



the Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION

GRASSROOTS

JULY 2005

The AIDS pandemic is ravaging the continent of Africa. As long as women, men and children continue to suffer and die, we believe grassroots efforts will help many who currently have no hope.

As of July 1st, The Stephen Lewis Foundation has provided funds to over 60 initiatives in 12 countries.

- From the grassroots** pages 2-3
- Look at your reach** pages 4-5
- From the front lines** page 6
- You asked us** page 7
- If you can give more** page 8

Dear Friends:

It's been more than two years now since the Stephen Lewis Foundation was launched, and during that time, the pandemic in Africa has moved from absolute despair to glimpses of hope.



The glimpses are not many, but they are significant: the gradual provision of treatment including a paediatric formulation for children; the slightly increased resources; the accelerated scientific search for a microbicide which will allow women to protect themselves from infection.

But on the ground, where it counts, the carnage, especially among women and children continues apace. And for all the grand rhetoric that we sometimes hear, the struggle for survival is still desperate, heart-breaking and never-ending.

That's where the Foundation comes in and plays its decisive role. I'm proud of what we've been able to achieve right at the grassroots, in partnership with scores of communities in Africa, as we promised to do at the outset. And I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of Canadians...no, it's more than generosity: it's the extraordinary depth of caring and commitment.

So let me use this newsletter to express the most intense appreciation, and convey an additional note of thanks, to all of those who have worked so hard at so many novel and inspired events, to raise money for the Foundation.

I don't pretend that we're making more than a tiny dent in the vast swath of human suffering. But if that dent keeps some communities and families alive, however limited in number, all of it is worth the doing.

Thank you for making it possible.

Yours sincerely,


Stephen Lewis

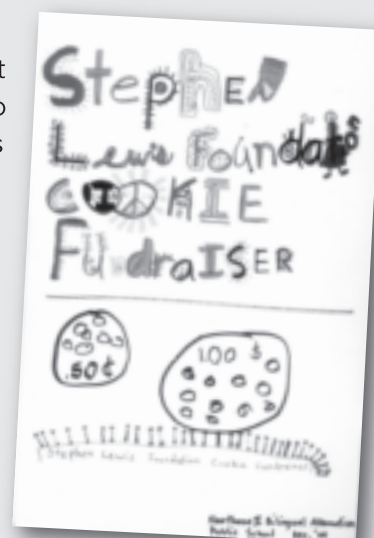
FROM THE GRASSROOTS OF CANADA ...

All across the country, Canadians have undertaken projects, large and small, modest and wildly ambitious, to raise funds and awareness about HIV/AIDS in Africa. Dinner parties, cycling challenges, local and regional union drives, walkathons, concerts, Halloween dances, magic shows, massages, extreme sports, birthday parties, piano recitals...the mind boggles at the creative imagination. Here's a small sample of their experiences:

- "If I had a million dollars ... I'd ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa" describes the motivation of a volunteer committee from the York Region in Ontario. They put together an ambitious awareness and fundraising plan to reach out to York Region residents. Recently, they successfully inspired the York Region District School Board to get involved. Now students, teachers and parents across the region are engaged!
- Students at Augustana University near Viking, Alberta combined a local community passion with a fundraising effort when they organized a **Hockey For Life** game between the university and the town. Afterwards, Brian Rozmahel, one of the students, told us: "An event such as this brings the issue a little closer to our own neighbourhood...When an enthused bunch of people get behind an idea, it becomes contagious, and great things can happen".
- Last year Jane Philpott, a family physician in Ontario, challenged her colleagues at Markham Stouffville Hospital to **donate their entire billings on World's AIDS Day** to the Foundation. "As we worked on December 1st, we were not only caring for local patients but we worked to ease the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa... Could it be that one year, every Canadian will be giving up one day's income on World AIDS Day?"
- Alison Hall's homespun gardening project in Dorval, Quebec quickly blossomed into a **community plant sale** in her yard. "It is extremely satisfying for me to be able to pair my love of gardening with my deep desire to do what I can to alleviate some of the suffering in Africa". She's already harvesting for next year!

