



Foundation
for Hospices
in Sub-Saharan Africa

January 2007

Quarterly Report

A Message from the Executive Director

In mid-2006, FHSSA welcomed Phil Di Sorbo as Executive Director. With a strong background in hospice care and Africa partnering, Phil enters his first full year in 2007 focused on new opportunities and partnerships.

FHSSA has a noble mission indeed: to engage the American hospice movement in the international response to Global HIV/AIDS — the worst epidemic that has ever afflicted humanity. Our goal is to get hospice and palliative care services to those in need, the same goal we espouse here at home.

Africa commands this attention because of the staggering number of deaths, the infancy of hospice and palliative care in so many countries, the inordinate impact on women and children, and the overwhelming relationship of poverty and hunger that are true co-morbidities to this disease in Africa.

Thanks to founding leaders Dr. Bernice Harper and to the strategic incorporation of FHSSA into the NHPKO family of companies, FHSSA has many success stories to be proud of:

- Fifty-four American/African partnerships established in ten African countries
- Effective collaboration with the African Palliative Care Association and many African national associations
- Implementation of Diana Fund activities focusing on advocacy for palliative care in Africa and setting up good quality indicators and evaluation systems
- Several work projects of technical assistance already completed among and between partners
- Transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars to support African hospices on the ground.

This past year, we've expanded the vision of "partnering", and published a new **Partnership Toolkit** to promote and coach the expanded vision. It's not just about a "twinning relationship"; it's about engaging the whole organization and community to support hospice and

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palliative care in Africa. This new vision of partnering not only means higher impact in Africa, but better returns for the local American hospice – newer donors, more excitement among staff, strong linkages to local churches and multicultural groups, better cultural competency and higher use by multicultural groups of hospice locally.

2007 will be critically important for the mission of FHSSA. The opportunities to make a real difference for hospice care in Africa – now and for the future – are before us this year.

I look forward to working with you all to make these opportunities realities!

— Phil Di Sorbo
Executive Director



Opportunities to Build Greater Partnerships

American/African Engaged Partnerships

FHSSA encourages partnerships that mobilize their service areas and communities to combat global HIV/AIDS. These specific community-to-community relationships will generate direct care, support, and exchanges through the local hospice-to-hospice partnership. Staff and volunteers can be engaged on many levels. The resulting relationships will be empowering and enduring. Hospices in every region of every state can partner with African hospices, including new African hospices just starting. If your hospice is not already partnered, please consider doing so in 2007. FHSSA will help!



courtesy BigFoto.com



The Diana Legacy Fund

This high profile fund will launch in 2007, giving great name recognition to a development effort focused on hospice and palliative care in Africa. A major launch event and several regional events around the country are planned. Find out how your hospice can participate.

Technical Assistance Program

Many hospice professionals and volunteers have signed up for a loaned technical assistance program with African hospices. This program will be implemented in 2007.

African Palliative Care Organization

A new collaborative work agreement has been signed between APCA and FHSSA. This agreement ensures that our work in Africa will be guided by Africans and will be strategically effective because it is culturally appropriate and linked with local efforts in each country.



Advocacy

Our efforts to tell the story to the general public, funders, donors, and governmental entities will continue and be strengthened. FHSSA is part of worldwide effort to expand understanding of hospice and palliative care, and to make this care accessible to all in need – here and abroad.



FHSSA Welcomes Naomi Tutu

At the end of 2006, Naomi Tutu joined FHSSA as a part-time consultant. With a long history of advocacy and diversity consulting and coaching, Naomi has joined the FHSSA team to assist with community relations, education, advocacy and fund-raising. She brings a deep heartfelt commitment from her native South Africa to her work at FHSSA. Initially, Naomi joined the FHSSA Board of Directors and now will work directly with the staff team.

Naomi holds undergraduate degrees from the Universite de Paris, Sorbonne and from Berea College. Her Masters Degree in International Development is from the University of Kentucky. She has been an instructor and retreat leader in multiple academic and community settings on several continents. Among her numerous organizational involvements, she is a previous Chairperson and chief fund-raiser for the Bishop Tutu Refugee Fund and is a Board representative for Archbishop Tutu on the Peace Jam Foundation. The United States hospice community welcomes Naomi!



Translation of Guide Created for African Care Providers

In recognition of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2006, the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa released **A Guide to Supportive and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa**. Written for healthcare workers in sub-Saharan Africa and for those supporting them a PDF of the Guide is available free-of-charge at www.fhssa.org.

A Guide to Supportive and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa takes an African perspective in addressing the many aspects of palliative care that are key in caring for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Palliative care provides holistic, interdisciplinary care for seriously ill persons and their caregivers – from diagnosis through bereavement.

"There is a crying humanitarian need for palliative care, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa," said Phil DiSorbo, FHSSA executive director. "Availability of **the Guide** will put valuable information in the hands of healthcare workers caring for people living with HIV."

The Guide covers not only medical treatment, symptom management, and psychosocial/spiritual

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A Look at Our Partners



Picture one: Tapologo Hospice, where clinic buildings are made from converted shipping containers.



Picture two: FHSSA Board member Jan Jones greets Archbishop Desmond Tutu at his 75th birthday celebration.



Picture three: Three patients from MES Zaziwe Care Centre in Gauteng, South Africa enjoying the afternoon sun.



care, but also traditional care and social issues that are part of the HIV Pandemic in Africa.

The Guide was adapted from the 2003 edition of **A Clinical Guide to Supportive and Palliative Care for HIV/AIDS** (<http://hab.hrsa.gov>). Development of the African version was funded by the U.S. Government through the HIV/AIDS Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration and NHPCO.

Three years in the making, the project paired healthcare writers and editors in the U.S. with healthcare providers in sub-Saharan Africa.

FHSSA and NHPCO are working collaboratively with the African Palliative Care Association to make the Guide available to as wide an audience as possible. In addition to the online version, CD-ROMS will be distributed. A limited number of print copies will be made available by APCA to those in resource poor communities.

About FHSSA

FHSSA was founded in 1999 to address the issue of end-of-life care in Africa. It works with African hospices and palliative care programs, linking them with American hospices for support, financial assistance, and technical assistance. It works with the African Palliative Care Association to build hospice and palliative care capacity throughout Africa. It focuses solely on the urgent issue of the needs of the dying, including infected and affected children.

While worldwide attention and funding is focused on many necessary aspects of the AIDS pandemic (vaccine development, prevention, anti-retroviral medication availability), little attention is being paid to the needs of the dying. FHSSA's focus is to make hospice and palliative care services available to all in need.

To learn more about FHSSA or to make a donation in support of the work of the organization, please visit www.fhssa.org, or contact FHSSA at info@fhssa.org. CFC #9975.

A Call to Action

Join the American Hospice Movement in responding to the AIDS crisis in Africa! Your hospice can make a difference in improving the lives of those dying of HIV/AIDS and their families. Hospice and palliative care organizations are developing throughout Africa and each American hospice and palliative care organization can play a role in the fight against AIDS.



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