

# Tiny Tim and Friends Newsletter

## Fall 2006

In this newsletter we want to recognize and thank several people without whom Tiny Tim and Friends could not operate!

Besides being our next door neighbor and the proud father of Marta Grace, Dana Dezentje is our chief web designer and web master. On a monthly basis he volunteers his time to update the website with the latest pictures, stories and events that have taken place during the month. Dana has become a vital part of the organization and we can't thank him enough for all of his compassion, creativity, ideas, and time.



Janice and Meagan are in the St. Vincent de Paul office at the Basilica. It was Janice's suggestion that TT&F partner with St. Vincent de Paul as they were looking for an opportunity to have a more global outreach program. This partnership has proven to be invaluable in allowing us to operate as a non-profit organization and you to be able to write off your donation!!

When a TT&F donation comes into the St. Vincent de Paul office, Meagan enters it into the Tiny Tim account and notifies us by e-mail so we are able to send out a thank you letter. Thank you Janice and Meagan from Tiny Tim and all of his family and friends.

### **Basilica Tiny Tim and Friends Weekend**

Throughout the weekend of August 12 and 13th the Basilica of St. Mary provided Tiny Tim and Friends a unique opportunity to share its success.

Dr. Tim was given the opportunity to address the congregations and share with them the basic operating principles, logistics, and values of the project. He emphasized how, because of the simplicity of the organization, our impact is so powerful. For example he shared how money is collected and administered through a simple bank account, which is then used to buy the medicine for the children. No salaries, no office, no paid staff, no overhead, and no middleman. In addition to speaking at all masses a second collection was taken up specifically to support this project - a rare and honored event.

On Sunday afternoon Tiny Tim and Friends hosted a separate reception and presentation attended by both donors and others interested. To an audience of nearly 100 people, Dr. Tim detailed the situation for HIV/AIDS infected children in Zambia and the work of the organization. Currently in Zambia alone more than one million children have been orphaned by AIDS and many of these children are HIV positive themselves. The pictures and stories he shared explained the powerful process of treating children with the correct medications. Tiny Tim and Friends has incredible success in gaining access for these children to the medicines they need to live healthy normal lives.

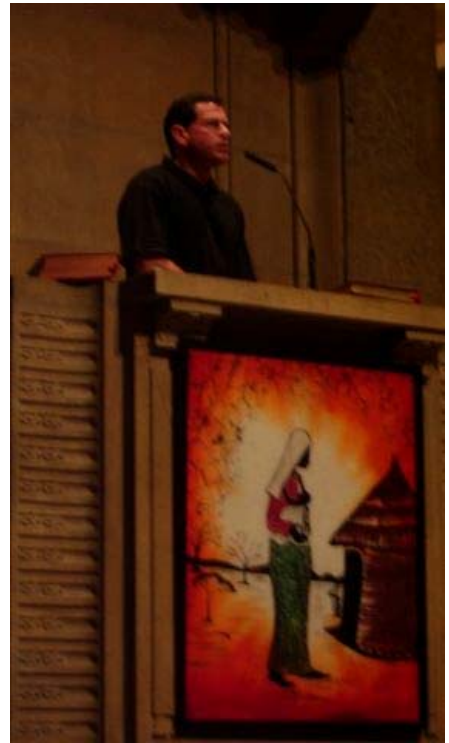
On behalf of the children, Dr. Tim thanked the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, the parishioners of the Basilica and all of the very generous donors to the Tiny Tim and Friends project.

On World AIDS Day, Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, WCCO TV in Minneapolis, MN will be doing a special feature on Tiny Tim and Friends and it's work with HIV infected children in Zambia. We thank WCCO for sharing our story with their viewers.

## Notes from Dr. Tim

My recent trip to the USA and the weekend that I spoke at the Basilica on behalf of Tiny Tim and Friends will be in my mind for years to come. What an experience! How grateful I will always be to Father O'Connell for trying to make a better public speaker out of me - he had not much to work with except a good message from a good project, but his advice helped us to get our message across. And grateful, too, to Janice and Johan for their continued support.