To read about more of these inspired local projects, please visit the Share Ideas page at our website:

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org



...TO THE



Stephen Lewis in Zambia

PASADA

People with AIDS in Africa can die in the most appalling of circumstances, often writhing in pain, alone at home. But an organization in Tanzania has established a program that allows people to die with dignity, a measure of comfort, and surrounded by family and loved ones. PASADA (Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS) is a model for providing home-based care (HBC), where trained volunteers support very sick patients within their homes. These volunteers are led by teams of professional nurses and counsellors who treat opportunistic infections, help control pain, provide nutritious food and counsel family members.

Funding from the Stephen Lewis Foundation helps PASADA co-ordinate and expand its activities by training the HBC teams, providing transportation to and from home visits, and upgrading the skills and knowledge of nursing and dispensary workers.

GRASSROOTS OF AFRICA

Since 2003, your donations have enabled us to send more than two million dollars to over sixty initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa. Here are three examples of projects that continue to inspire us with their resourcefulness, professionalism and dedication – bringing hope and dignity to the lives of those they reach.

SWAPOL

Four years ago, a handful of courageous HIV-positive women started Swaziland Positive Living for Life (SWAPOL) with the aim of supporting each other and reducing the stigma surrounding people living with HIV/AIDS. The demand for services grew quickly and SWAPOL expanded to provide a care centre for orphans, home-based care (HBC), counselling and psycho-social support for their peers living with HIV/AIDS. Funding from the Foundation initially helped SWAPOL establish an office to co-ordinate home visits to terminally ill patients. Most recently, the Foundation has funded the purchase of some sewing machines, fabric and other materials so that volunteers at the orphan centres can generate a modest income for the children in their care.



