

DENVER

BUSINESS JOURNAL

VOL. 56, NO. 50

JUNE 24-30, 2005

80 PAGES \$2.00

INSIDE



HELPING HAND

Locals join forces to aid orphans far away in Tanzania.

NONPROFITS

Giving, so far away

Locals help orphans in Tanzania

BY QUIBIAN SALAZAR-MORENO
SPECIAL TO THE BUSINESS JOURNAL

The orphaned children of a small village in Tanzania have Colorado organizations and companies to thank for a newly opened children's center.

The Lundy Foundation and the Denver-based First Data Western Union Foundation celebrated the opening of the Godfrey's Children's Center in Idweli, Tanzania, earlier this month. The center provides temporary shelter, food, schooling and health care for children infected or orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

"This project was designed by the children, not by the adults, not by the politicians, not by the donors," said Vic Dukay, president of the Denver-based Lundy Foundation. "Typically in philanthropy, donors have a great deal of power to decide how money is spent and what the vision is. This project was very different."

The idea for the center started in 2000 when a couple of Idweli college students were surfing the Web in the Tanzanian port city of Dar Es Salaam. They came across a Web site belonging to Portland-based nonprofit Africa Bridge, whose purpose is to help African communities affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The students sent an e-mail to the organization, informing them of the large number of orphaned children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in their village. Africa Bridge set up a facilitation team to meet with the Tanzanian children and ascertain their needs.

Dukay had just signed on to do executive coaching for Africa Bridge, which asked him if the Lundy Foundation would be interested in going to Tanzania and possibly participating in the project along with a Tanzanian nonprofit, Godfrey's Children.

When Dukay launched the Lundy Foundation in 1991, in honor of Denver attorney Steve Lundy — who died of AIDS in



KATHLEEN LAVINE | BUSINESS JOURNAL

Vic Dukay, president of the Lundy Foundation, partnered with First Data Western Union Foundation to start Godfrey's Children's Center in Tanzania.



Children eat lunch in the dining hall of Godfrey's Children's Center.

1991 — its focus was mostly on assisting local HIV/AIDS service providers, and running skill-building programs and leadership workshops.

But the Tanzanian project was a first for the organization.

"This project is our first foray across the big pond and our first foray into focusing on children with HIV/AIDS," Dukay said. "It was not strategically planned that the Lundy Foundation would expand and do Africa work, it was just sort of by luck and chance."

After several years of research and planning, Dukay approached Bob Beckes, senior vice president of First Data Properties, a division of First Data, and asked if First Data's foundation arm would be



A young boy left an orphan by AIDS will live at Godfrey's Children's Center.

interested in the Tanzanian project. The First Data Western Union Foundation already was familiar with the plight in Africa, having worked with organizations in Kenya and other nations to assist those affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis.

"The foundation has a commitment to making grants all over the world," said Ellen Brown, senior program director of First Data Western Union Foundation. "In this particular case, this grant to support, provide shelter, schooling and a place for orphans of HIV/AIDS fits that goal and objective perfectly. It's not the first time we've done it, and it's not going to be the last time, since the HIV/AIDS crisis is pandemic."

The First Data Western Union Founda-

'It was not strategically planned that the Lundy Foundation would expand and do Africa work, it was just sort of by luck and chance.'

Vic Dukay

foundation president

tion gave \$10,000 to the project in 2004, before ground was even broken. Other companies in Colorado have donated in-kind services, including Frontier Airlines, Vermillion Design and British Airways, which has a main office at DIA. When the project was near completion earlier this year, First Data Western Union gave an additional \$20,000 to help complete it.

"First Data has been an absolute delight to work with," Dukay said. "Some funders control the purse strings very tight; First Data has not done that. They wanted us to be clear from the very beginning what our mission was, and our goals and our timeline for accomplishing them. Once we presented it to them, they said here's the cash—go do it."

"We built the entire center for under \$120,000, and I'm not even sure you can add a garage to your home here in Denver for that amount of money. It's an amazing thing what our dollars can do to alleviate suffering."

The center shelters 50 children and eventually will accommodate 300. The Lundy Foundation will financially support the center for several years, at about \$20,000 annually, until the village and surrounding communities can maintain it on their own. Meanwhile, Dukay is in talks with USAID to replicate the project in eight to 12 other villages.

"I've been very blessed to do this project; it's changed my perspective of being an American and living in the United States," Dukay said. "I have an additional filter on how lucky we are to have just the basic necessities like flushing a toilet or running hot water. They don't have any of that. It's an opportunity to use the skills sets that I developed in the corporate world to add value to something that's close to me and helpful to those children."