

## GAIA Update

### July, 2007 - The U.S. Office



Some people ask what our work is like. Here is one day's random sample.

E-mails arrive from our Africa staff. One reports an orphaned young woman in serious danger. We confer and decide we can help in a particular way, which we do.

A message comes from a UCSF faculty member volunteering at Mzuzu University in Malawi's north. She has represented us at the ceremony launching our local nurse scholarship program with ten new students. Her hosts were gracious and the event was inspiring.

A U.S. staffer in Malawi's south reports the continuing outcomes in a 37 village cluster. Here we had allocated Gates Foundation funds to support village women from 2003 to 2006. Today the women continue to keep most of the orphans in school and help people receive HIV testing. One of our nurses here designed a youth project that is flourishing and could be a model for future youth interventions. This information is carefully stored for future planning.

GAIA trustee Dr. Don Thomas reports from Malawi that about 100,000 people are now on anti-retroviral medications, up from zero a few short years ago. This is progress and a part of it is our connecting village people to treatment centers.

A two-hour weekly staff meeting helps greatly with program planning.

In the afternoon we try to perfect a strategic plan to grow our organization over the next five years. Trustees and GAIA friends have worked hard on this, and still there is more to be done. Driving this project is the recognition that Malawi people are not statistics to us, they are our friends.

Maybe you can see that our work is not rocket science. There are practical and affordable solutions to very dangerous health issues in Africa. Your generosity is the reason why we have a decided impact in villages a world away. The people there and we in this office are deeply grateful.

William Rankin