Photo: courtesy of Lucy Steinitz



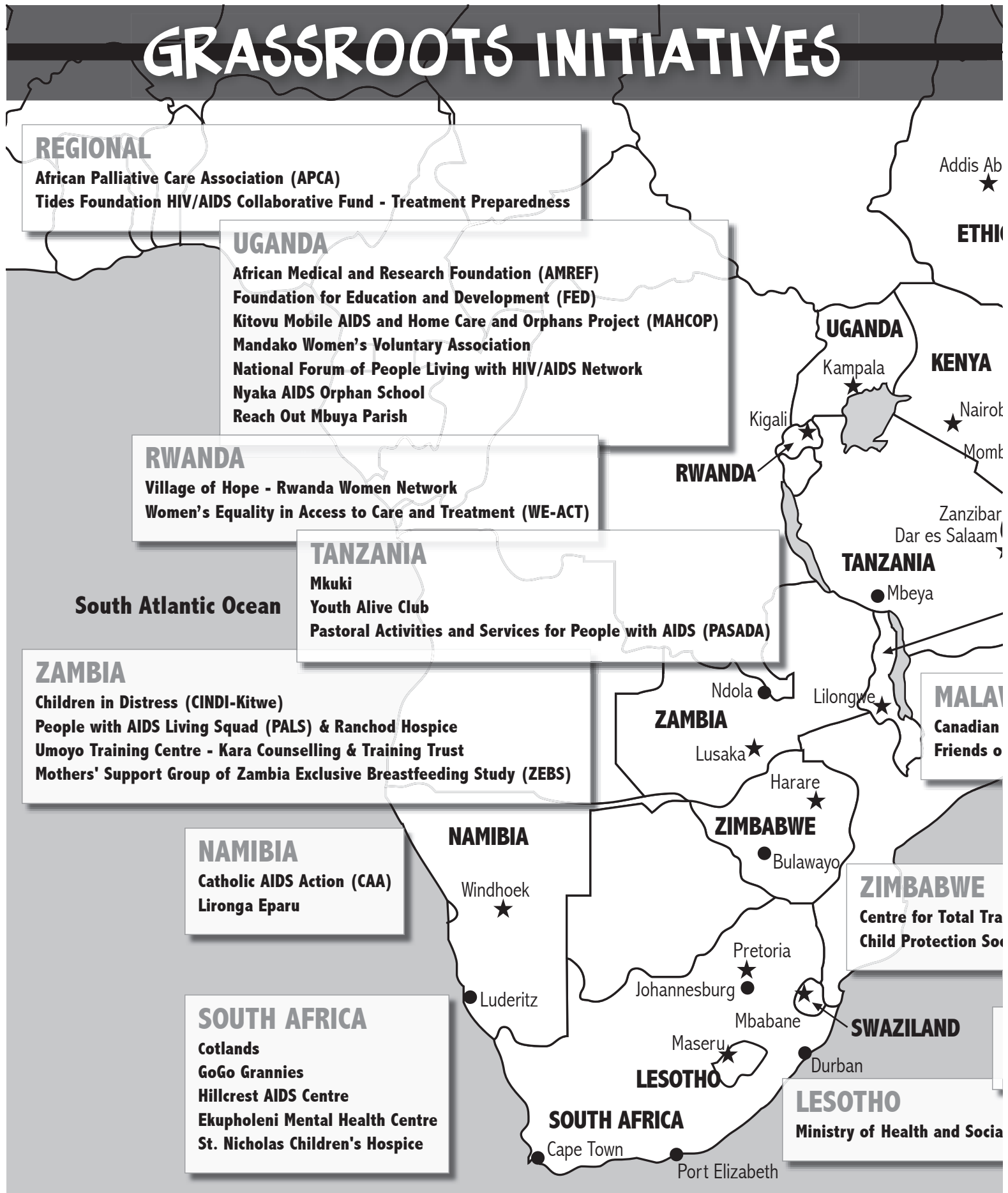
Photo: courtesy of Lucy Steinitz

MAHCOP

The teenage graduates of MAHCOP's Mobile Farm Schools live on well-kept homesteads across three districts of Uganda. Banana trees and a variety of other crops surround most of their homes

where they may also keep a piggery or hen-house, with a small area set aside to make straw baskets for sale. The farms are operated by remarkable young adults who were orphaned and out of school when MAHCOP (the Kitovo Mobile AIDS Home Care, Counselling, and Orphans Program) recruited them. Over two years, they learned organic farming and other income-generating skills, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness. Now, they are able to manage their own cooperatives, often supporting 8 or 9 other family members. Funding from the Stephen Lewis Foundation has paid for school fees and related expenses for up to 140 orphans at MAHCOP.

GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES



REGIONAL
African Palliative Care Association (APCA)
Tides Foundation HIV/AIDS Collaborative Fund - Treatment Preparedness

UGANDA
African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF)
Foundation for Education and Development (FED)
Kitovu Mobile AIDS and Home Care and Orphans Project (MAHCOP)
Mandako Women's Voluntary Association
National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Network
Nyaka AIDS Orphan School
Reach Out Mbuya Parish

RWANDA
Village of Hope - Rwanda Women Network
Women's Equality in Access to Care and Treatment (WE-ACT)

TANZANIA
Mkuki
Youth Alive Club
Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS (PASADA)

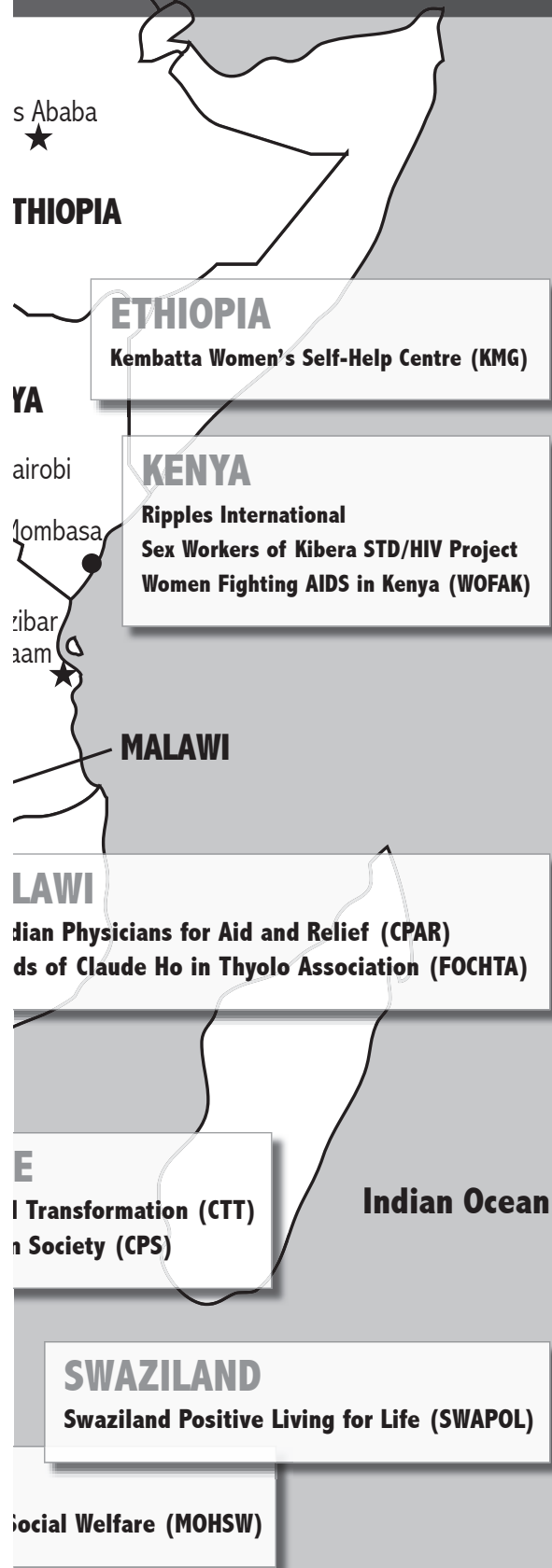
ZAMBIA
Children in Distress (CINDI-Kitwe)
People with AIDS Living Squad (PALS) & Ranchod Hospice
Umoyo Training Centre - Kara Counselling & Training Trust
Mothers' Support Group of Zambia Exclusive Breastfeeding Study (ZEBS)

