

HOTV TO BRING AUDIOLOGICAL CARE PROGRAMS TO NYUMBANI, KENYA

Press Release ~ January 2009

HEARt of the Village, Inc. has been invited to establish audiological care for more than 3500 children affected by HIV/AIDS and their caregivers through Nyumbani, the internationally acclaimed relief effort based in Kenya. This will be the first program of its kind to serve a destitute population that runs a high risk of hearing loss, but has almost no access to hearing care.

In February 2009, the first group of Doctor of Audiology students will travel with **HEARt** founder Dr. Tomi Browne and Dr. Yell Inveso, to Kenya, to provide audiological services to the Nyumbani programs. Future trips, as well as plans to establish a permanent facility in Kenya, are underway.



In 2005, Nyumbani founder and medical director, Angelo D'Agostino, invited his personal audiologist, Tomi Thibodeaux Browne, Au.D. to visit Nyumbani. She took her family and spent several weeks at the Nyumbani programs: the Children's Home, Lea Toto Community Outreach, and Nyumbani Village.

While at Nyumbani, Dr. Browne provided evaluations for many of the HIV-positive orphans. One of them she tested was Mungai, a precocious 11-year-old who was deafened due to complications arising from meningitis.

Dr. Browne identified Mungai as a candidate for a cochlear implant and in 2006 helped arrange for him to travel to the United States to be evaluated as a candidate. Mungai received his implant in January 2007 and returned home to Nyumbani, where he is successfully functioning as a part of the hearing community. Dr. Browne travels to Kenya regularly to provide regular follow-up care for Mungai and to provide audiological services for Nyumbani orphans.



HEARt of the Village, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that was incorporated by the Browne family in 2007 to provide audiological and other services to the poor in Sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Browne became a full time volunteer for *HEARt* after selling her private practice in 2004.

HEARt's philosophy and programs emphasize the link between good hearing and quality of life, providing sustainable audiological services, and education of both of the local community and future audiologists.

Heart of the Village, Inc. is a nonprofit organization recognized as a charity under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code, Tax ID 20-5030705.

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