

Change

Community Outreach

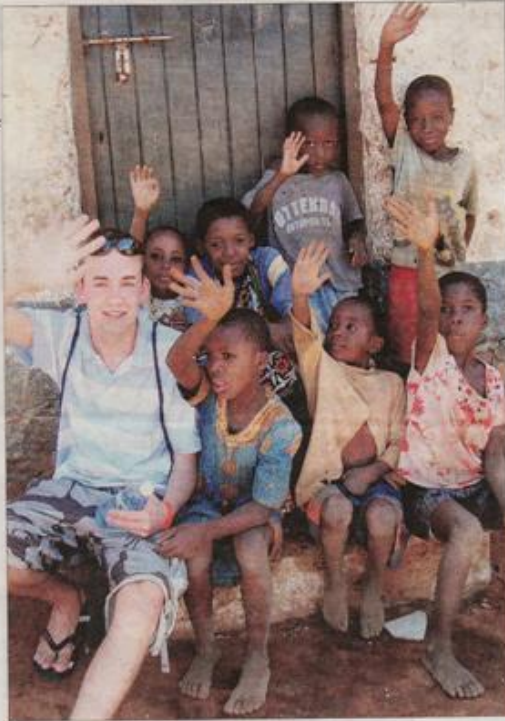
...following the need...



“Community Development Funds like ‘*Change – Community Outreach*’ work directly with communities (including those underserved and hard-to-reach); to celebrate life, enhance the power of positive thinking and action and to encourage all people to think of themselves as strong worthy individuals.

What more can be asked of these funds that undoubtedly care about those forgotten communities, and the people living in them?”

The Inspiration



Mark Wilson, an Ashford student, has been in Kenya working on an Aids project

Factfile

Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is a disease of the human immune system caused by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). Not all those with HIV go on to suffer Aids. HIV is the underlying cause but can remain dormant for years. Africa is the world's worst region for HIV and Aids. It has 12 per cent of the world's population but more than 60 per cent of those infected by Aids worldwide. The adult prevalence of HIV/Aids in the UK is 0.2 per cent but in Kenya it is 71 to 8.5 per cent just for 15 to 49-year-olds. Aids is spread through sexual intercourse or intravenous drug use and can be passed to babies born to HIV-infected mothers. It cannot be caught through shaking hands, sharing glasses, coughing or sneezing. Among the wildest myths about Aids is that it can be cured by sex with animals or virgins. There is no known cure at all.

Mark's mission to fight Aids epidemic

by Sam Lennon
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IN REMOTE parts of Kenya families pour boiling water over their children thinking it will cure them of Aids.

Men won't wear condoms because it is against their culture and victims are cast off by their communities.

These are the findings of a young Ashford charity worker who is now determined to set up a programme to fight ignorance surrounding Aids and HIV in Africa and help victims.

Mark Wilson, 19, of Sandilands, Willesborough, said: "There is great ignorance about the disease and a real stigma against those who have it.

"I learned of some families pouring boiling-hot water over children thinking it will cure them.

"One orphaned little girl was left in the bush to die by her uncle after it was discovered she was HIV-positive.

"And communities over there are so close that if you are out-cast because you have the illness

you have nowhere to go.

"However, it is also amazing that there is still ignorance to Aids in the UK. Some people still think you get it from shaking hands with an infected person."

Mr Wilson, who reads education studies at Canterbury Christ Church University, aims to run workshops in schools in Kenya to increase awareness of the disease and understanding for its victims and fight discrimination.

His project has already received messages of support from Prince Harry and former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Mr Wilson hopes to launch a pilot scheme for the project when he goes back to Kenya next April and hopes to receive funding from charities and companies if it proves to be successful.

Ultimately he wants the project, called Change - Community Outreach to spread to other parts of Africa.

Mr Wilson was inspired to carry out the project when he was on working holiday in the village of Kikambala, near the city of Mombasa, Kenya.

There he was horrified by the scale of poverty and suffering among local people.

He said: "There is no comparison between life over here and over there. Children are in rags with no shoes, walking on ground with sharp stones and broken glass.

"People pick up discarded food on the ground to eat.

"Yet over there I met some of the warmest, generous and kindest human beings ever. Beyond the poverty lies an unbroken community spirit."

During that first trip Mr Wilson helped other aid workers in providing equipment such as water pumping facilities and redecoration materials for a nursery school.

Mr Wilson on his next visit hopes to meet local and religious leaders, villagers and local Aids services to discuss the education programme further before it is piloted.

■ If you can support Change - Community Outreach, email mark@markswilson.com or for more information log onto www.markswilson.com

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The Team



FOUNDER/OUTREACH TRUSTEE Mark Wilson has been a public speaker, writer and campaigner for several years. He has been invited to speak at numerous conferences, functions and advisory meetings on issues relating to fellowship, development and youth opportunities. He has written numerous articles, including: 'Securing the Future' and 'The Notion of Peace'. He is also a member of the United Nations Association of the UK. In 2006 he served as the charter President for Ashford North Interact, advancing international understanding and goodwill amongst its members. Prior to now studying for his degree in 'Education' at Canterbury Christchurch University, Mark studied 'Health' for 2 years.

