

# Official Opening Ceremony

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IDWELI  
CHILDREN'S  
CENTER



**Idweli, Tanzania  
East Africa  
June 8, 2005**

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LUNDY FOUNDATION

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## FACT SHEET IDWELI CHILDREN'S CENTER

### The Center

Services for 150 children, including:

- Temporary shelter for 48 children infected with HIV/AIDS or orphaned by the disease
- Three meals daily for shelter residents and others affected by HIV/AIDS
- Health care
- Preschool

### The Village Of Idweli

- Residents: 1,231
- Adults: 796
- Children: 435 – approximately 150 infected with HIV/AIDS and 150 orphaned by the disease
- Location: 12-hour bus ride from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city
- Economy: Subsistence agriculture – maize, potatoes and beans



### The Idea

- Villagers identified the plight of AIDS orphans and sought help
- Team of Tanzanian and U.S. nonprofits met with Idweli children who suggested building the Center

### The Labor

- Villagers were trained in financial management and building trades
- Paid \$1.50-\$2.00 a day – more than twice the village average wage

*A young boy orphaned by AIDS will live at Idweli Children's Center, a facility that provides temporary housing, daily meals, medical services and a preschool for children in Idweli, Tanzania.*

### Early Success

- Funders bought school uniforms, books; absences dropped from 50% to 5%
- Two classrooms were added to the Idweli Primary School

### Budget

- \$150,000 cash, including construction, first-year operations, and technical assistance
- \$300,000 in volunteer time and non-reimbursed expenses

### Sustaining The Dream

- Villagers will manage the Center and ultimately pay for its ongoing operation
- Micro-credit loans given to families caring for vulnerable children will be used to raise animals and grow crops, encouraging self-sufficiency and generating income for Center operations

## Partners

### • Residents of Idweli

- **Godfrey's Children** This Tanzanian NGO was founded on the vision of the late Dr. Godfrey Msemwa, an Idweli resident and advocate for children affected by AIDS. Fred Ben-Matola and Furaha Msemwa, both Idweli natives, have overseen construction of the children's center. Fred is a senior accountant for the Tanzania National Housing Corporation. Furaha is studying accounting at the Institute of Financial Management in Tanzania.
- **Africa Bridge** The mission of this U.S.-based nonprofit (Portland, Oregon) is to inspire and help African leaders in their struggle against HIV/AIDS. The agency works with community members to identify needs and develop strategies for meeting them. Africa Bridge was founded by Barry Childs, who was born in South Africa and raised in Tanzania. Childs retired from Abbott Laboratories as director of Learning and Development.
- **The Lundy Foundation** This U.S.-based nonprofit (Denver, Colorado) provides training in leadership and organizational development for nonprofits. In Idweli, the foundation has helped to develop personnel, governance, financial and administrative systems. Its role in the village will be to continue fundraising activities, as villagers move to make the Center a self-sustaining operation.

## Major Funders And Public Support

### Businesses

British Airways  
Frontier Airlines  
Holiday Inn - Dar es Salaam  
Patton Boggs, LLP  
Vermilion Design

### Foundations

Africa Bridge  
First Data Western Union Foundation  
Lundy Foundation  
Paul Newman Foundation

### Individuals

Archbishop Desmond Tutu  
Dennis Crumpler  
Kristina Miller  
Jeff Salzman  
Jennifer Thompson, Ph.D.

### Public Support

Archbishop Desmond Tutu  
U.S. Embassy - Tanzania  
U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo - Colorado  
U.S. Rep. Mark Udall - Colorado



*A view from the back of Idweli Children's Center. To the left is the girl's dormitory; in the center is a community hall that provides dining, school and medical facilities; on the right is a boy's dormitory.*

**REMARKS BY  
ACTING U.S.  
AMBASSADOR,  
MICHAEL OWEN**

It is a great honor to be here representing the American people and the best of our traditions: reaching out to offer some of what we have to others who need it. But the Idweli Children's Center represents even more than the money and the know-how that was contributed. It's about more than generosity.

It is about partnership. It is about combining the resources that the American partners brought with the resources that the African partners brought. It is about an exchange among friends on equal footing.

And most of all, it is about the future...a future where the lives of the people in both of our nations will be increasingly intertwined. Because if there's one thing that HIV/AIDS has taught us, it is that something as tiny as a virus can bring worldwide devastation...that we have to work together across boundaries and across cultures to end its deadly spread.

But this project teaches us a lesson that's even more important: that basic human kindness also travels across the globe...that people who are very different from each other can work together to make life better for the children, and for ourselves. And that is what we are here to celebrate today.

What makes this initiative different from many other programs addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa?



- **It was designed by Africans** with extensive feedback and input from fellow Africans;
- **It is self-sustaining** and does not depend on deep pockets or big promises, or a Western-style infrastructure to implement. It can provide significant and lasting returns with only modest financial investments; and
- **It enables Westerners to connect with Africa** to share their resources and technology and, in turn, to discover Africa's lessons about the values of community and relationship.

This project is also different because it does not rely on government funding or assistance.

In fact, about half the resources employed have been in-kind donations, reflecting a deep commitment by the staff, volunteers, and board members of all the collaborators.

This is an excellent example of a low budget, grass roots initiative.

*Children eat lunch in the dining hall of Idweli Children's Center to celebrate the opening of the facility on June 8. Seated at the head table, left to right, a Tanzanian government official, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Michael Owen, and Victor Dukay, president of the Denver-based Lundy Foundation.*

The donors are primarily family and friends, in addition to more famous individuals such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Paul Newman and some institutional support, from British Airways and First Data Western Union Foundation.