Tiny Tim and Friends on the ground in Zambia has continued to expand. With all of the children at Jon Hospice Day Care now stable on ARV's we are able to extend our reach to some others in the community. And with recent support from Orange Babies (a non-profit organization from Holland which provides support to HIV infected pregnant women in Africa), we are hoping to start a mobile unit which can reach out into the compounds surrounding the hospice for orphans and vulnerable children that are not part of the Day Care. Indeed, one doesn't have to look far. There are children who are not attending school and under no medical care at all, getting sick and dying, on almost every corner in the compounds. The Home Based Care workers in the compounds have compiled a list of the most vulnerable for us to start with, when the mobile unit is finally up and running, although this may take months, so we can only hope that they can continue to survive, somehow, until then.



With so many to help, one can sometimes feel hopeless in the face of it all. But we have to concentrate on the ones that are brought before us for assistance and do the best we can for them. How some are brought to us and others are not is a process that I have not yet figured out. I suppose it has something to do with luck, or providence. If there is a larger plan at work here, it is not easily discernable from this level. Surely that is where something like faith comes into play: unable to see the bigger picture, we do what we can for those in front of us, as we would hope they would do for us. Not necessarily a religious concept, it certainly helps us to get things done at the hospice and day care level. One thing feels certain, that the work of Tiny Tim and Friends here in Zambia is making a huge difference for many children, both life-saving and life-changing. And if even a few of these wonderful young people grow up to make a contribution back to Zambian society, then our donor's support will have been money well-spent indeed. The likelihood of this seems very high. And the relief of suffering? While this is an important part of what we do, we know that suffering will be with us always, in many forms. We can't abide seeing children in pain or poverty, and that intolerance makes helping even the littlest bit seem all the more worth while. To our donors, we have to again say the biggest, most heartfelt, thank you.

Dr. Tim

Please visit our website at  
[www.tinytimandfriends.org](http://www.tinytimandfriends.org)

# Faces and Stories - Arnold and Evelyn



## Arnold - February 2005

Arnold is 7 years old. His mother died 4 years ago and the father is unknown. He is being cared for by two aunts. We are waiting for the results of blood tests before starting him on ARVs.



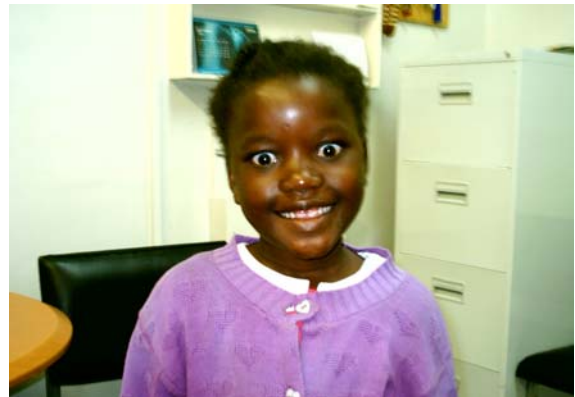
## Arnold - September 2005

Arnold has made astounding progress on ARVs. He could barely walk before starting ARVs and is now dramatically improved, both physically and mentally. He even plays soccer.



## Evelyn - March 2005

Evelyn, who is 7 years old, lives with her mother. Her father died last year of AIDS and sadly he did not tell his wife that he had HIV until after she was pregnant. Evelyn's CD4 count is very low and she seems healthy in all other respects (i.e., no TB or current infections) but she is severely underweight (wasted). She was started on ARVs today and I will see her back in a week to make sure things are going well. She was too shy to answer any questions today, but the Day Care worker tells me that she is intelligent and does well at Day Care. She gets along beautifully with the other children and she likes to help out.



## Evelyn - November 2005

Evelyn is doing well. She has a rather large lymph node on the back of her neck which we have been watching carefully, as this can be a sign of hidden TB in children, but she has gained weight and her immune parameters are all up. She is always so carefully dressed and well turned-out. She is the little princess of the Day Care.