



MCW Holds First Community Development Seminar

Above: Community Development Seminar participants in Arusha, Tanzania in May 2008.

MCW members from Africa and the U.S. gathered at the Arusha International Conference Center and the Miracle Corners Tanzania-Arusha (MCT-A) Dr. Herman Wrice Youth Empowerment Village to participate in the first MCW Community Development Program Leadership Seminar in May 2008. The seminar, which brought 32 MCW community center team leaders together, aimed to empower community center teams to develop their centers as vibrant spaces for education, exchange, mentoring and entrepreneurship. EDUCO Africa, a Cape Town-based non-profit organization specializing in youth and corporate leadership training, facilitated the dynamic and interactive six-day training program.



By Felix Nyakatale

When I think about the MCW Leadership Seminar, I'm reminded of the "AHAAA MOMENTS" of learning and discovering new ideas and skills that everyone who participated enjoyed, including the facilitators from the MCW office in New York and EDUCO Africa.

As a senior MCT youth leader and mentor, I shared my story with team leaders. I also gained many new ideas from all of the participants. Other youth leaders demon-

"I never ever imagined that one day I would be amongst a team of people traveling to Arusha to attend the MCW Leadership Seminar. But there are miracles in the world!...Our leadership seminar was the most unique training program I have ever attended."

—Anna A. Chiguru, Advisory Board Member, Miracle Corners Tanzania-Songea

strated professional growth from the very beginning, especially when we were welcomed by the Africa Travel Association and when we participated in the meeting with dignitaries where H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania was the guest of honor.

The training was 100 percent practical, thanks to EDUCO and MCW. Every session started with the goal that each individual would take something away from it, and at the end of the exercise, you knew it was successful because you would hear some team members say "AHAAA!"

Felix is Country Coordinator for MCT and is pursuing diplomas in Tourism, Information Technology and Animation in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



By Ferdinand Muriyesu Ishimwe

I met different people at the MCW Leadership Seminar from different corners of the world, especially from different MCW community centers. Some were from Songea, some from Arusha, some like myself were from Rwanda, others were from Sierra Leone and also from New York.

Every evening, we shared our experiences about the day with our fellow participants. We compared our countries, how people live, and the problems that exist in each of

our countries, especially among youth.

Because I was staying in an apartment with seminar participants from Tanzania, I really learned a lot of Swahili, which is a growing language not only here in East Africa, but also all over the continent.

It has been an interesting experience to network with different people from different corners of the world. I exchanged my experiences with other individuals and I left the Leadership Seminar eager to solve problems with my team.

Ferdinand is a member of Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR) and is a fourth-year engineering student at the National University in Butare, Rwanda.



LOCAL CHANGE THROUGH GLOBAL EXCHANGE™

Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) is a non-profit organization that empowers youth to become positive agents of change, to improve their lives and contribute to their communities. Based in New York, MCW serves youth world-wide through leadership education, community development, oral healthcare, and partner initiative programs.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

Training youth in leadership, social entrepreneurship, and cultural competency and helping them to build the skills, confidence, and networks needed to achieve their goals.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Developing sustainable, youth-led community centers as spaces for education, mentoring and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Africa.

ORAL HEALTHCARE

Bringing together oral health expertise and state-of-the-art dental equipment to help strengthen the oral health-care system in Tanzania.

PARTNER INITIATIVES

Working with a global network of friends, volunteers and supporters from the public, private and non-profit sectors to leverage our collective resources to develop initiatives to benefit youth.

MCW is a US-registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions to MCW are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Right: Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR) Construction Coordinator Innocent Nizeyimana and MCW volunteer in Rwanda Karen Shulman.

Below: Construction of the new MCR community center in Ntarama, Rwanda.



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Above: Participants and facilitators at the Community Development Seminar in Arusha, Tanzania in May 2008.

By Eddie Bergman and Rob Alsbrooks

As MCW enters its tenth year, we are looking back with pride and admiration and looking forward with hope and enthusiasm. Not only has the organization grown and its reach extended, but so have its global networks and individual relationships, each of which has come together to make up a dynamic team.



This year, we celebrate new relationships, as well as the existing ones that are still evolving. Youth Leadership Retreat graduates move on to become mentors to new retreat participants. Local community center volunteers emerge as community leaders. MCW's healthcare program has climbed to new heights—from a series of dental outreaches to equipping a dental school in Tanzania. And individuals who are inspired by our stories and commitment to change have joined the team's efforts to 'do well while doing good.'

MCW's vision and mission—at their very core—remain the same, but at a more mature level.

Altogether, we have a much greater potential not only in our own backyards, but also all over the world. This is, in large part, thanks to the relationships MCW has built with partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

In the last decade, the organization has learned from its experiences and has grown stronger as a result. Today, we have a solid backbone based on these relationships that have prepared us to fly. This year, it feels like we're soaring.



By Alfie Hanssen and Sharon Hakakian

Building on the past three newsletters, we have revamped *The Corner*™ to better illustrate and capture MCW's diverse and vibrant global community, without which the organization would not have grown into what it is today.



As you read this issue, you'll notice some new voices from all over the world sharing with us their personal MCW experiences. And those who have been involved with the organization since its birth will tell us what inspires them to continue to support our initiatives.

Unanimously, new and longtime members of the MCW family appreciate the relationships that they have built and the global network that MCW has provided.

