



Tiny Tim & Friends Newsletter Spring 2008

Tiny Tim & Friends (TTF) has been extremely busy so far in 2008. The number of children supported by TTF is at an all-time high, and TTF volunteers continue to seek out more children in desperate need of medical attention. At home in Minnesota, we have been feverishly working on fundraising events and the re-design of our Web site! However, we would like to take a moment and share a few updates on some of the exciting work your donations have helped to make possible.

Outreach Programs

As a part of our mission to provide medical, educational, vocational and nutritional support for HIV Orphans, vulnerable children and pregnant women, TTF has formed an outreach team to support the many schools and orphanages in Zambia. This team—consisting of Clinical Officers, volunteers and a social worker—has done tremendous work in reaching out to the local community and offering the much needed medical care.

St. Thomas Primary School

TTF began visiting St. Thomas Primary School in early February. This school consists of children living in nearby compounds, which are severely underdeveloped. The outreach team screened a total of 160 children for HIV and Tuberculosis, as well as any other illness found during the physical examinations. HIV positive children were enrolled in TTF's medical program and assessed for eligibility for Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ARV's). TTF worked with local clinics to treat any other discovered ailments.



Before the screenings began, TTF held a town meeting focusing on the topic of HIV/AIDS. These educational lectures allowed the children's parents and guardians to ask medical and scientific questions about HIV/AIDS.

Currently, TTF offers screenings and ARV's for any new St. Thomas Primary School enrollees or children from the area. These outreach efforts have been very successful in educating the community about HIV/AIDS, identifying untreated illness, and most importantly, discovering children with HIV infections who otherwise would not have been noticed.

My Father's House

TTF also provided medical support at My Father's House, a series of several orphan homes in Lusaka, Zambia. Children are screened for HIV by obtaining a single drop of blood from the tip of a finger—taking approximately five minutes to determine the positive or negative result. Volunteers also examine for enlarged lymph nodes and other common signs of infection. After the examinations were completed, many of children gathered to sing beautiful songs of welcome and gratitude to the TTF outreach team.

My Father's House is run by Mary and Bob Sendgikoski. For more information, visit their Web site at www.everyorphan.org.



Volunteer Spotlight: Michael Avesar

Michael Avesar graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a degree in pre-med biology. His interest in global health, specifically concerning HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, brought him from his home in Agoura Hills, California to Zambia. Since traveling to Zambia, Michael has worked closely with TTF, volunteering his time to treat children suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB and other devastating illnesses. In a recent letter to family and friends, Michael wrote:

Since my stay with Tiny Tim & Friends, I have learned more about HIV/Aids than I could have ever imagined. While I have had the joy of watching medicine and my efforts truly help people who desperately need it, I have also witnessed emotional difficulty and heart throbbing cases that have not turned out well. All in all, I have learned much about the Zambian culture and its welcoming people. This experience with Tiny Tim & Friends has been so powerful that I am already planning on returning next fall and for the bulk of next year.



If you are interested in traveling to Zambia, please contact tinytimandfriends@pclink.com. Remember, you don't have to be doctor to volunteer. Whatever your talents may be, you can make a difference in your own unique way.

Coming Soon from the Board

Betty Meade and a few other Board members will be traveling to Zambia on May 20! During their three-week stay, they will be working in the orphanages, transit homes and anywhere else they are needed. Check our Web site for their "blog" updates. Please note: TTF donations are not being used to fund this trip.

Also, we are looking forward to the possibility of "Tiny" Tim visiting from Zambia. This would be his first trip to Grandma's house (or the U.S. for that matter) and we are all excited to spend the summer with him!



New, Improved Web Site

We are thrilled to announce our newly re-designed Web site! With the help of volunteer designers and Web gurus, we have spent tireless hours, days and weeks enhancing the site. Visit us at tinytimandfriends.org to stay up-to-date on the children's progress, new and on-going projects, fundraising events and volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming Fundraisers

- Students of Brigham Young University recently wrote and published a joke book entitled "The Book of Y: Let There Be Laughter." One hundred percent of the profits will be donated to TTF. You can support this project by purchasing a copy of the joke book at <http://www.byubookstore.com>.
- The annual garage sale, which has proven to be one of our most successful fundraising events, is scheduled for September 2008. If you would like to volunteer, or have items that you would like to donate, please e-mail tinytimandfriends@pclink.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

New Faces and Stories - Spring 2008

Nedson

Nedson grew up in a village outside of Lusaka where he became strangely and severely ill. His family arranged for him to come to Lusaka for some chance of health care. Because of the underdeveloped health systems and the overwhelming cases of HIV/AIDS, Nedson was assumed to be a terminal HIV patient.

13-year old Nedson was in a very thin and pale state when he was discovered by Dr. Tim during his rounds at Jon Hospice. He had been bed ridden for more than a month and was extremely low on energy and hope. With the help of an Oncologist from the U.S., Nedson was found to be HIV negative and instead suffering from a rare yet treatable cancer, Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Treatment for such a disease in Zambia is extremely challenging. However, with the help of extremely generous foreign donors, TTF was able to get Nedson into therapy at Zambia's University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

Nedson has begun chemotherapy and we are very hopeful that his treatment process will be successful.



UTH Pediatric Ward

One Mother's Story

This woman's story is a very tragic example of how many Zambian women are powerless to seek medical intervention. While the mother held her dying child, her husband refused to have the young girl referred to a doctor. TTF volunteers found many reasons to suspect that the family (which includes three other children) was HIV positive, but the husband rejected efforts to have them tested or treated. This child was also suffering from a large open wound on her left leg, caused from crawling into a fire before her 7-year-old sibling was able to stop her.

The young child died the day after this picture was taken.

For more faces and stories, visit tinytimandfriends.org.

