

The

# Festival Brief



The Newsletter of the Festival of Sharing... May , 2009

Festival of Sharing  
3009 David Drive  
Columbia, MO 65202

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573-474-3332

[www.umocm.com/festival.htm](http://www.umocm.com/festival.htm)

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## IMA World Health Combating Neglected Tropical Diseases in Haiti

Building on successes in 2008, this year IMA World Health (IMA), [www.imaworldhealth.org](http://www.imaworldhealth.org), will provide medication to more Haitians than ever—2.4 million people—to prevent or treat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). But many more Haitians desperately need our help. Approximately one billion people — mostly in developing countries — suffer from NTDs. An estimated 1.8 million people die annually from the diseases, most of which are preventable or curable. In Haiti, more than 2 million people (30 percent of the Haitian population) are infected with the NTDs Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) and soil-transmitted helminthes (STHs), both of which are caused by parasitic worms. An astounding 75 percent of Haitians live in high-risk areas for contracting LF and STH. NTDs are transmitted largely through the bites of insects such as mosquitoes and tsetse flies, through contact with unclean water (a constant challenge in the developing world) or other unsanitary conditions common in Haiti.

IMA and our partners are working to save lives and alleviate suffering in Haiti. In addition to providing essential medicines and supplies, we are bolstering Haiti's national health care system by integrating two separate NTD programs for LF and STHs. The result will be a single, national NTD program with greater efficiency and effectiveness, and reduced duplication of efforts.

Together with our partners and supporters, IMA is making an enormous impact. However, there remains so much more work to do in Haiti. While the NTD program is showing notable progress in

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## A Ugandan Connection with KC Habitat for Humanity Meet Geoffrey Kigenyi



Groundbreaking ceremony for "The House that Abraham builds" Pictured from left to right: Geoffrey Kigenyi, Marcia Davis (Homeowner), Rabbi Scott White, Father Patrick Rush, Rev. Terry White (Episcopal), Zarrieff Osman (Islamic Center), Philip Lesnewski (Jacob's Well Church)

My name is Geoffrey Kigenyi and I am the Faith Relations Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Kansas City. My job involves working with churches and other faith houses across the Kansas City area to engage them in the Housing ministry of Habitat for Humanity. I am originally from Kampala, Uganda and that's where my journey with this wonderful organization began. I served the program in Uganda for almost two years working in the office and helping with international volunteer groups through the Global Village program.

In the year 2000, Habitat partnered with Sterling College, Kansas and started a scholarship program that would train young people to serve Habitat affiliates around the world. I was fortunate to be accepted in the program. I

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(Continued from page 1) *IMA World Health*

terms of both impact and efficiency, many of those receiving treatment experience common side effects such as fever, pain and digestive problems—especially as the worms are purged from the body—and funds are urgently needed to purchase and distribute over-the-counter medicines to treat these side effects.

The need to remedy side effects is vitally important to the Haiti NTD program itself because these common (and commonly known) side effects act as a deterrent to many LF and parasitic worm sufferers requiring treatment. Side effects from NTD medication will affect an estimated 70,000 Haitians, including children, this year.

IMA's NTD program services in Haiti are supported by the **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** through **RTI International**, as well as the **University of Notre Dame**.

Another major health care concern in Haiti is that of maternal and child health. Mothers and babies face deplorable death rates in much of developing world, and common infections resulting from unsanitary birthing conditions are a leading cause of postnatal death. IMA has developed a simple, effective way to make an enormous impact. We provide **Safe Motherhood Kits** that contain clean and sterile birthing supplies to help women and children overcome the obstacle of unsanitary birthing conditions. Just \$25 will provide an entire Safe Motherhood Kit that can save the lives of a mother and her newborn. Operating from deeply rooted Christian values, IMA World Health's mission is to advance health and healing for vulnerable and marginalized people. We are a faith-based nonprofit organization that provides health care services and products to those in desperate need, working primarily in developing countries—where an estimated 30 to 60 percent of health care is provided by faith-based organizations.

IMA has consistently received top efficiency ratings. In its 2008 special report, *America's 200 Largest Charities*, *Forbes* recognized IMA not only as one of the largest 200 nonprofit organizations in the United States, but also as one of the 20 most efficient among that group.

For more information or to find out how you can help desperate Haitian families, visit [www.imaworldhealth.org](http://www.imaworldhealth.org) or call 877-241-7952.