We're happy to introduce to the newsletter some new features, including the Board Members' Corner in which we hear directly from one of MCW's advisors about his unique connection to the organization. And this issue's layout makes it easier to navigate through the organization's different programs.

We value the voices of those who share their local and global experiences with us, and we are grateful to them for bringing MCW's message of empowerment to life.



We thank the MCW family and our network of supporters for their contributions. Thank you, especially, to Star Quality Printing for their continued support.

And thank you for reading! We hope you enjoy what lies in the pages ahead, and we look forward to your feedback.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION



MCW Holds 11th Youth Leadership Retreat

Above: 2008 Youth Leadership Retreat delegates participating in a team development activity.

By Yasmin Elachi

In July 2008, over 55 youth delegates from around the world gathered for the 11th MCW Youth Leadership Retreat (YLR). For the third year in a row, MCW's hallmark event was held at Vermont's Champlain College.

Dedicated to empowering youth to become leaders of social change in their own communities and around the world, the intense weeklong program drew delegates from Bosnia, China, Guyana, India, Israel, the West Bank, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Trinidad and the United States, including participants from Native American communities. Before boarding the bus to Vermont, youth delegates met at New York University (NYU) and were introduced to Retreat alumni who served as their mentors, volunteering their time and sharing their knowledge and experience with the participants.

Upon arrival at Champlain College, delegates participated in a series of "icebreakers" in order to become better acquainted with one another. MCW Retreat Director Khalid Elachi, MCW Board of Directors members Anna Condoulis and Roberta Richin, and MCW Advisory Board member Dr. Catherine DeLeo led the youth in team-building workshops, as well as discussions focused on the youth delegates' vision plans.

"The retreat allowed me to learn more about myself

while learning about others. It helped me put to rest many preconceptions and prejudices I held towards other cultures," reflected participant Joanna Francis of Trinidad.

Retreat workshops, led by community leaders including Ben and Jerry's Social Mission Coordinator Andrew Barker, educational consultant Sarah Nadeau and Rwandan genocide survivor and MCW Fellow and Project Director Jacqueline Murekatete, inspired the delegates and provided examples of how to turn personal dreams into concrete vision plans.

At the end of the Retreat, the group returned to New York City where they visited the Rubin Museum of Art of the Himalayas. The Retreat concluded with its Open Doors ceremony at NYU's Kimmel Center. More than 100 MCW friends and supporters watched as youth delegates took part in cultural and talent performances.

"I learned more about the goals of MCW and saw it happen in real life," said delegate Chanan Reifen of Israel. "The highlight was meeting people from the four corners of the world of different cultures. I realized that a good will is the key for volunteer work and together it is more feasible to make a change."

Yasmin Elachi helps coordinate the MCW Youth Leadership Retreat. She is a Sophomore at NYU.

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

"On day one when Retreat participants created 'human sculptures' representing their vision for fostering local change, I knew right away this was a most special group. They clearly valued their unique heritage and the opportunity to share their cultural capital in seeking global change."



—Dr. Catherine DeLeo, Advisory Board member

"Although I have been involved in the planning process of these retreats since the beginning, this is the first time I was able to participate in the sessions with the participants. Throughout the week, I found myself amazed at their level of sophistication, their interest in learning and in helping others and their ability to communicate clearly. And of course, their performing talents impressed us all at Open Doors!"



—Anna Condoulis, Board of Directors member



"With each Retreat, returning alumni have the opportunity to describe to other youth participants their on-the-ground achievements and challenges in developing and implementing their vision plans."

—Khalid Elachi, Project Director

Youth Leadership Retreat Alumni Corner



"I'm from Bosnia, but obviously from this week on I'm also from Long Island and from Rwanda! This week was one of the best weeks of my life. For real. I met so many marvelous people, smart people, future leaders, and it was really a pleasure and an honor to be in their company. My vision plan doesn't connect to people so much as it connects to animals. In my country, animals are killed in really cruel ways, and I want to protect them. My vision plan is to see shelters for animals all over my country and to make laws to protect those animals. Thank you!"

—Emir Slatina, 20, from Bosnia

MCW is establishing The Alumni Venture Fund, designed to help select YLR Alumni develop their own vision plans to help improve the quality of life in their local and global communities. An Alumni Venture Fund Advisory Board will supervise the grant-making and mentoring process.

"We strongly believe in the collective capabilities and strength of the MCW Alumni and hope that this Fund will help empower those selected to launch their social entrepreneurial careers," said Sharon Kess, the initiative's Advisory Board Co-Chair.



Above: Participants at the 11th Youth Leadership Retreat.



"I will graduate dental school next year, and I want to build a dental center [in the West Bank] for dentists so I can take care of the people in my community."

"What I learned was very good for me. I had time to put what I want into my vision plan and I had to write it out. It was a complete inspiration for me the way MCW was founded. It was from a small dream and it became something so large a lot of people know it. So that's what I wish and I know that I have the passion and will to do it."

—Juana Batarseh, 23, from the West Bank



"My vision plan is to make a change in how teens and young adults handle money. Here in New York, we're plagued by materialism and when we get older, it seems like a lot of people don't have the money for [college] and have to take out loans. It would be a big help if we could learn about money as young adults so that later on we can have luxuries and still be able to support a family. MCW, to me, is like one of those birthdays where your parents keep asking what you want, and you keep saying, 'No, you don't have to get me anything. I'm fine with what I have.' And they still get you a present. And when you open it, it's like the best thing in the world because you didn't know what you were going to get but it seems like you got everything. To me, this sums up MCW. I walked in not knowing what I was going to get and in the end I got everything."

