



# Jthemba

*Bringing hope to AIDS orphans  
in South Africa "One Child At A Time"*

Spring 2006

## 25:40 Campaigns for \$150,000 to Build New Mother-Child Health Clinic in Hamburg



25:40 and Dr. Carol Hofmeyr want to stop AIDS before it starts in rural Hamburg, South Africa.

This can happen if a new health care center, dedicated to the total health of mothers and children, can be funded. This is a project to which 25:40 is strongly committed. 25:40 supports the Umtha Welanga Health Care Center, shown above, which opened in July 2005 in Hamburg. The clinic is dedicated solely to AIDS patients. The mother-child health care center will be on this same site and will provide:

- Pre- and post-natal care, including HIV testing
- Family planning
- HIV tests for infants
- Childhood immunizations
- Education to mothers and children about AIDS and other health issues.

The new facility will help children like Indiphile, the three-month-old baby pictured here, who came to Umtha Welanga in March. Her mother has full-blown AIDS as well as tuberculosis, and arrived exhausted and ill-equipped to care for a newborn.



Indiphile, which means "a blessing from God," also has tuberculosis, but thankfully tested negative for HIV. Indiphile and her mother were staying in a supply closet at Umtha Welanga, sleeping together on a small mattress. The new center will have adequate space for mothers and their children, and its staff would concentrate exclusively the care of mothers and children.

Dr. Carol Hofmeyr created the non-profit Keiskamma Trust to fund initiatives designed to bring the Hamburg community out of poverty and sickness. Three aspects of the trust are health, education and art. Dr. Hofmeyr oversees the administration, funding, paperwork required by donors, and the art project — in addition to treating patients at three different clinics, plus the health care center.

Recently the Trust hired Barbara Scott to oversee the budget of the entire trust. While we were in Hamburg, she presented to 25:40 and other stakeholders the overall health care budget. Barbara estimated that it will cost \$150,000 to build and staff the new mother-child center, described above, for the first year, not including equipment, supplies and maintenance.

The Trust is looking to 25:40 for most of this funding. Because it is exactly the mission of 25:40 to help prevent mothers from transmitting AIDS to their children, and to support the health and welfare of children once they are born, we are excited to be part of this project

We need your help to meet this important new challenge. We need you to give now, to give generously and to become regular donors, so that 25:40 has a consistent stream of income that children in South Africa can rely upon. You may send your checks, made out to 25:40, to P.O. Box 10534, Burke, VA 22009. You may also donate securely online through PayPal at our website, [www.2540.org](http://www.2540.org). All donations are tax-exempt.

# Meet Three AIDS Orphans You Can Sponsor

*25:40 is working to establish a child sponsorship program in rural Hamburg, S.A., in which U.S. sponsors can help support children who have AIDS and/or are orphaned by AIDS. Sponsors can contribute financially as well as emotionally to the children and their caretakers. More details will come shortly.*



In the Winter newsletter, we introduced you to **Teaspoon**, who arrived at the Hamburg clinic with full-blown AIDS when she was a year old. Because her head was so much bigger than the rest of her tiny, seven pound body, nurse and AIDS Counselor Eunice Managwe named her Teaspoon. Since being put on ARVs, her little body is growing into her head; while she couldn't even lift her head when she first arrived at the clinic, she can now stand and take a few steps. She was shy during our visit, but her AIDS monitor say she is usually quite lively. Seen here at left, at about 20 months old, she is a little frightened of the talking phone toy donated from the United States, but she took to it in a few minutes. One of two of the eight children on ARVs in Hamburg who is not an orphan, Teaspoon lives with her mother and extended family

in a village about two hours from the Hamburg clinic.

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Eight-year-old **Asanda**, (seen here at far right with his four-year-old friend) lives in the same village as Teaspoon. Asanda has full-blown AIDS. He is very small for his age, only about 3 feet tall, and is thin and frail. His mother died of AIDS; his father lives in nearby Port Elizabeth, but visits infrequently. He lives with his grandmother, who is in her 80s (she doesn't know her exact age) and has six grown children. Because of his poor health, Asanda does not attend school and is developmentally delayed. He loved the toy cars we gave him, and could line them up in a row (a typical toddler activity), but could not count them.



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**Nkululeko**, the first child to be put on ARVs in Hamburg, just celebrated his 13th birthday on April 24. Two years ago, Dr. Carol Hofmeyr found him near death in a hut, where he was being poorly taken care of by his young aunt after losing his mother to AIDS. Since Dr. Carol took him into her own home, he has grown and is healthy and thriving. He is a wonderfully bright, charismatic teenager, mischievous at times. A fantastic dancer, Dr. Hofmeyr's dream is for him to attend a special weekday boarding school for dance and the arts. Unfortunately, he can't be accepted until he improves his reading skills. Seen here at left, Nkululeko is wearing a Washington Nationals hat donated by Mary Edge, a faithful and dedicated member of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Burke, Virginia. Two years ago, Nkululeko became fast friends with 25:40's own Nick Munster. The Nationals hat is a way for two boys an ocean apart to stay connected.

