

Lundy Foundation Funds Christmas and New Year Festivities in Idweli

January 29, 2010

DENVER – More than 550 villagers of Idweli, Tanzania, celebrated Christmas and New Year's Day with food, dancing and gifts, thanks to the generosity of the Lundy Foundation and the Green Fund.

Both celebrations were planned by and primarily for the older women of the village – known as “the Mamas” – in appreciation for the care they give to many of the hundreds of Idweli youngsters orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The Lundy Foundation has had a presence in Idweli for many years and was instrumental in the creation of a children's center that operated there until December 2007.

“We wanted to brighten the holidays in some small way for Idweli's people, whom we've come to know so well,” said Victor Dukay, PhD, president and project director of the Lundy Foundation. “It's been a tough year.” HIV/AIDS continues to be a concern, and Tanzania's economy has not escaped the worldwide recession.

Dukay also thanked the Green Fund, headquartered in Eldorado Canyon, Colo., which has supported Lundy's work with children and vulnerable women over the past several years, for contributing to the celebrations.

All villagers as well as local dignitaries were invited to the festivities. The food and other supplies for both occasions were purchased entirely in Idweli to give a boost to the local economy. On Christmas, each of “the Mamas” received a dress as a gift.

“The celebrations themselves were special gifts for all,” noted Furaha Nsemwa, a Lundy staff member in Idweli. “Everyone enjoyed the dancing – and the food was delicious!”

Misana Manyama, the other Lundy staff member in Idweli, agreed. “All those at the celebrations appreciated being able to put aside their cares, dance with friends and neighbors, and eat their fill,” he said. “It helped them feel hopeful about what 2010 will bring.”

For Dukay, the Idweli celebrations are a continuation of the Lundy Foundation's grass-roots work. In its policy work, the foundation is advocating on Capitol Hill for legislation that would mandate assessments for all foreign assistance projects funded by the United States. At present, only the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, passed in July 2008, requires the assessment of outcomes, thanks in large part to the advocacy work of the Lundy Foundation and its Washington, D.C., pro bono counsel Patton Boggs, LLP.



The Lundy Foundation is encouraging Congress and the administration to adopt reforms that will require monitoring and assessment of foreign assistance projects, adequately fund such evaluations, create an oversight body to coordinate evaluation efforts, share results in a timely manner and allow recipients of U.S. aid to conduct evaluations themselves.

“Whether we are working in Washington or Idweli, we want to make a difference for the people we serve,” Dukay said.

About the Lundy Foundation

The Lundy Foundation was created in 1991. It was active in HIV/AIDS issues for the first four years of its life, and has focused since on leading an international effort to develop research protocols for assessing the effectiveness of aid programs targeting orphaned and vulnerable children in East Africa.

For additional information, please contact Vic Dukay, PhD, President of the Lundy Foundation, at (303) 589-0737 or vic@lundyfoundation.org

