

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Successes

This has been a defining year for Aid for Orphans Relief Foundation. We continue to provide medication and wellness services in Eastern Europe, Africa Appalachia and the United States. In our four years we have sent over 1 Million dollars worth of medication and wellness supplies impacting 14,000 orphans and children at risk around the world and in the United States. We have increased our partnerships and have discovered new resources for a diverse complement of products. Our fund development efforts have been successful with new corporate and community grants as well as individual donations in response to events. Our public relations and marketing plans have reached a wide selection of community organizations and we are being recognized as a worthy endeavor. We have concentrated on building a Board of Directors and advisory board and are beginning a long range planning process to position ourselves for the future. The infrastructure of our Foundation is falling into place; we are mission driven and responsive to new opportunities.

Innovations

Peanut Based Nutrition

Continuing with our commitment to the Arap Moi Children's Home in Kenya, we will be purchasing a peanut based source of nutrient (RUTF) to add to our current medication and supplements. This therapeutic food is an inexpensive intervention which has proven to be a valuable tool to treat malnutrition. We estimate that one third of the children in this orphanage are at very high risk for survival and we will target and monitor that group. We are grateful for a generous grant from Newman's Own Foundation to be able to start this program. The 90 severely malnourished children will be carefully chosen, given RUTF 2-3 times a day for eight weeks and monitored for changes in their weight and overall health. We are grateful to Ambassador Wenwa for helping to coordinate this effort.

The Food Crisis in Connecticut

Statistics regarding childhood malnutrition in our own backyards are startling:

- One in six (**16.6 percent**) children in Connecticut live in food-insecure households;
- **151,000 Connecticut children** do not get adequate food on a regular basis;

We recognize that even in this, the wealthiest state in the wealthiest country, there are children whose growth, development and futures are compromised by hunger. Free- and reduced-cost meals are important sources of nutrition for many Connecticut children. When school is not in session, some children go hungry. With proper funding, we hope to collaborate with the Connecticut Food Bank's Kids' Backpack Program and sponsor a program at the Church Street School in Hamden. This initiative will provide nutritious food for the weekend to needy school children. This program can be replicated in Connecticut and we are aggressively looking for funding resources.

New Programs

- The global need for medical assistance, such as we provide, is endless and our best chance of making a significant impact on the children in need is to partner with institutions with which we have a true liaison and can collaborate. This year we have been sending medication and supplies to the Uman Hospital in the **Ukraine**. This facility treats over 5000 children, under the age of 5, per year. With the unrest in this part of the world, we anticipate this need to increase.
- We have started regular shipments of medication and supplies to the **Philippines** to the Blessing Project to assist with the aftermath of the disastrous typhoons that will be felt for years to come.
- We are also looking into providing malaria medication to children in high risk areas of Africa.
- In addition to the above, we have requests to provide our products to the Grenadines and Haiti. These additional programs would be targeted to specific facilities with children at risk.

Events

Our goal this year was to have a series of events that would reach the broader community and give us a platform to communicate the global need for our foundation and the importance of the work we are doing. Taking advantage of the extraordinary talent at The Yale School of Music, we met with Robert Blocker, Dean of the school. We were encouraged to plan a series of concerts inviting students to perform. The first was a string quartet at the Blackstone Library in Branford and the second at Whitney Center in Hamden. The benefit to us was the ability to have wide range publicity through the local music organizations as well as Rotary Clubs and Chambers of Commerce. Because of generous sponsorships and donations we were able to raise funds beyond the cost of the events. We hope to look for new formats and diverse music to continue these concerts and brand the foundation.

Fund Development and Grants

We have significantly increased our funding through grants, sponsorships of events, and individual contributions. We are also dependent on products from AmeriCares, Brother's Brother, Blessings, Catholic Mission, Merck Pharmaceutical and

- Presentations to Rotary groups will hopefully result in collaborations on local projects and the funding to make them a reality.
- Working with High School Rotary Interact Clubs has been rewarding and we will continue next year. The club at Hamden Hall had an assembly to learn about our

foundation as well as the orphanage in Cameroon which they adopted. They and the club at Trumbull High School raised about \$1500 of personal products and over the counter medication.

- The Hamden Chamber of Commerce and the Clarion Hotel in Hamden held a fund raiser on our behalf to collect hygiene items for our project with the Boys and Girls Village in Milford. Before the Christmas holidays, this was very successful, raising \$1500 worth of products.

Future

We continue to evaluate the facilities that we are now working with to know the process is working and that our assistance is making a difference in the life span and health of the children.

The quest for new partners is always on our agenda as are new ways to solve ongoing global health problems.

We will continue to be proactive about our program and look for new sources of funding to meet the increased need.