# *Thank You for Supporting 25:40's Trip to South Africa*

By Amy Zacaroli

This March I took my third trip to South Africa since 25:40 began. It was a wonderful experience, in large part because of the support from home.

I left March 11 with two suitcases — half of one for my clothes and one and a half for all the toys provided by members of Abiding Presence. Thank you, Abiding Presence, especially to the children who chose each toy so carefully.

I traveled with my dear mother-in-law, Pat Thomas, who lives in Center Harbor, N.H. This was her first extended trip back to South Africa since she was a young mother of four living in Johannesburg.

We arrived in Cape Town and stayed at the lovely Monkey Valley Resort overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Our first visit was to HOKISA in Masiphumelele, where we saw the HOKISA



Pat shares with HOKISA co-director Lutz Van Dijk the beautiful books Co., she donated.

Peace House for the first time. We had a wonderful time reconnecting with children we've known for three years now and meeting the new arrivals. The day we visited was the birthday of

Shirley Madlingoze, a long-time care worker, so we were able to celebrate with her.

Another day we visited Baphumelele and Fikelela, both in Khayelitsha, a large shanty town outside of Cape Town. Both facilities care for children orphaned by AIDS.

Baphumelele is a series of concrete buildings housing 99 children, from infants to 20-year-olds. Rosie, the caretaker, had an inspiring story to tell of how taking in the baby she found on her doorstep one day led her to where she is now, caring for so many children who have been abandoned because of AIDS.

Fikelela is a more temporary shelter for AIDS orphans, caring for only about 20 when we were there. The children are quickly moved into



A little girl in the baby room at Baphumelele.

foster care, from which they can be adopted or family members can be found to care for them.

Three days after our arrival we flew to East London and drove to Hamburg, the rural village on the Eastern Cape that is home to the Umtha Welanga Health Care Center that 25:40 supports. The day after we settled into our modest living quarters, Pat and I traveled the long roads surrounding Hamburg to the far-flung villages where Dr. Carol Hofmeyr and AIDS counselor Eunice Mangwane must travel to visit patients.

Eunice navigated my shaky driving, with Pat in the back, on long hilly roads that turned into bumpy dirt tracks, which in turn faded into a network of grassy paths and rocky ruts that lead to the homes of patients. We visited the five children on ARVs that Dr. Carol Hofmeyr treats. (See page 2). Four had lost their mothers and/or fathers to AIDS and were being cared for by their



Eunice Mangwane, Asanda's Grandmother, Pat Thomas, and Thandia, Eunice's assistant.

## 25:40's Trip to South Africa (Continued from page 3)

grandmothers.

The next day we rose early to visit the Hamburg Primary School. Pat, who had a career in teaching, with a focus on early child development and speech pathology, had brought an excellent curriculum as well as wonderful workbooks and other tools for the teachers.

The school is at the top of a hill far from the center of town. Most of the children and teachers walk, which for some can take an hour or more. All the children wear uniforms, except the youngest



Pat meets some of the youngest students at Hamburg Primary School. The little ones look forward to wearing the school uniform when they are deemed old enough.

class, which is equivalent to our Kindergarten.

The school days begin with an outdoor opening ceremony, in which students line up by class, facing their teachers. A teacher reads from the Bible and then asks a student to lead the school in several songs. All the songs are sung in their native language, Xhosa, except the final one, which was the Lord's Prayer, sung in English. The young girl who leads them has an incredible singing voice.



Children at the Hamburg Primary School line up for the morning opening ceremony, which features prayers and songs.

On the flight home from Johannesburg to Dulles I rode on the same plane with dear friends of 25:40, **Robert and Lynne Thompson** of Fairfax, Virginia. They attend Fairfax Presbyterian Church, whose members are dedicated supporters of the 25:40 children. The Thompsons were in South Africa to attend a family wedding. During their travels, they detoured to a village outside of Hamburg to meet Dr. Carol Hofmeyr. Lynne brought a bundle of infant clothes made and collected by the women of Fairfax Presbyterian. She was able to see Dr. Carol at work and Dr. Carol was able to meet face-to-face one of the people who so generously gives of her time to provide handmade items. When I saw Dr. Carol she said she had given away all the infant clothes within hours, so great was the need. Thank you, Fairfax Presbyterian!