—Richard Clarke, 17, from Queens, New York

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Miracle Corners Rwanda (MCR)

By Karen Shulman and Amir Rodney Smith



Above: Appollinaire Mplikanyi of the National Youth Council lays the first stone at the groundbreaking ceremony.
Below: The MCR community center as of January 2009.



Mwaramutse ("Good morning") from Nyamata, Rwanda. On November 15, 2008 we began constructing the MCR Community Center in Kayenzi, a rural village between Nyamata and Ntarama sectors, 30 minutes south of the capital city Kigali. Words do not do justice to the organic nature of this project.

Drawing on the MCW community center model and the vision of MCW Fellow, Project Director and Rwanda genocide survivor Jacqueline Murekatete, we are making significant progress.

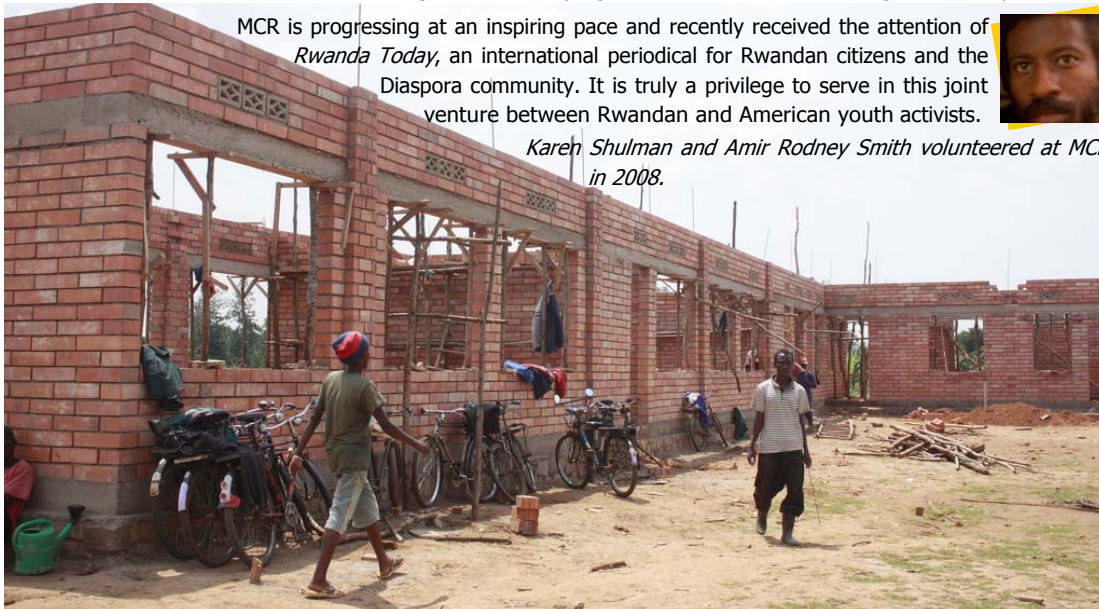
People are excited for the pending community center programs which are expected to include entrepreneurship education, English and Swahili education, Information Technology education, performing arts activities and counseling services for genocide survivors.

"Once the center is here, we are sure that we will be rich because our youth will have a place to learn something that will help their future, and a place to spend their time usefully," said Ntarama resident Florence Kandamutsa.

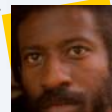
Bugesera District Mayor Gaspard Musonera visited the construction site to congratulate Construction Coordinator Innocent Nizeyimana on his efficient leadership and the residents on the active role they have played in the project. Some noted that this is the first project where international volunteers work hand-in-hand with locals during construction, indicating that MCR has captured the essence of community interdependence.

"The centers are built on personal relationships and strengthened by the common dedication and determination to provide a space for individual and community empowerment...an innovative and refreshing approach to sustainable partnership and development which doesn't go unnoticed by those involved and which reflects the greater MCW principles." —Anna Myers, MCR Volunteer in Rwanda

We have built a dynamic group of supporters tasked with ensuring that this initiative meets its long-term goals and that the center's programs are based on the community's needs. Youth from as far as Butare and Kigali may join the center's Leadership Team, consisting of social entrepreneurs who will lead the center's day-to-day activities. This team will work with MCW volunteers to design the center's programs and to finalize its strategic business plan.

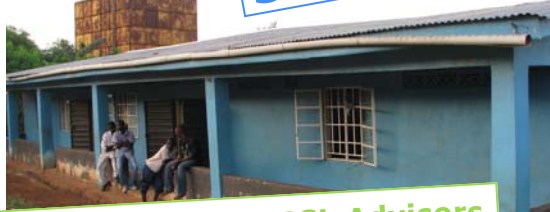


MCR is progressing at an inspiring pace and recently received the attention of *Rwanda Today*, an international periodical for Rwandan citizens and the Diaspora community. It is truly a privilege to serve in this joint venture between Rwandan and American youth activists.



Karen Shulman and Amir Rodney Smith volunteered at MCR in 2008.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Miracle Corners Sierra Leone (MCSL)



MCW Recognizes MCSL Advisors

Patricia Brown and Samuel Pieh are two important figures who have guided our progress in Freetown since 2005. As MCSL Advisory Board members, they have given strength and determination to the organization.