NAMIBIA
Catholic AIDS Action (CAA)
Lironga Eparu

SOUTH AFRICA
Cotlands
GoGo Grannies
Hillcrest AIDS Centre
Ekupholeni Mental Health Centre
St. Nicholas Children's Hospice

ZIMBABWE
Centre for Total Trauma
Child Protection Society

LESOTHO
Ministry of Health and Social Services



LOOK AT YOUR REACH

... for easing the pain of HIV/AIDS in Africa

The Stephen Lewis Foundation currently funds over 60 initiatives with 35 organizations in 12 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Our mandate concentrates our support on three aspects of HIV/AIDS: care at the community level for women; assistance for orphans and vulnerable children; and support for associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

... for women

In 2004, UNAIDS declared that AIDS has a woman's face. That is one of the reasons why the Foundation funds grassroots initiatives for women with HIV/AIDS, which offer social support, home and hospital care visits, daycare and respite care, and money for small income-generating projects to help them support their families.

... for children

When mothers die, they leave behind grieving children, often without any means of support. We are helping orphans in every possible way, from the payment of school fees and supplies, to support for their guardians, most often grandmothers and older teenagers. The Foundation is funding projects that help these kids cope with their grief and then work to build their self-sufficiency through vocational and life skills training.

... for associations of people living with HIV/AIDS

There is still a terrible stigma attached to HIV/AIDS and Africa is no exception. The Foundation supports projects that unite women, men and children living with HIV/AIDS. These associations promote community HIV/AIDS awareness to fight stigma and provide each other with nutritional support, home-based care, prevention workshops and assistance in accessing treatment.

... for sustainable support

The Foundation considers every project thoroughly. We select community projects within our mandate – in countries where we have contacts on the ground who can evaluate the projects and be certain that your donations get to those most in need. We are expanding carefully in order to ensure that we can sustain our support.

Thank you for allowing us to reach these groups.

For a complete description of each project, please visit our website at www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

VOICES FROM THE FRONT LINES

Pillars of Hope



Photo: Jenny Parsley

Working in the field of HIV/AIDS is a deeply humbling experience...I have become, if nothing else, a witness...A witness to the blisters, the thrush, the weight loss, the hacking coughs and to death, with the enormous

cost of funerals and the endless loss faced by so many. And yet, this is not only a story of death and hopelessness, because one is also a witness to the pillars of hope working in the community. There are home-based care workers, most of whom are desperately poor, volunteering in the community to wash, cook and take care of the sick and their families. There are nurses, counsellors, religious leaders and neighbours, all of whom are doing such amazing and loving work in all corners of the country. There are the patients who, on death's doorstep, are cracking jokes and babies who despite not ever knowing what it is like to feel healthy, smile brightly. For me, working in this field has not resulted in a sense of despair; instead, it has restored an appreciation of community, and what that means, and affirmed a sense of respect for the value of each and every human being.

From Jenny Parsley, one of the SLF's African-based monitoring consultants.

