



April 2007

# Quarterly Report

## Preparations Set for Launch of the Diana Legacy Fund Archbishop Tutu to be Featured Speaker at Event



An inaugural celebration will mark the national launch of the Diana Legacy Fund on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. The event will take place in San Diego and Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be the featured speaker.

Named in honor of Diana, Princess of Wales, the Diana Legacy Fund was established to support programs that encourage and sustain hospice and palliative care in sub-Saharan Africa. It was in 1987, when photographs of Princess Diana holding the hand of an AIDS patient were broadcast throughout the world, that many of the public misconceptions surrounding HIV/AIDS began to break down. She continued to be a trailblazing advocate supporting those with HIV/AIDS until her death.

"A strong belief of the late Princess of Wales was the basic right of all people to have access to compassionate end-of-life care and support for families of the dying, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa," remarked J. Donald Schumacher, president of FHSSA. "This new fund will contribute to the important work being done to relieve suffering on an unimaginable scale."

In order to achieve this goal, the Fund will support the work of the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through programs like FHSSA's innovative partnering initiative, hospice and palliative care programs in 12 African countries are receiving support from hospices in the U.S. The Diana Legacy Fund will build on this successful program and more.

An estimated two million people will die from HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa this year. The launch event on May 15 will draw national attention to hospice and palliative care needs in Africa and the ways in which the Diana Legacy Fund will sustain FHSSA's efforts to address those needs.

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Following the Launch, a national outreach campaign will ensue to focus on the immense humanitarian need and to raise financial support for the Diana Legacy Fund.

### Important Notes:

- Individual, organizational, and corporate sponsorship opportunities for the launch event are available. Supporters will be recognized in inaugural announcement materials.
- Donations in support of the Diana Legacy Fund may be made now via the Internet, go to [www.dianalegacyfund.org](http://www.dianalegacyfund.org)
- VITAS San Diego, a long time FHSSA partner active in South Africa, has graciously offered to provide home stays to any FHSSA partners coming from America or Africa to attend the launch event. For further information about home accommodations, FHSSA partners may contact Robin Fiorelli at: [Robin.Fiorelli@Vitas.com](mailto:Robin.Fiorelli@Vitas.com)
- Media are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact us at [info@fhssa.org](mailto:info@fhssa.org).



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## FHSSA and DRI Launch Supply Chain Project in South Africa

### Six African Hospice Programs to Benefit from New Influx of Medical Supplies

The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa in collaboration with Direct Relief International is launching a supply chain program to get hospice and palliative care supplies to HIV/AIDS patients in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The project's first shipment of supplies was distributed to the partner hospices last month.

Lack of resources is a significant challenge for hospices. By supplying medical goods that hospice programs need to deliver care, hospices can utilize their current resources more efficiently and increase the number of patients they are able to serve. Supplies in this inaugural shipment include an array of goods ranging from things as basic as rubber gloves and liquid soap to Paracetamol and Malaria treatment.

"We expect the project to serve as a model for similar programs throughout the country," said Phil DiSorbo, FHSSA executive director. "And once it's established, we hope to see the model work successfully throughout Africa."



DRI is working with a South African distribution company that will coordinate the logistics and storage of the supplies that are donated. Future donations will come from private corporations in South Africa.

*Direct Relief International (DRI) staff prepare medical supplies to be shipped to FHSSA partner hospices in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.*





## Global AIDS: The Palliative Care Imperative

*The following editorial was written by Carla Alexander, Medical Director, and Phil DiSorbo, Executive Director of FHSSA for World AIDS Day. We share their thoughts with you.*

**T**he United Nations AIDS report on Global AIDS, released last December, confirms the continued and expected increases in mortality due to HIV/AIDS worldwide.

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, there will be over 2,000,000 deaths due to AIDS this year, not counting the burden of malaria, cancer, and other diseases. In 2005, 520,000 children died of HIV/AIDS in Africa – that's one every minute.

Amidst all the attention and resources going towards prevention and treatment in the war on AIDS, care for the dying receives scant recognition despite the enormity of need. Even in countries offering the highest levels of hospice care in Africa (South Africa and Uganda), barely ten percent of those dying receive hospice. In many African nations, there is little or no access to opioid analgesics, condemning thousands each week to painful deaths.

There is a crying humanitarian need globally – in Africa especially – for palliative care. This includes the heart-wrenching need for pediatric palliative care for sick We know the care that's needed. We must commit ourselves to making sure it's provided.

In addition to this humanitarian need, there is also the considerable strategic importance of palliative care to emerging health care systems in poor countries. Adequate pain management means better quality of life and reduced stigma. Stigma continues to be a significant factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS in many resource poor nations. Giving personal care in the home setting opens the doors of trust, where vulnerable people can talk openly about serious issues, including how a disease is spread and why a premature death is occurring in their midst. Palliative care also supports treatment efforts. By controlling side effects and distressing symptoms effectively, palliative care can and does facilitate the effectiveness of ongoing antiretroviral therapy.

In addition to skilled pain and symptom management, a critical component of palliative care is the family. Support is provided to widowed and orphaned persons. Good palliative care is an im-

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## FHSSA Networking Session at the NHPCO Management and Leadership Conference


**F**HSSA will host a Best Practices for Partnering networking session and workshop on Friday, April 20 from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. A successful partner program will be chosen to represent the strategic areas of FHSSA. Each booth will have partner representatives available to answer questions and provide information. The areas of interest are:

- Community engagement
- Partner visitations
- Fundraising
- Whole organizational involvement
- Communications



The session is open to all programs interested in learning more about FHSSA, for those interested in partnering and current partners. There will be representatives of both American and African organizations available to answer questions.

The MLC presents an ideal educational opportunity for representatives of African programs. We would encourage American programs to consider sponsoring their partners' attendance and a coinciding visit to their program. Please contact us at [info@fhssa.org](mailto:info@fhssa.org).





*Rev. Paulette Stevens represents Montgomery Hospice during a visitation to their partner, World Alive School of Nursing, in Esiama, Ghana.*

portant part of a poverty alleviation strategy because it gets widowed persons back to work and children back to school – it helps build nations.

Incentives to develop palliative care will move parliaments and health ministries to learn more about the medicinal use of opioids, and how adequate controls can prevent diversion. Misinformation about addiction can be corrected; guidelines can be developed and implemented.

Acknowledgement of the need for palliative care is emerging in entities such as the United Nations Global Fund and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program. However it is urgent that more recognition be given to the strategic importance of linking palliative care to primary care, prevention, and treatment, while simultaneously strengthening the systems that provide end-of-life care. Only then will those dying receive the compassion and skilled care now available to the terminally ill in the developed world. A giant leap forward can be made in the struggle against HIV/AIDS by integrating palliative care into the grass roots public health efforts that ultimately will turn the tide in favor of a healthy humanity in the world's poorest countries.

## APCA Conference 2007

The African Palliative Care Association will host its second conference, **Palliative Care in Africa: Making it Real**, September 19 – 21, 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. The APCA Conference presents a great learning opportunity for hospice palliative care programs. American FHSSA partners are encouraged to assist their African partners in taking advantage of this conference. Topics to be covered include:

- Clinical Palliative Care
- Pediatric Palliative Care
- Appropriate and Strategic Palliative Care Education and Training for Africa
- Advocacy for Palliative Care
- Palliative Care Standards
- Leadership, management and Organizational Development within Palliative Care
- Monitoring and Evaluation and Research in Palliative Care



The Call for Proposals is open and can be accessed at [www.apca2007nairobi.com](http://www.apca2007nairobi.com). The submission deadline is April 27, 2007.



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