Now Chair of the MCSL Board, Brown's dedication reaches beyond the community center. She helped organize the first Community Development Seminar in Arusha, Tanzania, and has welcomed H.E. President Ernest Koroma and Honorable Vice President Sam Sumana of Sierra Leone to the MCSL network.



Pieh was first introduced to MCW by Honorable Bertha Mende, former Tanzanian District Commissioner. Since then, he has brought his years of experience with community development to MCW. Even after he moved from Sierra Leone to Liberia, Pieh has continued to support MCSL from afar.

MCSL recognizes Brown and Pieh as outstanding members of our Advisory Board, committed mentors to our MCSL Leadership Team and friends to all of MCW.

By Amanda Blount



I have spent the past year in Sierra Leone working with some of the most talented, innovative and dedicated individuals I have ever met. Over the past six months in Freetown, we have built a strong Leadership Team and expanded our Advisory Board.

New programs were launched at the Mwakawago Youth Resource Center in July 2008 by members of the MCSL Leadership Team. These programs include yoga, karate, volleyball, tutoring, community awareness, and cultural dance and drama. Our volleyball and karate teams have participated in national competitions and are officially recognized by the Sierra Leone Ministry of Sports.

Soon, the Leadership Team hopes to launch a pre-school, as well as an Information Technology education program thanks to the arrival of the MCW Container of donated goods, including computers and equipment, from the U.S. The center has quickly become a welcoming space for the community and is used by many different youth groups, organizations and clubs as a meeting place.

This year has witnessed the birth of an incredible partnership between the Sierra Leonean government and MCSL, with support from Honorable Vice President Sam Sumana who donated ten acres of land to MCSL for future project expansion in the Kono district, which is on the west coast, next to the border with Guinea.

As an MCW volunteer Amanda Blount helped establish the MCSL community center in Freetown. Now, as an MCW Fellow, she continues to work on program development at the Freetown center and establishing a second community center in a rural area outside of Freetown.



Top: MCSL Leadership Team members at the MCSL community center. Bottom: MCSL supporters in Kono.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Miracle Corners Tanzania (MCT) Arusha & Songea

By Felix Nyakatale

Miracle Corners Tanzania (MCT) continues its mission of providing more individuals in Arusha and Songea with affordable educational programs. Hundreds of students graduated in 2008 alone. We have advanced and are currently operating in a more formal way than ever. With our Microsoft partnership, we have set up a system in order to track our graduates, help them get jobs and learn about their progress. We also launched an entrepreneurship class in which all of our students who enroll in Information Technology (IT) and English participate.

We would like to thank MCW volunteers Courtney Schenk and Arthur Peterson for spending time in Songea to assist in setting up educational programs and in launching a new agriculture class for women. This has helped and empowered many participants to learn new ways of growing crops. Also, we have improved our leadership and management capacity. All MCT team leaders took specific courses in their areas of study.

Felix Nyakatale is a former student at the MCT-Arusha (MCT-A) center and is now MCT Country Coordinator.



"As an English instructor and youth advisor in MCT-A, I'm thrilled that we have had so many students graduate. I am very committed to empowering youth to realize their abilities to make a difference in their own lives and communities. People of all ages attend classes to learn English, a language for communication worldwide. I feel proud to teach at MCT-A and to take on the great challenge of motivating students to improve their English and their ambition to communicate. We, the leaders here, have experienced a great deal together, and we are eager to work as a team."

—Joachim Mayange, MCT-A English / Entrepreneurship Teacher



"MCT-Songea (MCT-S) IT has made many big changes in 2008 through the efforts of the teachers and with support from Microsoft. The Songea community has been able to get computer skills and use these skills to get employment and to become self-employed.

Our IT goals for 2009 are to increase understanding of the power of IT in towns and villages and to increase skills that can bring development in the Songea community." [Translated from Kiswahili] —Verena Komba, MCT-S IT Teacher (downtown)



"I have increased my teaching and management experience in order to benefit the center. Many people in Songea know MCT-S and what we do. The IT center in downtown Songea is one of the best and most well known IT centers in town. Next year, I hope we will get many students, but the center is small. Therefore, we need to expand because now IT in Songea is growing up quickly!"

—Maina Baina, MCT-S IT Project Coordinator



"I feel proud to have a large number of students. It's up to the MCT-S team to promote the center and the importance of computer technology to the community. Students come from all different places in Songea to the center. In the beginning, it was so difficult to get students, but now, it is a miracle for me. I believe that everything is possible if you set your heart to it."

—Ismaili Mbayi, MCT-S IT Teacher



Above: Members of the Perfect Youth Group at the MCT-A community center.

Right: Co-Founder Eddie Bergman visits the community center in Arusha in May 2008.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Partnership Between MCT-Arusha and Arcadia University

By Joachim Mayange

Arcadia University, based in Pennsylvania, sent graduate students and faculty to visit the MCT-Arusha (MCT-A) community center three times in June, July and October 2008. The aims of these visits were cultural exchange and knowledge sharing in the education field between the MCT-A teachers and Arcadia students and professors.

This was an historic and unique relationship, as we got the chance to discuss topics such as education, peace, poverty, hunger, ethnicity and religion. Initially, the students and their mentors were divided into different groups. After much discussion, we learned that we all believe that education is essential for human beings.

Together, the students agreed that empowerment is a gift that one will live with for the rest of his life and does not depend on money. Empowerment can be done through encouraging students, especially youth, to think for themselves, to trust their abilities, to be in control of their own destiny, and to accept and to love education as one of the most important things in their lives.

