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## PRESS RELEASES

### US NGO to Provide Free Dental Services in Songea

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Officials from a US NGO - Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) are in the country on a two-week humanitarian outreach mission. They are scheduled to visit locations in Dar es Salaam and Iringa for humanitarian outreach missions. They will also visit Ruvuma Region to give Songea residents with free dental services from US practitioners. The group arrived last week.

MCW is a US youth founded organisation with the mission of working closely with community members and leaders, educational institutions, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations throughout the world. MCW is geared to develop programmes that advance cross-cultural understanding. This NGO empowers youth and develops leadership with a view to promoting sustainable improvements in the education, health care and economic well being of socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

According to the Co-founder and Executive Director of MCW, Edward Bergman, the MCW delegation include three doctors from New York University (NYU), US, two from South Africa and five dental students from the same university. "MCW is run strictly through the efforts of volunteers with sustainability and youth empowerment at the heart of its mission," Bergman said. Dr. Anthony Vernillo, Dr. Mitchell Pines and Dr. Girish Shah are leading the dental team from NYU College of Dentistry.

He said that in Songea the dental team will treat residents with dental problems in cooperation with Songea hospital dental staff. The team will use equipment they have come with and other equipment left over from last year's similar visit to Songea. Last year MCW dental team served nearly 500 Songea residents who had dental problems.

Bergman said that they were expecting to start developing a 50-acre plot that was designated for the organization's use last year. MCW, which has its country office and a youth-based community centre in Arusha, intends to set-up a similar centre in Songea. The centre will have a community center and a farming project. Eventually, it will construct affordable - houses for young people.

From Songea the team will travel to Iringa, there they will evaluate needs for the proposed library for the envisaged Catholic University in Iringa. Members of the group will also visit Arusha, where their MCW country office is located. The team will review the performance of the centre located at Majengo, which was built with MCW assistance. The Centre is known as Dr. Herman Wrice Youth Village Community Centre and caters for over 1,000 people per year. The centre operates nearly 100 per cent sustainably today under the leadership of John Emmanuel, Felix Alphonse and Glory Minja all from Arusha.

On the day of their arrival, the MCW delegation visited Idris Abdulwakil Primary School in Mpiji-Magohe, Dar es Salaam where they inspected two renovated classrooms from last year's donations from the NGO. This year MCW is reviewing other areas which they can help the school.

Welcoming the MCW team, the Mbezi Ward Councilor Rogati Chuwa, thanked the visitors for their donations and encouraged the school to take the visit as a challenge