Siphiwe's story

Swaziland Positive Living For Life's (SWAPOL) initial success can be attributed to the vision and energy of its founder and director, Siphiwe Hlope. Here is part of her story as told to Lucy Steinitz, one of the SLF's African-based monitoring consultants.

"Through my work, I spent a lot of time in one of Swaziland's most rural districts where gradually, several women disclosed their HIV status to me. I became their mother, their sister, their friend. Finally, I said that I am also HIV positive. Don't worry, I told them, I have experienced the same victimization as you have from my own family. We'll work together on this.

I thought that people victimized us because they didn't understand much about HIV. So, I said, let's form an organization that will assist us, and also help to train others. We decided to focus on reducing stigma, promoting healthy nutrition, and developing community gardens and other income-generating activities.

What we have learned is that by working together, we can achieve almost anything we want. This is a very powerful feeling. I am no longer upset about all the bad things that once happened to me. Through SWAPOL I have discovered new parts of myself, and a whole new life."

The Stephen Lewis Foundation has been supporting SWAPOL since 2003.



Directors Stephen Lewis
Mary Coyle
Dr. James Orbinski
Patsy George

African Advisory Board Ms. Graça Machel
Dr. Banu Khan
Dr. Agnes Binagwaho
Ms. Sisonke Msimang

Executive Director Ilana Landsberg-Lewis

Acting Executive Director Alexis MacDonald

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- ▶ In 2004 there were 25.4 million men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in Africa – 64% of the global population living with HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Africa was home to 75% of global deaths due to HIV/AIDS in 2004.
- ▶ Only 8% of people who need antiretroviral treatment in sub-Saharan Africa are receiving it. However, all developing countries, including those in Africa, are determined to meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of enabling treatment for 3 million by the end of 2005.
- ▶ The pursuit of a microbicide gained momentum over the past year and may be the best hope we have to help prevent the spread of HIV; many believe that only a vaccine will ultimately end the pandemic.

** figures from UNAIDS and WHO*

YOU ASKED US . . .

Whatever happened to the Canadian generic drugs legislation?

In May 2004, Parliament unanimously passed the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act (previously known as Bill C-9). This legislation effectively allows Canada to implement an August 2003 decision of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This decision allows WTO member countries to override patents so that they can produce lower-cost generic drugs for export to countries that lack the capacity to make the drugs themselves.

The process of drafting the regulations and bringing the Act into force took a year, but it did come into force a few weeks ago. It's been an excruciatingly slow process. In the interim, NGOs and some generic manufacturers held discussions about which drugs to produce. High on the list is the fixed-dose combination anti-retroviral recommended by the World Health Organization.

If politicians, manufacturers and activists continue to move forward in the spirit of the original legislation, this could well be a breakthrough. Nothing should stand in the way of rolling out treatment to hundreds of thousands in the immediate future. And it's equally clear that huge numbers of African lives could be prolonged and saved by generic drugs because they're at a fraction of the cost of brand-name drugs.

For more information about the legislation, see the website of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network at www.aidslaw.ca

Why does there need to be such a strong focus on women in the response to HIV/AIDS in Africa?

The following is an excerpt from Stephen Lewis' speech to the University of Pennsylvania's Summit on Global Issues in Women's Health, Philadelphia, April 26, 2005:

"...because I see the evidence...in the unremitting carnage of women and AIDS – ...young women, who crave so desperately to live, ...who can't even get treatment because the men are first in line, or the treatment rolls out at such a paralytic snail's pace ... who are part of the 90% of pregnant women who have no access to the prevention of Mother to Child Transmission and so their infants are born positive ... who carry the entire burden of care even while they're sick, tending to the family, carrying the water, tilling the fields, looking after the orphans ... the women who lose their property, and have no inheritance rights, and no legal or jurisprudential infrastructure which will guarantee those rights ... no criminal code which will stop the violence ... because I have observed all of that ...and am driven to distraction by the recognition that it will continue, I want a kind of revolution in the world's response, not another stab at institutional reform, but a virtual revolution."

Where did the money come from and how is it being spent?

In 2004, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we raised \$3.2 million – of which \$1 million arrived during the month of December alone!