After a productive discussion, the students from the MCT-A English class had a chance to show their fellows from Arcadia University different areas of Arusha City. The final days of the first and second visits, our Perfect



Above: MCT-A English / Entrepreneurship Teacher Joachim Mayange, MCT-A students and volunteers from Arcadia University.

Youth Group, led by their leaders Abdunuru Mohamed and Josephat Silver Tairo, performed some traditional dances with their fellows from Arcadia University as part of a farewell ceremony. Sherry Levin of Arcadia University discussed the opportunity to send more students from Arcadia to partner with MCT-A. This is a good cooperation between MCW and Arcadia and other community organizations.

Joachim Mayange is an English teacher and Entrepreneurship co-teacher at the MCT-A community center.

MCT Information Technology Leaders Visit Microsoft in Nairobi, Kenya

By Paul Bergman

In May 2008, the leaders of the MCT Information Technology (IT) education project visited Nairobi, Kenya to learn firsthand about the geographic scope, managerial



Above: Alex Nyingi (left) of Microsoft East Africa with Abdunuru Mohamed, Glory Philbeth, Maina Baina, Paul Bergman and Alfie Hanssen in Kenya.

professionalism and socioeconomic impact of the world's most influential IT company, Microsoft.

MCW leaders Felix Nyakatale, Maina Baina, Abdunuru Mohamed and Glory Philbeth from Tanzania, together with Alfred Hanssen from New York and Board Member Paul Bergman, met and shared ideas with Microsoft Community Affairs' East Africa leadership team. Corporate exposure and idea exchange from this meeting was critical to the continued development of MCW's leadership team and activities.

MCW has had a long-standing relationship with Microsoft since 2001, when MCT opened its first Information and Communication Technology training center in Arusha, Tanzania. Microsoft donated all key software to start this center, and has since provided funding and training materials to facilitate continued project growth in Arusha and the opening of two new training centers in Songea.

Paul Bergman is a member of the MCW Board of Directors.

ORAL HEALTHCARE MCW / MUHAS Partnership Takes Off with Support from Tanzania's President

MCW signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in September 2008 to improve oral healthcare across Tanzania. As part of the agreement, and based on a needs assessment, MUHAS School of Dentistry received four 40-foot containers packed with new state-of-the-art equipment, including dental chairs, X-ray equipment, cabinetry and dental hand pieces. Contents of these containers, along with the professional and technical expertise of the U.S. team, led by MCW Healthcare Project Director Dr. Marion Bergman, is valued at nearly two million dollars.

The agreement was built on a direct request from H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania in January 2007 to equip the region's only dental school. President Kikwete further expressed his support in September 2008 at a meeting with MCW team members and project donors and contributors, including MCW supporters Henry Schein Cares; Dr. Anne Eiting Klamar, CEO of Midmark; and John Spencer, CEO of Dental Components International, Inc. Also present was Henry Schein's Norman Weinstock who is working to develop the MOU's second phase, a laboratory at the dental school.

The third phase of the project will focus on faculty development.



Above: The MCW Oral Healthcare Program delegation with H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania (front, center).

"It was a great pleasure to meet Tanzanian President Kikwete, and listen to discussions of the dental project at MUHAS, and then eight weeks later, be at MUHAS working on providing the equipment and materials they so badly need."

—Norman Weinstock,
Henry Schein, Inc.



Above: MUHAS Associate Dean Dr. Elifuraha Mumghamba and Eric Shirley of Midmark unload the container of Midmark donations.

MCT-S Dental Clinic Developments

By Eliud Bilal and Agusta Winna



The MCT-Songea (MCT-S) dental clinic is among the best clinics in Tanzania where local people, including children and others from neighboring communities benefit from the service provided at the clinic. Apart from that, we also conduct School Dental Services (SDS), which includes Oral Health Education (OHE) for the pre-school children, primary and secondary teachers and students. Here, we teach children how to prevent dental caries, which lead to cavities, and how to take care of them. We also provide treatment to those who need it.



Above: Agusta Winna teaches local children about dental preventative care.

From the time we started to provide services regularly in February 2008, we have greatly benefited the village in which people who used to search for dental services far away are now getting dental services near their village. Also, programs like SDS and OHE help students and other people to understand the importance of taking care of their teeth. When people come and ask about how to prevent caries and other questions, this shows that they are interested in these kind of services.

As we develop, there are new challenges. Now, we have a large number of schools to provide dental services to, so there's a need to equalize the ratio of dentists to patients. And in order to reach all schools in the region, we need transportation and other services.

In the near future, we hope to reduce the number of dental caries in students in primary schools. From the previous SDS, we learned that the problem of caries is very severe. Therefore, we need to have short- and long-term plans to reduce this issue.

We appreciate those who support us by providing supplies and services in Tanzania, especially here in Songea.

Dental Therapist Eliud Bilal manages the MCT-S Dental Clinic with Assistant Dental Therapist Agusta Winna.

ORAL HEALTHCARE

Seventh Dental Outreach Held in Songea, Tanzania



By Jill Fernandez

On December 27, four dentists and one dental hygienist took the long journey to southern Tanzania to get the MCW dental clinic in Songea up and running, working closely with Eliud Bilal the newly appointed dental therapist.

