

**(Training & Outreach-con't)**

Dr. Joireman serves as a board member of Bread for the World and Upendo Village. In 2009 she spoke at a number of training events and edited the book, Church, State, and Citizen: Christian Approaches to Political Engagement.

Dr. Campbell taught a class, "The Theology of AIDS", attended the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization Planning in Seoul, Korea, in preparation for Cape Town 2010, a ONE event which will focus on anti-trafficking, and presented "Encountering AIDS & Journey of the Fight: A Personal Journey" at the World AIDS Day Forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Students participated in the annual Chicago AIDS Foundation 5K, and raised \$225 for Canticle Ministries, hosted a prayer gathering in collaboration with Bread for the World, and a variety of events during World AIDS Week including guest speakers, a film & discussion, and coffeehouse conversation.

**Wheaton Franciscans**

DGAAN Representatives: Sr. Sheila Kinsey, OSF, Director of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office (Jan-Aug), Sr. Glenna Czachor, OSF (Sep-Dec)

The Wheaton Franciscans serve as the hosts for DGAAN meetings and provide administrative services to the members. Called to be instruments of peace by their Franciscan tradition, they emphasize nonviolence in all their undertakings: to stand up for the poor and marginalized, to speak the truth courageously and respectfully, to advocated from well-informed premises, and to integrate local and global perspectives.

Sr. Sheila developed a justice and peace study program, which included information on HIV/AIDS ministry, for Franciscans serving in Kenya and presented it in Naivasha, Kenya. Now living in Rome, Sr. Sheila is actively pursuing global Church efforts for justice and peace, and advocating for the poor.

Sr. Glenna worked with Jubilee USA Network, organized a postcard and fundraising campaign, and led a group in the "Stand Up Against Global Poverty" event in October, and co-hosted the World AIDS Day Prayer service with Canticle Ministries.

The Wheaton Franciscans are also the sponsor community for Upendo Village. Under the leadership of Sr. Theresa Langfield, OSF, Executive Director, the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters lend expertise and support to Sr. Florence Muia and her community of Assumption Sisters of Nairobi, particularly with fund development in the United States. Sr. Theresa works closely with Sr. Florence, particularly during her annual visits in the US to raise consciousness and do fund development.

Sr. Theresa, and Sr. Toby Marie Bonny, OSF, spent time in Upendo Village in February-March of 2009. They witnessed the depth and breadth for the programming handled by Sr. Florence and her team, including income generating projects to promote self-sustenance and a child sponsorship program.

**Willow Creek Community Church/DuPage**

DGAAN Representative: Tom Keefer

Congregation members ran the Chicago Marathon for Team World Vision and raised \$38,000 for communities in Africa.

**DGAAN has become a very strong network through the personal and group efforts of the members. All the members are commended for their successful efforts of advocacy, networking and strengthening the lifelines of hope, locally and globally.**

For information visit <http://www.dgaan.org/>



**DuPage Global AIDS Action Network**

<http://www.dgaan.org>

**KEEPING THE PROMISE: LEADERS IN EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY  
Seventh Annual Report: 2009**

DuPage Global AIDS Action Network (DGAAN) was formed in 2002 based on three guiding principles:

**DGAAN was formed with three guiding purposes**

- To build a strong advocate voice in DuPage County, IL area and to expand that voice into local, national and international arenas.
- To find ways to network successfully and build an enduring community.
- To strengthen the lifeline, offering strands of hope to stop the spread of AIDS globally. (The word *glocal*, an amalgam of global and local, is to remind us that our efforts should be as far reaching as the HIV/AIDS pandemic itself.

The network is co-chaired by: Dr. Sandra Joireman, Ph.D., of the Department of Politics and International Relations at Wheaton College, and Sr. Glenna M. Czachor, OSF of the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office for the Wheaton Franciscans.

DGAAN is a network that relies on personal and group efforts. Individuals and organizational representatives are commended for their successful efforts of advocacy, networking and strengthening the lifelines of hope, locally and globally.

During 2009 DGAAN members focused on three strategies to achieve their goals.

- Continuing Education
- Training and Outreach
- Political Advocacy and Events

**This 2009 Annual Report demonstrates the progress of DGAAN in these areas.**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Throughout 2009, DGAAN members welcomed a number of speakers to gain more insight on HIV/AIDS related issues. These included:

- **Meredith Long**, VP for Planning at *World Relief* and author of The AIDS Crisis: What We Can Do. Dr. Long engaged the members in a compassionate and compelling conversation about the importance of the work with HIV/AIDS. Through storytelling as well as fact presentation, Dr. Long stressed the importance of addressing the behaviors that cause the spread of HIV/AIDS and the debilitating effects of racism, poverty and homophobia.
- **Adam Philips**, Faith Relations Manger at *ONE*, and pastor of *Evangelical Covenant Church* in Chicago. Pastor Philips provided an historical overview of ONE, a global advocacy organization dedicated to fight extreme poverty and preventable diseases. ONE's successful strategy is to link grassroots advocates with policy experts and celebrities, to influence foreign and domestic government leaders.

