

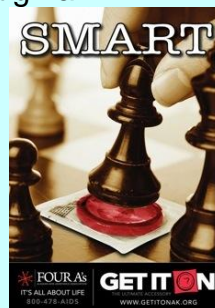


UUGAC
Unitarian
Universalist
Global AIDS
Coalition

Juneau UU Fellowship Juneau, Alaska

Locally, we are turning the focus on a partnership with the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, the 4A's, continues to evolve. The week of June 21 to 27, 2010 is National AIDS Testing Week. Several locations around Juneau will provide testing via oral swabs (results in 20 minutes).

The mission of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association is to be a key collaborator within the state of Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and in the elimination of the transmission of HIV infection and its stigma.



GLOBAL HIV/AIDS

During the 2009-2010 church year, activities at the *farthest north* Red Ribbon Congregation focused internationally on the shores of Lake Victoria, at a small primary care clinic in the village of Matoso, Kenya. Drs. carolyn_v and George Brown, she a general practitioner with a Master's in Public Health and he a pediatrician, engaged the Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in support of WCHA (Women's and Children's Health Associates) scholarship fund they established following their service there four years ago. Targeted at high school seniors from Matoso and the surrounding area who wish to pursue studies in health related fields, WCHA has so far supported 18 youth. Eleven have graduated as pharmacist, or nurses or health aids, and the other 7 are pursuing their studies. There have been 0 failures so far!

Two Sunday collections were dedicated to WCHA. The first was deposited to the Scholarship Fund. The second round of donations directly supported a small "feeding" program. Answering a need identified during a September 2009 visit to Matoso, \$2 per week will feed those with AIDS who are too weak to take their medications. A simple diet of grains and beans can give patients more strength so they are able to take their AIDS medications and have a chance to manage their disease.

On April 11, Karen Ande, documentary photographer and author of "Face to Face: Children of the AIDS Crisis in Africa," drew an enthusiastic crowd to Sunday Services, where she was the featured speaker. Proceeds from the sale of her book support the purchase of uniforms for children in Kenya, where as in many African countries, they are required for school attendance.

. The **RED RIBBON** contact person at the Juneau Fellowship, Madeleine Lefebvre was a co-founder along with Ann Pickar of First Unitarian Church in Portland OR, of the UUGAC (UU Global AIDS Coalition) which now recognizes and promotes **RED RIBBON** Congregations nationwide.