

AIG Travel Guard/Noel Group: “Make a Mark Foundation”

*“While many orphans
are themselves
infected with the virus
and caring for other
family members,
it is our social
responsibility to step
in and help alleviate
effects of this horrific
pandemic.”*

– John Noel,
President and CEO,
AIG Travel Guard

BACKGROUND AIG Travel Guard is one of America’s leading providers of travel insurance plans for more than 6 million travelers each year. Travel insurance plans through AIG Travel Guard are distributed by more than 12,000 travel agents across the United States.

Travel insurance through AIG Travel Guard may include coverage for trip cancellation, travel interruptions and delays, emergency medical expenses, medical evacuation expenses, and lost or delayed baggage. AIG Travel Guard’s plans also include 24-hour travel emergency service for emergency medical assistance, last-minute or emergency travel changes, lost luggage tracking, pre-trip travel advice, and more.

DISEASES ADDRESSED HIV/AIDS

AREA OF INTERVENTION Community involvement

FOUNDATIONS OF ACTION Established in 1993 by Travel Guard founders John & Patty Noel, the Make a Mark Foundation is a non-profit, humanitarian organization focused on making “a positive difference in the lives of our global neighbors”.

AIG Travel Guard/Noel Group has been a GBC member company since August 2003.

KEY ACTIONS Travel Guard donates all administrative expenses and a percentage of its annual profits to the Make a Mark Foundation. By doing so, 100% of individual donations go directly to helping orphans and homeless children affected by the growing AIDS pandemic. While the majority of current HIV/AIDS initiatives are focused on treatment, prevention, and education, the intergenerational village concept is one of the few that address the looming orphan crisis. Beyond food and shelter, it provides a framework for instilling the values and skills children will need to lead productive lives. It is a holistic, multi-pronged approach that focuses not only on medical care and prevention, but also on the longer-term crises in housing, education, and economic development that AIDS has created.

Make a Mark Foundation is currently in partnership with “Build the Village” –a faith-based organization that is also focused on addressing the plight of orphans and homeless children in Africa. Together, they are building homes for 50 orphans and their caretakers in the Nandi area of Kenya.

They are also building a primary school that will be open to the public and generate revenues to sustain the needs of the orphans and their caretakers.





AIG Travel Guard employees volunteering in Nandi, Kenya to build an orphan house and a primary school

Courtesy of AIG Travel Guard/The Noel Group

MAIN OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED The first intergenerational village is now nearing completion near Kitui, Kenya, on 1,000 acres of donated land. This village will serve as a pilot to establish the parameters and benchmarks that can be used for creating other such self-sustaining, multigenerational villages throughout Africa. The Kitui village has 42 dwellings fully completed. Each will house 7-9 children along with a housemother or father.

Kitui Village will serve as home for more than 300 residents. Currently there are 200 children and 25 grandparents in residence. To date, construction has been completed on a community center, clinic, staff houses, guest house, chaplain's house, water treatment center, a primary school, a technical school and a police post. A water and irrigation system has also been established.

The village will achieve sustainability through diverse agricultural activities, such as "Shambas" (community gardens), bee-keeping, and aloe vera farming.

Make A Mark's vision is to create more intergenerational villages throughout Kenya and the rest of Africa.

While the intergenerational village concept is not a panacea from the entire population of orphans and elders, it is applicable for areas with extraordinarily high HIV rates that have virtually wiped out a generation of adults.

Community involvement and support is very integral to the success of the intergenerational village. The community offers something that is very unique and irreplaceable in the lives of these orphans: a sense of belonging.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Geoffrey Mburu
Telephone 715-345-1041/800-826-7791 ext. 11360
Email Geoffrey.mburu@aig.com
Website www.makeamark.org