- **Sr. Florence Muia, ASN**, Founding Director of **Upendo Village** in Naivasha, Kenya, member of the Assumptions Sisters of Nairobi. Upendo Village, is a project designed to respond at the local level, to the needs of Kenyans living with HIV and AIDS in Naivasha, Kenya. Sr. Florence spoke about the work of Upendo Villages which includes:
  - > emphasis on home care for the person infected as well as all in the household.
  - > a holistic approach that addresses considers individual persons and needs.
  - > providing resources and support to improve health, increase lifespan and offer hope for a future, living with AIDS.
 Sr. Florence is a charismatic and energizing speaker. She spoke with honesty about the current needs and struggles of Upendo Village, while exuding great hope for its future, which includes ongoing development on three acres donated by the Naivasha, Kenya diocese. At present, there are three buildings – a clinic, a multi-purpose family center and a home for Sisters, who live on site. A capital campaign is being launched to raise funds for a much-needed administration building.
- **Katy Ryan**, Program/Advocacy Officer for *Catholic Relief Services (CRS)*. Ms. Ryan provided an overview of two CRS Campaigns: *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, aimed at addressing and eliminating the core causes of extreme poverty. She emphasized the interconnections between debt relief, extractive industries, migration, climate change, international trade, peace building and international assistance; and the *Hope & Dignity* program which promotes increased U.S. funding and support of HIV/AIDS and other health programs in Africa.
- **Suzanne Goering**, Coordinator of *Mosaic Initiatives*. Ms. Goering shared her personal journey to advocacy and led a discussion on HIV Home Test Kits. Testing is a proven means of stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and will help determine trends for risk, infection rates, and drug requirements. Mosaic Initiatives has led advocacy efforts to in Washington, DC with the CDC, the FDA and the Whitehouse. More grassroots efforts are needed.
- **Zach Schmidt**, Field Organizer for *Bread for the World*. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad, by changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist. Mr. Schmidt gave an update on the progress of the Foreign Assistance Reform House Bill (HR2139) and the related Senate Bill (S 1524). The aim of these bills is to make U.S. assistance more effective and accountable, by rebuilding the policy, planning and evaluation of the U.S Agency for International Development (USAID), and giving a stronger voice to that agency so there is a distinct voice when important U.S. foreign policy decisions are made.

## TRAINING AND OUTREACH

DGAAN members and member organizations shared important information and raised awareness on significant issues related to HIV/AIDS, provided much-needed services and participated in a variety of events. Key agencies and their efforts include:

### Canticle Ministries

DGAAN representatives: **David Allen** and **Jeana Stewart**, Co-Directors of Canticle Ministries. Canticle Ministries provides transitional housing and a well-integrated network of support services that provide hope, growth and opportunity for people impacted by HIV/AIDS. Canticle Ministries' co-directors work together to provide case management to clients in the Transitional Housing Program, along with participating in community collaborations and advocacy efforts around HIV/AIDS and promoting the Canticle Ministries Scholarship Fund for high school students impacted by HIV. Other outreach activities included:

- Annual Plant Sale
- Garden Party Fundraiser
- Chicago AIDS Run & Walk  
(100% of the proceeds from these events contributed to the Scholarship Fund)

## (Training & Outreach-con't)

- Canticle Ministries, along with the Wheaton Franciscan Office of Justice & Peace hosted a prayer service on December 1st to commemorate World AIDS Day.

### DuPage County Health Department

DGAAN representative: **Kristin Hartsaw**, MPH, CHES - HIV Case Management Supervisor. The Case Management Program of the County Health Dept.:

- Provides resources and referrals, helping patients navigate through the systems to access medical care, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, and other public benefits.
- Case Managers are responsible for providing treatment adherence counseling with a goal of improving client adherence to both medical appointments and medication schedules.
- The dept. HIV/AIDS Program provides HIV prevention services, including testing.

Highlights for 2009:

- Initiated an educational group for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Partnered with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wheaton to provide HIV Testing at their "Lead By Example" event. Nearly 100 people were tested and now know their HIV status.
- Co-hosted a client holiday dinner (also at St. Paul) in early December in partnership with Canticle Ministries and Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy.

### St. Joan of Ark Catholic Church, Lisle IL

DGAAN representatives: **Deacon Tom Richart**, Parishioners **Ron** and **Mary Ellen Durbin**.