Two of the team members, Dr. Jason Horn and I had traveled to Songea before. Dr. Horn, who joined last time as a dental student at New York University College of Dentistry (NYUCD), and I both participated in MCW dental outreaches in Songea in 2004 and 2007, respectively. Today, Dr. Horn is a dentist serving in the United States Navy in Washington, D.C., and I am a full-time faculty member at NYUCD. Both of us were thrilled to return to Songea and to see the progress the clinic has made.

Joining us were Dr. Sky Berdahl, a private practice pediatric dentist and a part-time faculty member at NYUCD; Dr. Neal Herman, also a pediatric dentist and a full-time faculty member at NYUCD; and Dr. Ryan Horn, a periodontist in private practice from San Francisco.

The goals of this trip were slightly different from those of previous trips. There were three major goals, all of which were accomplished. The first goal was to set up infection control procedures including sterilization at the site. The second was to train Bilal, the local dental therapist, on the latest techniques in restorative procedures and materials for both children and adult dentistry. And the last goal was to do a complete inventory of all supplies and organize it electronically making it easier to keep track of supplies used, needed and expiration dates of certain



Above: The MCT-S Dental Clinic in Songea.

materials. The team was able to treat 175 patients in our six days on the ground.

In addition, Dr. Neal Herman gave two lectures that the team very much enjoyed. One lecture was delivered to the hospital staff in Songea and the other at the MUHAS School of Dentistry in Dar es Salaam before we headed back to the U.S.

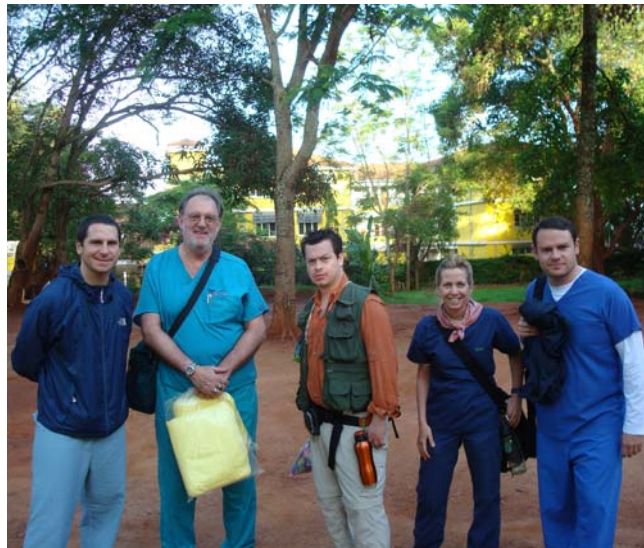
As you drive under the arches into MCT-Songea (MCT-S), you read the words "Local Change through Global Exchange™." It really gives meaning to what we accomplished and for what we can do working in partnerships in the future. Many of us hope to return and to continue to watch the progress to which we have contributed.

Jill Fernandez is a dental hygienist at New York University. She co-led the 2008 dental outreach and will lead one of two dental outreaches in 2009.



"Traveling back to Songea again after four years was a very special opportunity and offered a unique perspective to really see how continual effort and presence can lead to a living, breathing sustainable source of community wellness. From English and computer classes to a top-notch dental clinic, lives are being enriched. It's indescribably rewarding to be a part of that. When I first considered the field of dentistry I had some concern that I'd be stuck in a monotonous career, but it's clear now that just the opposite is true. I'm looking forward to the next outreach!"

—Dr. Jason Horn



Right: The Dental Outreach Team: Dr. Jason Horn, Dr. Neal Herman, Dr. Sky Berdahl, Jill Fernandez and Dr. Ryan Horn.

PARTNER INITIATIVES

Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner

By Jacqueline Murekatete

A few months ago, the MCW office received photos from Amir and Karen, MCW volunteers in Bugesera, Rwanda. The photos capture the progress of MCW's upcoming community center. In essence, they tell an inspiring story of the unmatched progress thus far enjoyed by Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner, MCW's new genocide prevention program.

As the Founder of MCW's Human Rights Corner, a genocide survivor and a Rwandan native, I couldn't find words to express how happy I felt when I received the photos. Tears of joy filled my eyes when I saw the men and women working hand-in-hand with MCW to build a place of hope in a country where many still remain hopeless.

In a little over a year, MCW managed to travel to Rwanda, register in the country as a charity, form part-

"Genocide prevention is my life's work—a work that is so critical in a world where hate, discrimination, racism, and intolerance of all types are realities that we cannot afford to ignore."

nerships with local stakeholders, establish a local planning committee, secure a building permit and begin construction.

The center will host critical activities including Information Technology education, social entrepreneurship classes, arts and cultural activities, language education and trauma counseling. With these programs, MCW is making a great contribution to post-genocide rebuilding

Below (from left): Ambassador Joseph Nsengimana Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the U.N.; Nicholas Shalita, First Counsellor to the Rwanda Mission; and Taylor Krauss, founder of Voices of Rwanda at MCW's second annual Rwanda genocide commemoration.



"I support the genocide prevention work of the extraordinary Jacqueline Murekatete because she brings an intelligence, sensitivity and passion to a field that is sometimes hampered by the weight and overwhelming sadness of its task. It fills my heart with joy to know that she has found a way to construct from the ashes of her own experience a life of constructive opposition to one of the most horrific problems of our modern age. She will always have my support."

—Abigail Disney, President, The Daphne Foundation



Above: Abdel Rigumye, Jacqueline Murekatete and CBS's Katie Couric at a Girls Learn International fundraiser where Jacqueline was honored.

efforts in Rwanda.