## **Pennies have Power [and so does time and talent!]**

A couple of years ago the Festival of Sharing Coordinating Committee started a program asking that collection of pennies be designated for the "Where needed most fund." Many Sunday School classes, Women's fellowship, Men's groups and whole congregations have been active in this ministry. Faithful people have diligently collected coins, deposited at their bank and reported the collection to the Festival's : Where needed most. To these groups *thanks and job well done!* **We need your continued support.**

In these tight economic times many are pinching every penny to make it go as far as possible. The Festival of Sharing is no different. In fact the Festival works hard every year to keep overhead costs low to enable as much of the "Where needed most funds" to be used for direct mission. If you or your congregation think you may have a creative way to support the festival of Sharing with services or products please contact Terri Williams at 573-474-3332 or [festival@socket.net](mailto:festival@socket.net). Gifts and talents come in many different forms so don't forget to find creative ways to help support the ministry of the Festival of Sharing!

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(Continued from page 1), A Ugandan Connection with KC Habitat for Humanity

traveled to Kansas in the fall of 2001 to start my degree program at Sterling College. Following my graduation in May 2005, I took a position at Habitat Kansas City and established the current Faith Relations Program.

Habitat Kansas City builds 8-12 houses a year. The houses are sponsored by Churches, corporations, businesses, individuals etc. most times the sponsoring organizations provide the volunteer labor and some times Habitat has to find the volunteers from other groups.

One fun project I have had the privilege to work on is *“The House that Abraham builds.”* This is an interfaith build that brings together Christians, Jews and Moslems to work together putting their faith in action as they provide a home for a family in need. The title refers to what all 3 religions have in common – Abraham as a founding father. Rabbi White of Congregation Ohev Shalom put it this way: *“Every time there are people working on the house, there are Jews, Christians and Moslems ... we haven’t had any fights, it’s all fellowship.”* All three religious groups are able to work together and learn from one another without giving up a single bit of their theology.

*“Every time there are people working on the house, there are Jews, Christians and Moslems ... we haven’t had any fights, it’s all fellowship.”*

Like all Habitat affiliates around the world, Habitat Kansas City participates in the affiliate tithe program. Through this program, affiliates give 10% of their unrestricted gifts to support Habitat’s work in other countries. Just last year, Habitat Kansas City received the **Malachi 3:10 Award** which recognizes affiliates that have given **\$500,000** to date. In the last three years, Habitat Kansas City has designated its affiliate tithe to Habitat for Humanity Uganda. As a result, more than 10 houses have been built in partnership with needy families over in Uganda. We like to tell our local funders that their dollars are reaching beyond Kansas City helping families overseas. Through their local fundraising and tithe funds from Kansas City, Habitat for Humanity Uganda was able to build 157 homes for Orphans and Vulnerable in 2008.

The scripture from **1 John 3:18** says it best - *“Our love should not be just words and talk, it must be true love, which shows its self in action.”*



### Pack Postings and Kit Corner

- ◆ Did you know that you can now find a pattern on line to make the drawstring bag for the **Youth Hygiene packs**? [http://www.umocm.com/FESTIVAL/Linked%20Pages/Youth%20Bag%20\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.umocm.com/FESTIVAL/Linked%20Pages/Youth%20Bag%20_2_.pdf)
  - ◆ T-shirts in the **CWS Layette** vs. Onsies for **Baby Bundles** - You can use Onsies in the Missouri Baby Bundle pack. CWS still asks for t-shirts in the Layette kits. T-shirts can be harder and harder to find but the Onsies don’t work in developing countries. Most children during the day don’t wear diapers. Instead they wear longer t-shirts only and use diapers at night.
  - ◆ **Missouri Hygiene packs** contain items needed by families that they can not purchase with food stamps (EBT cards). Please remember to help your local community food pantries by supplying the much needed shampoo, deodorant and paper products that are found in the **Missouri Hygiene Pack** and the **Paper Products Packs**.
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**Office of Creative Ministries**

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Phone: 573-474-3332  
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*Sending hope and justice to a hurting world.*

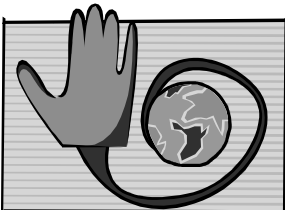
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## **YouthFest 2009**

Registration for Youthfest is finally making it online!

Register the whole group at one time through one person. Registrations for YouthFest is limited to 400 youth and adults. Registrations are on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. Online payments can be made with a credit card through PayPal. If you wish not to use a credit card to register online then please mail your registration and payment together!

<http://www.umocm.com/FESTIVAL/Linked%20Pages/youthfest%202009%20registration.htm>



Twenty-four hours of "hands on mission" is a generous gift you can share, to bring hope and justice to a hurting world!

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**The office has a new Fax number! NEW FAX # 866-247-5755.**