduction in one tax year, the IRS allows you to carry forward the excess for up to five years.

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For more information, phone (888) 422-1161; go to our website at [www.heiferfoundation.org/waystogive/trusts](http://www.heiferfoundation.org/waystogive/trusts) to calculate the income you could receive and download forms; or send us the attached card to receive your complete information packet today. 🐾



Gene and Mary Kay Gardner

"Planning ahead, my wife and I began thinking about what happens to our life savings after we're gone. After being sure that our children were provided for, we wanted to make sure charities were included in our estate plan. We wondered how effectively our donation would be distributed and who would be overseeing it. Our conclusion was that it would be wise to start our giving plan sooner, so we could help guide its use.

"Heifer Foundation has a broad depth of knowledge and useful materials, but I was most impressed by the attitude of the planned giving personnel. We found the staff encouraging us to take plenty of time to reflect on it, ask a lot of questions, and proceed in a way that worked best for our own situation."



FROM THE  
DESK OF

# Walter Cronkite



**I**f we as human beings hope to succeed on this planet, and have an ever-more peaceful and not more violent world, we're going to have to learn to understand and appreciate each other. I believe that Heifer Foundation is playing a part in just such a global solution to world strife by supporting the ongoing work of Heifer International, and also by

sending the message that the life you live and the legacy you leave will make the world a better place tomorrow.

It is understandable that today we live in a world of revolutions and uprisings when the world's television sets are broadcasting our luxurious consumption and vast waste, while wage earners in developing countries will toil unmercifully for a year's wages that will not exceed \$200. It is inconceivable that we have the intellectual and financial capacity to bring about scientific and technological advances that far outstrip those of the industrial revolution of the last century, but are incapable of applying those same resources to face the great problems of the world, such as hunger and poverty. How long will the beleaguered peoples of the world tolerate those who possess the tools but can't make them work for the good of humankind?

Heifer Foundation offers many ways to make a tremendous difference in the lives of hungry families around the world. However you choose to be involved, it is important for us to assume the leadership of the revolution and channel it in a direction that assures freedom's future.

SINCERELY,

Walter Cronkite

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# First, Do No Harm

By Sherri White

Sherri White is a Heifer International staff writer and native Arkansan.

She lives with her 11-year-old-son, Devin, in Little Rock, where he plays soccer, runs track and plays drums in the school band.

There is one question that never fails to leave me with my mouth wide open in disbelief:

“What is your son?”

“A Gorlox from Mars” is how I am tempted to, and perhaps should, respond. But no matter how many times I am asked, my answer is inevitably a surprised “Pardon?”

As if the first question weren’t bad enough, the follow-up is worse:

“I mean what race is he?”

This answer is easy.

Human.

It’s unsettling, the subtle racism that courses through my everyday life. I have a son who plays soccer and video games. He laughs and cries, runs and jumps, breathes in and out.

And he happens to be biracial. He just doesn’t necessarily *look* the part. So, some people assume an inappropriate comfort level and think they can speak their minds in front of me. The offhand comments binding the unspoken brotherhood of many who are not black never fail to catch me off guard.

For example, one day my mom and I met several of her fellow police officers for lunch. An interracial couple walked in with their children. One of the officers lowered his voice to a whisper, “Can you believe what some women will do? You know how those kids will turn out.”

I felt sick. I watched my mom close her eyes, then look at me desperately, pleading with me to hold my tongue. And then I watched shame wash over her face because she was afraid to say something, anything. These men, who had seen my son many times, had no idea he was biracial.

I’m shocked when people assume that not only is it OK, but that I’m “in on it” when they tell racial jokes or make racial slurs. Mind you, this is not the ranting of a soapbox lecturer, but an observation of a frightened mother. Subtle racism scares me.

At least with an outspoken bigot, I know where I stand. And more importantly, I know where my child stands. But the shared glances, whispered laughter and feigned superiority of the self-proclaimed “non-racist” person make me shudder.

The South has a higher level of racial acceptance than it has ever had. We’ve produced several United States presidents. We are home to some of the wealthiest people in the world. We’ve seen tremendous economic, educational and cultural growth.

But what is illusion and what is reality? Are we experiencing the awakening of some new, unenlightened community? Or is the South still clinging to a preference for separate bathrooms, water fountains and schools for African-Americans?

I don’t think so. I don’t think most people *intend* to be racist. Unfortunately, I believe, many regurgitate the prejudice their families, and the generations before them, have shoved down their throats.

The previously mentioned officers—they’re great guys in many ways. They have all helped my family. When my son was in the middle of multiple surgeries during Christmas, they brought him presents and offered support. Several of those men also helped bury my mother, honoring her—and me—by serving as her pallbearers. I don’t think any of that would have changed if they had known my son was biracial.

See, my son is not a “what”; he’s a who. He’s a young boy who has survived 41 surgeries and flourishes in spite of a medical disability. He respects his elders with a “yes, ma’am” or “no, sir.” He is polite and kind, and has compassion well beyond his years of experience. Or perhaps because of his years of experience. Reducing him to a “what” makes us all very small.

Many of us speak before thinking. Assume without knowing. And we don’t mean to do harm.

But we do.

# Heifer International's Conference on Ending Hunger: Heifer at 60 and Global Symposium: Small Farmers in a Global Economy



October 21-23, 2004 • Little Rock, Arkansas, USA



**The Conference on Ending Hunger: Heifer at 60** is a weekend of learning and sharing, a weekend that will educate and inspire, and ultimately assist in achieving our goal of ending world hunger. Held October 22-23 in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Conference will feature an array of interesting speakers and activities and culminate with a gala celebration.

Project partners from around the world and volunteers from the U.S. will be honored with celebration luncheons and award presentations. And, in addition to the Conference on Ending Hunger, Heifer will be hosting a global symposium, Small Farmers in a Global Economy, October 21.

To learn more about this special weekend and how you can take part, visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) and click on the 60th Anniversary link, or call 1-888-5HUNGER (1-888-548-6437).







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