

## ***Community Engagement in Your Partnership***

Your partnership with an African hospice will become richer, broader, and more effective if it is not undertaken in isolation. When hospices look beyond themselves, connections are made, support is leveraged, community visibility is increased, and serendipitous things happen! Whether you are a brand-new partnership or a more seasoned partnership, there are many things you can do to increase community involvement. At the more advanced stages of partnership, community engagement can include networking at the state, national and even international levels to improve and spread quality hospice care around the world.

### ***Some ideas for when you're starting out:***

- Create a brochure about your hospice partnership.
- Talk about your partnership with your volunteers and your Board of Directors, who are links to your community.
- Contact the press (especially when you have an event, an African visitor, an exchange, etc).
- Connect your African partnership with your existing diversity, access and outreach efforts.

### ***Some ideas for taking the connections a bit further:***

- Have coffee/lunch with others in your community who are working with AIDS and/or Africa. Just ask around. You'll be surprised at the connections that emerge.
- Invite potential community allies to your partnership committee meetings. These might include local AIDS organizations, churches already supporting AIDS or other causes in Africa, and minority churches. Community allies can be invited to become affiliate organizations, agreeing to support your partnership on a regular basis.
- Give presentations in the community (using pictures or video from your partner)—for religious groups, Rotary clubs, other civic groups, etc. Don't wait for invitations—ask if you can present. Many organizations are glad to have you present about your partnership and how they can help.
- Have a booth or present at African-related community events.

### ***Some ideas for more advanced, integrated partnerships:***

- Find out (from FHSSA) what other partnerships are in your state or area. Contact them, and start a conversation about how it's going for each of you.
- Explore the possibility of co-partnering with another hospice in your area, to share the burden and pool your resources. In Denver, The Denver Hospice and Exempla Lutheran Hospice, who are competitors in that market, are co-partnering to support Selian Hospice in Tanzania.

- Contact your state hospice organization, to see if they would be interested in partnering with an African country's national hospice/palliative care organization, for mentoring and support (Colorado Hospice Organization is partnered with the Tanzanian Palliative Care Association, for example).
- Encourage other hospices in your area to take on an African partnership.

***Some ideas for scaling up on the national/international level:***

- Contact FHSSA periodically, to find out if there are any grant opportunities or other developments that would benefit your partner or their country. Be specific about your partner's needs (see story below).
- Whenever there is an NHPCO conference, encourage those from your hospice who are attending to stop in at a FHSSA session and/or network with FHSSA staff or other partners.
- Get on the FHSSA listserv, for news, grant opportunities, etc., and join in on the Partnership Conference Calls. Both of these are opportunities for learning from others, sharing your problems and your experience, and getting support.
- Subscribe to Bashiri, FHSSA's newsletter. Better yet, submit a report, article, or pictures of your partnership.
- If you feel you want to take a more active role, volunteer for the Partnership Advisory Council, which advises FHSSA's Board on how to increase the number and effectiveness of partnerships.

***The Sky's the Limit: A Story about Scaling Up***

In April, 2006, The Denver Hospice's "partnership champion" called to speak with FHSSA about funding possibilities for their partner, Selian Lutheran hospice in Tanzania. During that phone call, she learned about a USAID grant that might fit for scaling up palliative care and training in Tanzania. The Denver Hospice became a champion and supporter of an effort to write a grant proposal, working together with FHSSA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Health Department officials. In December 2006, FHSSA was awarded \$5 million in USAID funds over the next three years, to scale up palliative care and training using the extensive Lutheran Health System in Tanzania. Now, Selian Lutheran Hospice will receive extra support to become a clinical training center for palliative care, and sixteen new home-based hospice programs are starting up in Tanzania. ***You never know what might result from a phone call to FHSSA!***

*For more information*, contact Lisa Motz-Storey, Chair, FHSSA Partnership Advisory Council, tel. 720-985-3046 or 303-807-8764, [Lmotz-storey@denverhospice.org](mailto:Lmotz-storey@denverhospice.org)