

UPPER ROOM Team's Skills Help HEAL Africa Staff

Nine Upper Room community members visited HEAL Africa this summer. Our phenomenal team of representatives included Melissa Just (previous UR staff member), Allen Lemay (return visitor), Erin Brodhagen, Sara Lindsay, Anne McSorley, Serena Peterson, Skyler Dickson, Katie Ross and Katie Swanson.

Upper Room taught Excel and English to HEAL Africa's staff, building their capacity and managerial skills. Some helped HEALing Arts with marketing and promotional materials, while others taught at Tuungane, the hospital's school for children. Others taught art and songs through the street children program, Space for Children. We also did home visits with six families in our HIV/AIDS program in some of Goma's poorest neighborhoods, like Birere, where the plane crash in April happened. We listened to their stories, prayed with them and gave them gifts of sugar, milk, soap and spices.



Preparing Gifts of Basic Staples for Families in our HIV program



Skyler and the team teaching staff Excel



Women helping Annifa with HEALing Arts marketing

FIND OUT WHERE OUR EASTER OFFERING WENT MASOSO & BEDNETS for HIV CLINIC & AMAVESA'S WIDOW COOPERATIVE

What is MASOSO?

Supplementary food made up of powdered sorghum, wheat, soy and maize. This flour makes the porridge that has become the main source of nutrition for children with HIV/AIDS in HEAL Africa's clinic.

Why do we give MASOSO to children with HIV/AIDS?

Antiretroviral medication is a powerful treatment that saves the lives of people with HIV/AIDS. If taken with enough nutrients, it can provide the patient with a long life, even one of a normal length. If taken without enough nutrition, this strong medicine can be counterproductive to a body that is already weakened by AIDS. **MASOSO provides the supplementary nutrition these children need to ensure they receive the best medication for AIDS.**

Who makes MASOSO?

AMAVESA, a local widow's cooperative, has received extra flour mills from Upper Room to increase their production. AMAVESA supplies all the nutritional porridge for our HIV/AIDS kids' clinic. **AMAVESA believes that widows can strengthen their community and provide for the poor** through hard work and collaboration, rather than depending on their neighbors to support them.

Why does your contribution towards MASOSO matter?

Due to the extreme poverty in DR Congo, many families find themselves sharing the MASOSO meant for one child in order to survive. Upper Room's 2008 Easter Offering is giving an additional portion to each family, making certain that each vulnerable child receives life-giving nutrients.



BEDNETS delivered to all 500 CHILDREN in the HIV/AIDS CLINIC



Every day, malaria is a threat to the health of children and families in DR Congo. Bednets save lives in this part of the world, and they come at a low cost. They are the most affordable way to prevent malaria, and require little upkeep. Upper Room gave a bednet to every child in the clinic, a gain for the whole family as they often sleep under the same bed, the bednet covering everyone. As they distributed the nets, the UR team made a "LOVE" and a "MAPENDO" (Swahili love) painting with the children's handprints.

UPPER ROOM CONGO STAFF UPDATE



*Best Wishes to **HARPER:*** Our pioneer Harper McConnell returned to the U. S. after 2 years helping establish Upper Room's partnership with HEAL Africa. Harper is still working with HEAL Africa in Seattle.



*Welcome to **CHELSIE:*** Chelsie Frank has recently accepted to represent Upper Room and CPC's work with HEAL Africa in Goma. She will be joining Cristina on September 26th.

CRISTINA here in September: Cristina Edelstein is visiting Upper Room and CPC this month. On September 7th, ask her about our partnership, HEAL Africa, life in Goma and how you can contribute your skills and knowledge to help the people of DR Congo, whether at home in Minnesota or in Goma!

Read stories about our experiences at: www.cristinaaroundtheworld.blogspot.com