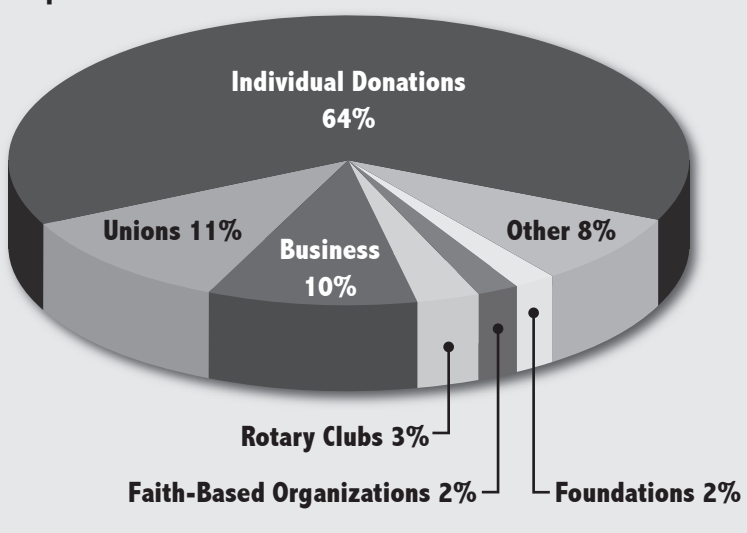
If you look at the pie chart, you'll see that more than 60% of our revenue comes from individuals, many of whom organized or participated in community events.

By June 2005, we distributed in excess of \$2 million. We continue to assess new projects on an ongoing basis.

We've managed to keep our administration costs to under 10% of our revenue (7.2% in 2004).

For more information, please contact us or view our return on the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Stephen Lewis Foundation 2004 Revenue Sources



IF YOU CAN GIVE MORE, PLEASE DO.

We've always been persuaded that the HIV/AIDS pandemic can be defeated. The knowledge and determination exist in Africa. What is lacking are the resources. The big money to turn things around must come from governments or very large Foundations. The small amounts of money, which can salvage the dignity of individual lives and restore hope to communities, can come from us.



We've been humbled by the response of Canadians to the Foundation. Your compassion and concern is overwhelming. We wouldn't ask for more unless we believed whole-heartedly in what your donations could accomplish; quite simply, they have not only transformed the lives of those affected, but they have brought a sense of possibility and infectious optimism on the ground.

So if you can give more, please do. All of the methods are outlined below: cheque, credit card, monthly, annually...whatever you deem feasible. Your contribution will continue our solidarity with those who continue to struggle.

PLEASE! Send us your email address on:
info@stephenlewisfoundation.org
so that we can send you a newsletter
electronically

The Foundation has found a new home!

STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION
260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 501
Toronto ON M5T 2E4 Canada
Tel: 416-533-9292 ♦ Fax: 416-850-4910
info@stephenlewisfoundation.org
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE TO THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

- ▶ **Cheque or money orders** – mail contributions to our new address, payable to Stephen Lewis Foundation. Please ensure that your name, address and phone number are included on the cheque so that we can send you a tax receipt.
- ▶ **Credit card** - donate with your credit card through our secure website partnership with CanadaHelps or call us at 416-533-9292.
- ▶ **Make a monthly contribution** - arrange a pre-authorized monthly deduction from your credit card or bank account. This allows us to plan ahead knowing that we have a reliable source of revenue. Just call us at 416-533-9292 or visit our website for details.
- ▶ **Bequests** - leave a meaningful legacy by contributing to the Stephen Lewis Foundation in your will.
- ▶ **Tribute gift** - give a thoughtful gift in someone's memory – or honour someone's birthday, wedding, anniversary, graduation or other special occasion.
- ▶ **Get involved** - mobilize your community to fundraise and learn about HIV/AIDS. For ideas please visit the Share Ideas page on our website!
- ▶ **To donate from the US** - write a cheque payable to 'Stephen Lewis Foundation - TIDES Foundation' and send it to: Tides Foundation New York Office, 40 Exchange Place, Suite 1111, New York, NY 10005 or call 212-509-1049.

La Fondation Stephen Lewis a maintenant une feuille-info bilingue. Pour l'obtenir, allez à notre site Web et cliquez sur « Plan Events », puis sur « Foundation Materials and Resources ».

Publication Mail Agreement #41002516

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:
STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION
260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 501
Toronto ON M5T 2E4
Canada