In addition to the progress we have enjoyed in Rwanda, Jacqueline's Corner has also moved forward with genocide prevention education outreach. In less than two

years, the program has already held more than 100 genocide prevention education lectures in schools and communities of faith. We have also organized annual genocide awareness raising public forums in New York City and participated in several national and international conferences on genocide prevention.

As we move forward, I am in awe of what we have accomplished and grateful for the support our initiative has received. I look forward to another great year as MCW continues to make a positive impact on our world.

"Jacqueline Murekatete is undoubtedly a one-of-a-kind person...You can be a survivor by chance, but it's not by chance that you decide to make an impact on our society. You need courage and commitment and care for others. This is what makes Jacqueline special...being an activist that is eager to fight ethnic hate, and to prevent other people from living what she experienced as a child."

—Ester Leibel, an NYU School of Continuing & Professional Studies student after listening to Jacqueline tell her story

Jacqueline Murekatete is an MCW Fellow and the Director of the MCW Partner Initiative Jacqueline's Human Rights Corner.



Above: Jacqueline at a 2008 Kristallnacht commemoration with Holocaust survivor David Gewirtzman at the College of St. Elizabeth.

PARTNER INITIATIVES

The Container Initiative

MCW Sponsors Two to Attend PATA Conference

From the PATA newsletter

For the third year in a row, MCW sponsored a team from Songea to attend the Pediatric AIDS Treatment in Africa (PATA) conference on the continent.

Benedicto Ngaiza and Frank Silayo of Songea Regional Hospital displayed photos of their pediatric AIDS clinic and shared their insights on their expert patient program at the conference. According to Ngaiza and Silayo, the initiative is going well because the new patients can relate to the experiences of the expert patients, who have suffered from similar problems. Expert patients share their personal stories and insights with new patients who are able to empathize with each other.



Above: Ngaiza and Silayo at the PATA Conference.

By Nate Crossley

In Fall 2008, the MCW community of volunteers, donors and friends came together to ship a container of school books, athletic equipment and computers to help develop MCW's programs at the center in Sierra Leone.

The donated materials will help MCSL's Athletics Program and the Information Technology education program. MCW also hopes to establish a library at the center with over 7000 donated books.

The equipment sent in this container will help MCW fulfill its mission by better serving the community, and especially the children who were very excited to receive it.

Special thanks to McGraw-Hill, the NBA, Henry Schein, Inc., Natalie Alberman, Anna Condoulis, Cathy DeLeo, Jim Demetrious, Gail Dubov, Daniel Hakakian, Beth Hicks, Barbara Hirten, Francis Kim, Juliet Montague, and especially to Mohamed Camara and Steve Franzini of Everlast Transport for all of their generous support and donations.

Nate Crossley is a volunteer intern in the MCW office in New York and a Senior at New York University.

BOARD MEMBERS' CORNER

Miracle Corners Tanzania is Evolving

By Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago



Last year was a very active one at MCW. All aspects of MCW's work were covered. Eddie Bergman visited Arusha in May for an on-the-spot appreciation of the work at the Arusha center to the delight of all the youths there and the local residents.

At that particular moment, we met a member of parliament from the region who was so impressed by MCW's work that she promised to give us two acres of land in the Kisongo area for expansion of the Arusha center. We are now working on formalizing the land transfer.

Following the appeal of H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete to MCW through Dr. Marion Bergman, work on the refurbishment of the Dental School at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences is on schedule.

The donated equipment arrived at the school and technicians will install the brand new state-of-the-art equipment in March. Already, Dr. Bergman has made several visits to the school with potential donors, all of whom were very positive. I believe that after completion, the dental school will be the pride of East and Central Africa. Need I say it, it could be the flagship of the MCW Oral

Healthcare Program in Africa for quite some time.

For human resource development, Dr. Bergman brought Dr. Amid Ismail, the Dean of Temple University's Dental School, to meet his counterparts and other officials. The meetings were very positive and plans are in the works for future phases of this partnership.

The dental outreach took place at the end of 2008. Training of the personnel of the Kipera clinic took place and dental treatment was made available to many children and some adults. The program was very successful.

A new chapter has opened in Songea, in southern Tanzania, where an individual has decided to provide much-needed secondary education on a contract basis.

All in all, there is no dull moment in Tanzania for MCW. Youth programs in Arusha are very active and computer classes in Songea have surpassed enrollment expectations. The MCW Information Technology project in Tanzania is doing well.

Ambassador Mwakawago has served as an MCW Advisory Board Member and the Chair of Miracle Corners Tanzania since 2007. He has supported MCW since he first became involved in 1999 when he was Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.N.

NEWS & LOOKING FORWARD

Fourth Annual Gala Dinner

MCW's fourth Annual Gala Dinner, held in April 2008 at New York University's (NYU) Kimmel Center, paid tribute to the People of Sierra Leone, with Honorable Vice President Sam Sumana accepting the award on their behalf.

The sold-out event attracted more than 400 guests from the diplomatic corps, the education, arts, and non-profits communities, and the business and healthcare sectors.

The gala raised nearly \$500,000—the highest amount raised in MCW's history—making the evening a memorable one and helping us continue our work worldwide.

MCW also honored Donald and Shelly Rubin, founders of the Rubin Museum of Art, with the MCW Leadership Award. The late Professor Dr. George Sideris received the MCW Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously.

"These honorees embody the spirit, vision and work of MCW," said Eddie Bergman.