OUTREACH TRUSTEE Pam Marsh has extensive links with Kenya. She has dedicated many years with her husband to visiting and helping young people in the country. Working in Education, particularly with young people with additional behavioural needs, she is committed to seeing all people have equal rights to an education. As an educator herself, Pam brings the expertise needed to work directly with communities with an education based approach.



STRATEGIC ADVISOR/TRUSTEE Barbara Dalpra was born in Zimbabwe, brought up and educated in Malawi, South Africa and the UK. She is the founder of The Nyasa Partnership Limited and is the Vice President of the International Institute of Coaching. She brings a wealth of knowledge from her experiences of working and living in Africa, Europe and the USA. As a trained accountant, Barbara brings advice to 'Change' on how to operate both efficiently and effectively.



ADVISOR Dr Allister Butler is a prolific thinker in the world of social work with his name appearing in around 70 credits. e.g. 'AIDS in South Africa a Social Work Response' and 'The Caring Child paper.' He has worked extensively in the USA, UK, Europe, Taiwan and South Africa. Once the Director of the National Youth and AIDS/Life Skills Project in South Africa he has now returned to academia after working as a private training consultant.



Foreword

'Change – Community Outreach' was originally a program founded after I returned from spending time in Kenya. It was during this time that I was made aware of the desperate fight for life many people are facing to survive in this world. I was told of two horrific stories, whereby a young girl was left in the wild bush to die by her own uncle after it was discovered she had HIV. Another where a young boy had boiling hot water poured over him in the hope of curing him of AIDS.

Unfortunately, these stories are not isolated and to the western world are truly unbelievable. It would be hard not to be moved by these acts of desperation.

'Change – Community Outreach' has since developed into an international community fund, raising money to support education outreach and development projects within partnered communities, which have been identified by locals as areas of greatest need, thus our motto: 'following the need'.

'Change' is guided by some highly skilled experts and Trustees. Continually working with me to ensure that money being raised and donated is assigned to the right projects, at the right time, to benefit the right people, making sure that projects are sustainable, maintained and continually reassessed. This brief document gives a clear outline of what *'Change – Community Outreach'* is all about, what we stand for and what we hope to achieve through our work.

Thank-you for taking the time to read this document and find out more information about what we do. I look forward to hearing from you and others who share the same desire to help as we do soon.



Founder

Acknowledgements

The following people have either sent moral encouragement or shown support of the work carried out by '*Change – Community Outreach*'.

HRH Prince Harry & The 'Sentebale' Team

(Sentebale – The Princes Fund for Lesotho)

Department for International Development (DFID)

(AIDS and Reproductive Health Issues Team)

Rt. Hon Tony Blair

(Former UK Prime Minister/The Tony Blair Faith Foundation)

Nic Careem

(Founder of the BlueSky Network & Nelson Mandela Global Tribute)

Dr Allister Butler

(Private Consultant/Academic)

Yvonne Stewart

(Program Director/Lecturer, Canterbury Christchurch University)

Barbara Dalpra

(Founder of The Nyasa Partnership Limited)



What?

“*Change*” – *Community Outreach*, works in partnership with communities (including those underserved and hard-to-reach), to celebrate life, enhance the power of positive thinking and action and to encourage all people to think of themselves as strong worthy individuals.



How?

Raised funds go to support education outreach and development projects within partnered communities. Such projects (*e.g. Education, Healthcare and Sanitation*) provide services, raise awareness and understanding and more importantly sustainability. Bringing communities closer together through the embracing of shared experiences and differences.



Why?

...We are committed to joining communities and their peoples on their journey towards making a “*Change*”. Reaching and stepping out to help and share our common humanity.

Code of Conduct

“We demonstrate our ethical principles with our behaviour: what we do and what we do not do. A code of conduct guides our behaviour, helping us to put our ethical principles into practice” (IAA, 2006).

All those affiliated with *Change – Community Outreach* agree to the following Code of Conduct:

- We will be transparent and open about what we do and why we do it.
- We will be clear about what we can do and what we cannot do, and avoid raising expectations that we cannot meet.
- We will do what we say, and we will keep all the promises that we make.
- We will respect the knowledge and opinions of community members at all times.
- We will respect confidentiality relating to sensitive information.
- We will enable the participation of all community members in the development process, including people who are often stigmatised or discriminated against.
- We will consider possible risks relating to our activities and make sure that people are aware of possible risks before they become involved.
- We demonstrate non-judgemental attitudes and openness to people’s differences.
- We demonstrate equality in all our actions.
- We will actively seek to involve children fully in the development process by creating space for them to participate and demonstrating respect for and interest in their views.
- We will continually update stakeholders at all times.

Source: International HIV/AIDS Alliance (2006). *All Together Now!*. London: International HIV/AIDS Alliance. pg 24-25.

Notes Page

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“It is bad enough that people are dying of AIDS,
but no one should die of ignorance.”

Elizabeth Taylor

Change – Community Outreach is a constituted international community development fund. Founded by campaigner Mark Wilson and guided by an experienced team of Trustees and Advisors. It is an unregistered charity taking recommendations from The Charities Commission.

Like all programs, to work effectively much needed funding is required. All support (financial and moral) is always highly valued and appreciated.

To find out more information:

E: info@change-community-outreach.com
W: <http://www.change-community-outreach.com>