*Western Union officials Gwakisa Yoram (left) and Grace Nkuzi, (center) present Acting U.S. Ambassador Michael Owen with a \$20,000 donation to Idweli Children's Center. Western Union is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Denver-based First Data Corp.*

I want to specifically acknowledge the hard work and excellent cooperation between those who collaborated so closely to make this center a reality:

- Godfrey's Children (a Tanzanian NGO)
- Idweli Village Executive Council and villagers
- Rungwe District Government
- Lundy Foundation (a U.S. NGO), and
- Africa Bridge (another U.S. NGO)

The benefits of the collaborative approach to building this center are already becoming apparent:

- The project used Dialogue of Discovery forums to involve children and community leaders in planning. The forums resulted in a vision of care for orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, income generating projects and the construction of a Children's Center.
- The Idweli Children's Center was built by the villagers with the help of local craftsmen. This center is truly a refuge in a time of storm, providing temporary shelter, food, basic health care and nurture to orphans.
- The project created a village governing board for the Children's Center in Idweli. This board is made up of key stakeholders (including children) in the Idweli community.
- The project provided school uniforms, books and materials which has resulted in absenteeism dropping from as much as 50% in 2000 to 5% in 2004. Furthermore there has been an increase in the number of children passing national secondary school examinations from 1 in 2002 to 30 in 2004.
- The project built two classrooms at the Idweli Primary School to reduce overcrowding in classes caused by improved attendance at the school.
- The project identified a volunteer U.S. nurse with experience in the U.S. and orphanages in Nicaragua and Ghana to support the Center manager and help the start up of the operation.

- The project started a micro loan cooperative to help families fostering orphans generate income to support children in their care and at the Children's Center.
- And finally, the project has expanded the number of collaborators, to include the Lutheran and Moravian Churches in Rungwe District and the Human Development Trust, a Tanzanian non-profit based in Dar-es-Salaam.

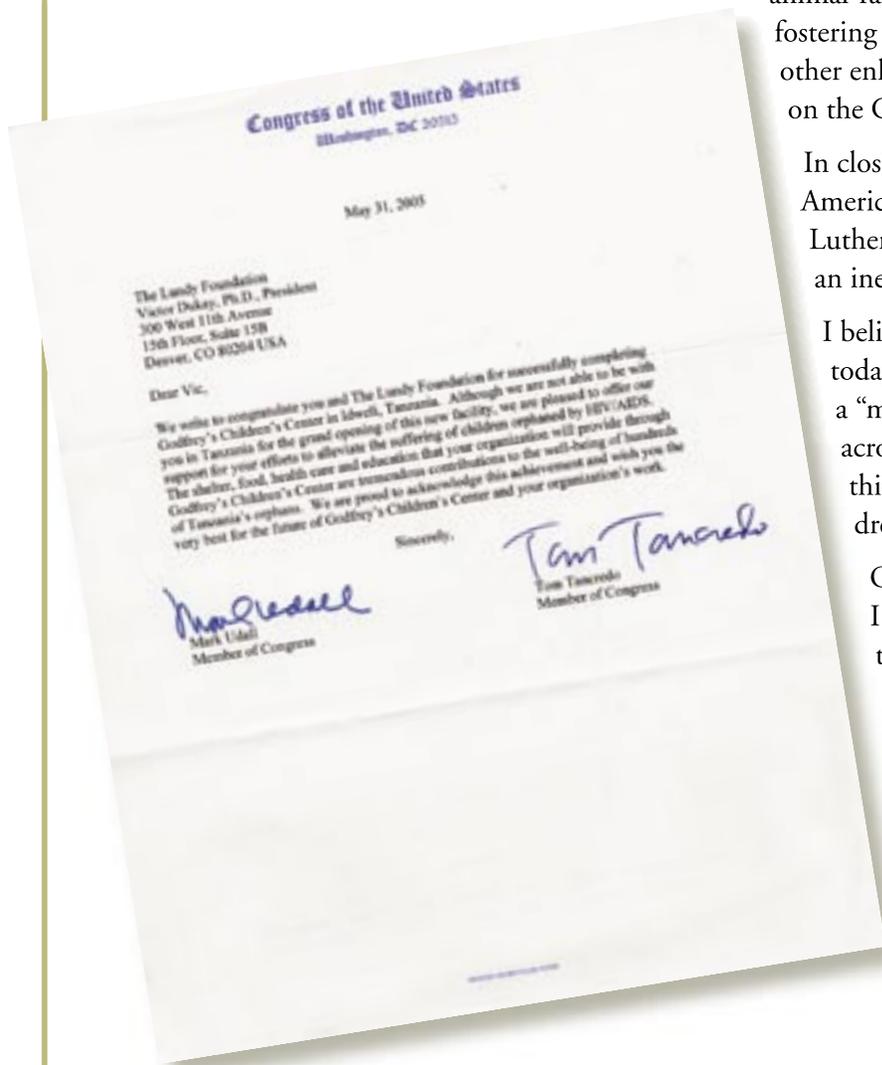
And I know that these are just the initial benefits of this project. In 2005, I am told, the center is starting a pre-school program and a pilot farm

animal-raising cooperative to help families fostering orphans to generate income. These and other enhancements are sure to continue to build on the Center's initial successes.

In closing, let me remind you of what one of America's most courageous leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality."

I believe that Dr. King's words are even more true today than in his time, and this center represents a "mutuality of interest" as we come together across cultural and international boundaries in this small village of Idweli to help these children toward a better future.

On behalf of the American people, I congratulate everyone who contributed to the success of this project—for what it means for the children, and for what it means for creating partnerships that call forth the best in everyone. Thank you very much.





*The Guardian, Tanzania's National Newspaper, The Denver Business Journal and the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania recognize the opening of the Idweli Children's Center*

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## LUNDY FOUNDATION

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