Thanks to our co-emcees CNN senior correspondent Ali Velshi and Fox Business Network Anchor Liz Claman, and to Amma Agyapon, a Retreat alumna, for her musical performance. Also thanks to Anna Condoulis, the team at Henry Schein, Inc., NYU and our volunteers.



Above: MCW Board of Directors member Anna Condoulis accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the late Professor Dr. George Sideris from Co-Founders Eddie Bergman and Rob Alsbrooks.

MCW Develops in Zambia

After two years of discussion, MCW is in the process of registering as an organization in Zambia and exploring potential sites for a new community center there.

In early 2009, Eddie Bergman visited Chanyanya, Zambia, about 50 miles from the capital city of Lusaka. He was accompanied by Miracle Corners Zambia (MCZ) Advisory Board members, including Kabinga Pande, Jr.

"We were received very well by the community," said Pande. "The community leadership shared some difficulties they are facing, were thankful that we visited them and would do anything to ensure that we work together."

Two Fellows Join MCW Team

MCW Project Directors Amanda Blount and Khalid Elachi joined the MCW team as Fellows in 2008.

After spending about two years traveling between the U.S. and Sierra Leone, helping to establish and grow the first community center in Sierra Leone, Amanda decided to return to Sierra Leone for one year as an MCW Fellow in May 2008 to continue to work with the MCSL-Freetown team.

Khalid, who first became involved with MCW when he participated in the 2003 Youth Leadership Retreat, began volunteering with the organization in 2004 on a number of different projects, including organizing youth leadership retreats and traveling to Tanzania with the dental team. This year, Khalid will focus on the MUHAS dental project, the new Alumni Venture Project and leadership education.

New Additions to the MCW Board

MCW welcomes Ranika Cohen of Magnum Producing, LP to its Board of Directors, and Victor Gruber, entrepreneur, philanthropist and member of MCW's Lifetime Circle, and Eugenie Mukeshimana, founder of Rwanda Consulting, LLC, to the Board of Advisors. From each of these new members, MCW will enjoy a new and different perspective.

Synergos Visits MCW in Arusha



In early 2009, Peggy Dulany (center), Founder of New York-based Synergos, and a delegation of the organization's Global Philanthropy Circle joined Eddie Bergman on a visit to the community center in Arusha, Tanzania. Synergos is a philanthropic organization that aims to mobilize resources and bridge social and economic divides to reduce poverty and increase equity worldwide.

THE MCW TEAM

Founding Mentors

Dr. Elijah Anderson
Lavern McDonald
The late Dr. Edward B. Shils
The late Dr. George Sideris
The late Dr. Herman Wrice

Board of Directors

Paul Bergman
Ranika A. Cohen
Anna Condoulis
Roberta Richin
Dr. Anthony Vernillo

Board of Advisors

Dr. Catherine DeLeo
Bunny Grossinger
Victor Gruber
Eugenie Mukeshimana
Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago
Charmaine Peart-HoSang
Dr. Nancy Scanlon
Kymberli Stewart
Courtney Tuckman
Ronald Uba
Dr. Peter White
Monica Willard

Co-Founders

Robert Alsbrooks
Eddie Bergman

Staff

Angela Gerrow
Alfred Hanssen
Sharon Roling

Project Directors & Fellows

Dr. Marion Bergman
Amanda Blount
Khalid Elachi
Jacqueline Murekatete

Field Volunteers

Anna Myers
Karen Shulman
Julia Walcott

Volunteer Office Interns

Nate Crossley
Yasmin Elachi
Kate Furey
Sharon Hakakian
Kendra Miller

MC Zambia (MCZ)

Board of Advisors
Andrew Chilufya
Kabinga Pande, Jr.
Mindenda Pande
Yvonne Pande

MC Rwanda (MCR)

Construction Team
Hyacinthe Gacendeli
Innocent Nizeyimana
Didier Sagashya
Supporters
Ferdinand Muriyeshu Ishimwe
Janvier Mujaribu
Henriette Mukanyonga
Freddy Mutanguha
Francois Ngarambe
Martin Ngirabatware
Solange Uwimbabazi

MC Sierra Leone (MCSL)

Board of Advisors
Patricia Brown
Brima Acha Kamara (Honorary Member)
Brigadier Koroma
Samuel Pieh
Dr. Jimmy Kamso Pratt
Kabba Sesay
Police Department of Kissy B & D Divisions
Leadership Team
Philip Salis Bangura
Harry Gbetuwa
Charlie Kamara
Ishmeal Kamara

MC Tanzania (MCT)

Felix Nyakatale

MCT-Songea

Board of Advisors
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Eliud Bilal
Happy Gama
Verena Komba
Fatuma Malakasuka
Ismaily Mbaya
Paskalia Ndunguru
Esta Tindwa
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MCT-Arusha

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Abdunuru Mohamed
Omari Mohamed
Glory Philbeth
Rachel Innocent Tairo
Josephat Silver Tairo

*Special thanks to
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Nate Crossley for their hard work
and voluntary efforts in creating a
new MCW video.*

Upcoming Events

April 2009

Fifth Annual Gala Dinner

Third Annual MCW Rwanda Genocide
Commemoration

Summer 2009

12th Annual Youth Leadership Retreat
July 29 - August 5, 2009

Opening Ceremony of Refurbished MUHAS
Dental School



Above: The Groundbreaking Ceremony of the newest MCW community center in Rwanda in December 2008.

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