- Deacon Richart traveled to Naviasha, Kenya with the Joliet Diocese mission program. Upon his return, he spoke to several organizations to raise awareness of AIDS, the importance of education, and preached on World Mission Sunday, sharing stories of his experience of the devastating poverty and effects of AIDS in Africa.
- Parish events included:
  - > S.T.E.P. Program (Steps to Eliminate Poverty), which featured guest speakers on poverty awareness, a prayer service, and fair trade sale.
  - > Email Campaign to urge the IMF to increase lending to poor countries
  - > Oktoberfest benefit to raise funds for Upendo Village.
  - > Participation in the CRS Campaign, Catholics Confront Global Poverty

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

DGAAN Representative: **Betty Bradshaw**

- Hosted free testing for HIV/AIDS testing at the church and invited neighboring churches to participate.
- Hosted educational sessions on poverty related issues, including HIV/AIDS.
- Hosted a dinner party for HIV clients commemorating World AIDS Day and providing social support.
- Contributed regularly to People's Resource Center, whose food party clients include persons with HIV/AIDS.

### Wheaton College

DGAAN Representatives: Dr. Evvy Campbell, Dr. Sandra Joireman, and student representatives from the Students Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC), whose purpose is to holistically engage the HIV/AIDS pandemic through awareness, advocacy, and service; to seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ, whose love for those who suffer inspires us to action.

Wheaton College hosted a number of events and speakers in 2009 including:

- AIDS Focus – a college-wide awareness event, featuring speakers Dr. Meredith Long and Debbie Dortzbach; student dinner, science symposium and workshop.
- Mosaic World AIDS Day breakfast & World AIDS Week events
- Planning for an AIDS Symposium (to be held in early 2010)

## POLITICAL ADVOCACY

2009 provided DGAAN members the opportunity to engage in a number of national and international advocacy campaigns. DGAAN members actively urged their legislators to support health care reform and return funding for vital services. We continue to raise awareness and educate about the national and international HIV and AIDS crisis, the need for further research and drug treatments, particularly medications for children, and the devastating effects of extreme poverty and disease. Some specific legislation includes:

### Jubilee Act (H.R. 4405)

DGAAN worked in collaboration with Jubilee USA Network, whose goal is the definitive cancellation of crushing debts and fighting poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Jubilee USA worked diligently for legislation in Congress that expands critical debt cancellation to 22 additional impoverished countries left out of previous debt relief deals and calls for an end to harmful economic conditions and an audit of past odious and illegitimate debts.

DGAAN members supported and promoted the Jubilee Act by sending letters and postcards, making phone calls and personal visits to key legislative members in Congress. In December 2009, we achieved the first step toward a successful outcome: Jubilee Act 2009, HR 4405 was introduced into Congress, co-sponsored by IL Rep. Judy Biggert. Special thanks to Ron Durbin, and several other DGAAN members who personally lobbied Rep. Biggert to gain her support.

### The Stop VULTURE Funds Act (H.R. 2932)

This bill will help preserve the poverty reduction gains achieved through global debt cancellation efforts by making it illegal for so-called "Vulture Funds" to profit at the expense of impoverished citizens of heavily indebted poor nations and U.S. tax payers who have supported international debt cancellation. DGAAN supported this legislation with a postcard and letter campaign.

### Foreign Assistance Reform Act (H.R. 2139 / S. 1524)

Among the many organizations working to promote this reform act, DGAAN worked with Bread for the World in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of poor and hungry people, by advocating for reform and restructuring of aid programs through government organizations. DGAAN members phoned wrote letters and visited legislators urging support of assistance reform. Local representatives Mark Kirk and Judy Biggert agreed to co-sponsor, Rep. Peter Roskam did not.

### Health Care Reform

Along with most of the country, DGAAN members spent a good part of 2009 anticipating and advocating for Health Care Reform in the United States. It is a sobering fact that approximately 50% of persons with HIV and AIDS do not have access to healthcare. In addition, access to other vital services such as housing, food and medications is being threatened by rising unemployment and inflation, and funding cuts to social services in both federal and state budgets.

## **GOALS FOR 2010: Universal Access and Human Rights**

### **DGAAN members have identified key areas of interest and efforts for 2010**

- Continuing support of legislative issues related to eliminating poverty and preventing disease
  - > Debt relief
  - > Foreign Aid Reform
  - > Health Care Reform
  - > Budgeting crisis (especially in Illinois)
  - > Support of Upendo Village
- Ongoing education in areas related to HIV and AIDS
- Home test kits – carefully following the FDA approval process
- Local elections – concern for the impact the elections will have on direct services and funding for HIV/AIDS and other social service programs
- Collaboration with other local groups, e.g. AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- On-going collaboration with national organizations
  - > ONE
  - > Bread for the World
  - > Jubilee USA Network
- DGAAN joins the World AIDS Campaign and its message that access for all to prevention, treatment, care and support is a fundamental right and is key to discussions of how we tackle HIV and AIDS now and in the future.

Universal Access and Human Rights is the 2009-2010 theme identified by The World AIDS Campaign. This theme is timely, as 2010 marks the tenth anniversary of the UN Millennium Development Goals, giving us an opportunity to encourage high level review of what has, and has not, been accomplished in the aim to achieve universal access to essential care. (For more information, please visit the campaign's website: <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org>)