



### Caring for Orphans & Vulnerable Children in Rural Kenya

The Mosoriot Orphans Project is nearing the end of its pilot year and is preparing to dive into full operation in 2006. In nine locations in the Kosirai Division, educational assistance for the 2005 school year has been given to 90 children whose lives have been affected by the death of their parents due to HIV/AIDS.

Seventy-four of these children are being assisted to attend primary school, and secondary school fees have been paid for 16 students. A partnership with the Family Preservation Initiative's tailoring and knitting workshops has been formed to make school uniforms for these children. This partnership with the Family Preservation Initiative (FPI) benefits the FPI clients

who earn their income by making the uniforms, and makes it possible for this project to assist orphans with uniforms at a lower cost than the uniforms which would otherwise be commercially purchased.

In addition to the assistance to attend school and pay for uniforms, which has been provided to all 90 children, nearly one-third of these children have had assistance cultivating their land and planting maize. Most of the 13 households which have received assistance with cultivation and planting have had about two acres planted. The result of this assistance is that nearly all of these households will be able to care for their children's needs from the



*Planting maize for orphaned children.*

proceeds of the 2005 harvest and will not require assistance in 2006. Achieving self-sufficiency from the assistance with planting this year's crop includes not only food security for the 28 orphans in the coming year, but also sufficient yield to provide for next year's planting. Some income will also be received from the sale of the remaining harvest for future expenses, particularly the expenses associated with the education of the orphans next year.

This orphans program, led by Irene Kalamai, will continue to fulfill the hopes of livelihood and education for so many children who have been devastated by the loss of their parents to HIV/AIDS.



*Orphans and grandmothers with new shoes in hand.*

The mission of Indiana University's partnership with Moi University is to develop leaders in health for the United States and Africa, to foster the values of the medical profession and to promote health for the human family.

The partnership was formally established in 1989 as a collaboration between Moi University School of Medicine, Eldoret, Kenya and Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, USA. The purpose of the collaboration at its inception was to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with a focus on primary care medicine and pediatrics.

As the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic grew over the last two decades, it became apparent that the partnership would have to respond to this health care issue. In 2000, responding to the HIV/AIDS problem became one of the primary activities of Indiana University School of Medicine in Kenya.

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## New Additions and Key Players on the IU-Kenya Team



**Elizabeth Dufort, MD**, a recent graduate of New York University's residency program and now a faculty member of Indiana University's Department of Pediatrics, arrived in Kenya in July. She will spend the next year leading IU's pediatric effort in Eldoret. Liz will spend most of her time on the pediatric wards of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital and in the HIV clinics of AMPATH. She also will be intensely involved in the academic experience of both Kenyan and visiting American students and residents. In her own words, Liz looks forward to "what will undoubtedly be an interesting and valuable year with the IU-Kenya Partnership. It has been an incredible learning experience to be part of such a dynamic team effort."



**Michael Waxman, MD**, a recent graduate of New York University's Department of Emergency Medicine residency program, also arrived to Eldoret in July. Mike will spend the next year with the IU-Kenya Partnership helping to advance the Accident and Emergency department of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital on a variety of projects. These projects include: disaster preparedness, basic and advanced life support training, and continuing medical education for the staff in the department. Throughout the two months Mike has spent with the program thus far, he has witnessed poverty and disease unlike any he has ever seen. At the same time, however, he has witnessed "human beings regaining life and dignity from an ill and vulnerable state. Many patients come to the hospital knowing they are HIV infected, and yet they are hopeful, and, rightfully so, that they will feel well again. I am touched by the many patients I see religiously attending their clinic visits, taking their medications and living normal healthy lives. I am proud to be part of a health care community that puts forth a team effort every day and strives to offer comprehensive care to each HIV positive person in the catchment area."



**Peter Park** has been living in Eldoret and working with the IU-Kenya Partnership for the past two years as Associate Field Director of the Family Preservation Initiative (FPI). This initiative is the economic security arm of AMPATH, and is one of the many social support programs available to AMPATH patients. FPI provides a number of services to help the poorest patients regain their livelihoods, including microfinance services, business training classes and craft studios currently employing over 100 patients.

Peter has been at the core of all FPI operations since its inception. In his own words: "It has been a dream come true working with the IU-Kenya Partnership – the amazing people you meet, the excitement of working with a program that

seems to have no limits. All in all, it has been an honor to be a part of what is truly a shining star for the Indiana service community and something of which all Hoosiers can be proud.”



**Rajesh Vedanthan, MD, MPH**, began working with the program in July of 2005 as the onsite medical liaison. Raj’s many roles include educational activities, clinical duties and research work. He is involved in teaching fourth- and sixth-year Moi University medical students, as well as coordinating bi-weekly “Morning Report” sessions with the American students and residents. Raj and Joe Mamlin alternate months attending on the Nyayo Wards of the hospital. He is also getting his feet wet with the

AMPATH HIV outpatient clinics in Eldoret and Turbo. Raj says that the clinical aspect of his position has probably been the most emotion-provoking of them all: “The Nyayo Wards are clearly different from the scene I was accustomed to at the Brigham Women’s Hospital [in Boston]. Very young people who are very sick are dying often. Sometimes it is because the patients are seriously ill, but sometimes the deaths feel preventable, even with the limited resources available here. This will probably be the most challenging aspect of my work.”



**Tomeka Petersen** arrived in Eldoret to assist with the HAART and Harvest Initiative (HHI) in mid-June of 2005. As the Associate Field Director of HHI, Tomeka’s main objective has been to assist in the creation of a food distribution system that monitors food from HHI and patient farms and from donor sources to the patients. Shortly after her arrival, HHI received their first monthly shipment of 19.6 tons of food from the World Food Program. Tomeka has been working diligently to ensure that this

food gets to the neediest of AMPATH patients throughout western Kenya.



**Container Shipment – A Success.** In mid-July a container shipment from the US arrived in Eldoret containing 46 donated hospital beds and 85 mattresses, two echocardiography machines, endoscope equipment, and numerous other medical supplies for our programs in Kenya.

## Spotlight on a Former IU-Kenya Participant

Deanne Kashiwagi is a hospitalist at Methodist Hospital in downtown Indianapolis. She participated in the program as a resident in 2001. Deanne says she looks to her experience in Kenya as “a unique period of my training that in two months taught me the most important skills for taking care of patients that I have learned to this day. I loved the challenge of learning how to weave the variables of medical knowledge, limited resources and cultural beliefs into a treatment plan. I realized I had become addicted to this sort of experience.”

Deanne has since spent some of her time in Bolivia practicing medicine and says that she has drawn heavily from her experiences in Kenya during her trips to South America. Her time in both developing countries reminds her that “a patient’s environment and culture affect their understanding and perception of illness, that there are limited resources, even here in America, and that it is my job to consider these factors in providing the best possible care to patients.”

## Steve West Challenge Grant

Thank you to Steve West of the West Foundation for once again awarding the IU-Kenya Partnership with a matching grant of \$50,000. Mr. West has pledged to donate dollar-for-dollar for any **new donations** up to \$50,000 to the Partnership in order to strengthen its impact on the communities it serves in Kenya.

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## AMPATH Outpatient HIV Building Now in Full Operation

The first ever outpatient HIV building in Kenya opened its doors to the public in late June of 2005. This building will support the Academic Model for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS (AMPATH) outpatient services. As of July 2005, there were over 14,000 HIV positive people participating and benefiting from the programs offered by AMPATH, and over 6,300 of these patients on anti-retroviral drugs. In July alone, 1,166 new patients enrolled in the program – an average of 58 per day. This building finally gives AMPATH the space and resources to care for all of its patients.