### 25:40 Hires South African Liaison

We are so pleased to announce that Pippa Hetherington is 25:40's new South African liaison. Pippa is shown here with her husband Alex in the center and her late father, Jeremy Stubbs and her mother, Di Stubbs.

Pippa is serving as our eyes and ears on the ground in South Africa. She has a long list of ideas and she will visit the orphanages regularly to keep us updated on the children and their needs.



## *News from HOKISA*

### *Abiding Presence Bible School Children Craft Quilt for HOKISA Peace House*

Little children are reaching out and touching the hearts of our friends at HOKISA, an orphanage in Masiphumelele, South Africa, that nurtures more AIDS orphans every year.

The quilt shown here was made by children who attended Vacation Bible School at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in July 2005. Pam Park, a longtime member of Abiding Presence, dedicated many hours to assembling the children's personalized squares into this beautiful quilt, which is now hanging in HOKISA's Peace House. She worked resolutely to finish it in time for Amy Zacaroli to take it with her in early March. She also did this during a very sad and difficult time for Abiding Presence, who lost David Bailey, Pastor and Carol Bailey's son, just a week before Amy's departure.

THANK YOU, PAM!

The quilt is hanging in the Youth Room at Peace House, a room used for AIDS awareness and education discussions with older HOKISA orphans and other teenagers from Masiphumelele. The young man standing in front of the quilt is Simphiwe, who leads these group discussions in the evenings after putting in a full day at the orphanage.

We learn from Lutz Van Dijk and Karin Chubb, co-founders of HOKISA, that the home has taken in three more young children since Amy's visit in March. She was fortunate to meet the two young boys HOKISA welcomed in the Fall of 2005. In an e-mail received in early April, Lutz says "This week we had to admit three new children (two girls, ages one and nine, and a five-year-old boy) We've never before had so many admitted in such a short time. We are impressed with how kind the other children are to the new arrivals and how willingly they share with them."



HOKISA care taker Simphiwe

### *Peace House Provides Refuge for HOKISA Staff*



The Peace House, shown at right, is a haven for the HOKISA staff members, who come from Masiphumelele, where their homes were shacks made of metal and cardboard. The Peace House provides permanent, stable, safe clean flats for the staff. Each flat has electricity, running water and a small kitchen. There is also a great back yard where the children can play. Here, two children play with HOKISA co-founder Lutz Van Dijk while Pat Thomas (seated), who traveled to South Africa with Amy Zacaroli, observes. Pat brought dozens of books from the Bayswater Bookstore in Center Harbor, N.H, which she owned for 10 years. HOKISA's library is stocked with many beautiful books donated from Bayswater!

# Upcoming Events

## Third Annual Walk for the Kids Planned for September 30, 2006



Beautiful Lake Accotink again will be the setting for 25:40's Third Annual Walk for the Kids. **Jackie Joslin**, shown here with fellow walker Bill Hughes at the 2005 Walk, was the top fund-raiser for the first two annual events. Come out with the family for this fun four-mile walk on **Saturday, Sept. 30** at 9 a.m. and give Jackie a run for her money! In the process, you will be contributing greatly to the health and well-being of a child in South Africa who has lost one or both parents to AIDS and may be personally fighting the disease as well. Registration forms will be available soon at [www.2540.org](http://www.2540.org).

*"One Step at a Time for One Child At a Time"*

## Marine Corps Marathon

"The People's Marathon," October 29, 2006

25:40 is a charity partner of the Marine Corps Marathon, run every fall in Washington, D.C. This year, we have a team who will go the distance to benefit children in South Africa affected by or infected with AIDS. Our awesome team members are **Andrea Kaltenbaugh**, 32, of Springfield, Virginia; **Dan Moran**, 39, of Springfield, Virginia; **Kate Branson**, 26, of Washington, D.C.; **Ryan Alvis**, 27, of Washington, D.C.; and **Sarah George**, 25, of Silver Spring, Maryland. All are first-time marathoners except Ryan.

*"One Mile at a Time for One Child At a Time"*

## World AIDS Day Concert, December 1, 2006

Friday, December 1, 2006 is World AIDS Day. It may seem far away, but we're already planning this big event, which will feature "Voices in the Wilderness." If you are interested in helping us plan, would like to sing or play, or can assist with audio and visual, please contact us at [2540@cox.net](mailto:2540@cox.net). Thank you!

### 25:40 WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

**Dan Kaltenbaugh** of Springfield, VA has agreed to take over maintenance of the 25:40 website, which was woefully outdated. He has some wonderful ideas and great commitment to the project. Visit 25:40 now and see the changes, and please be patient while we overhaul the website and transform it into something quite dynamic. THANK YOU, DAN!