
GODFREY'S CHILDREN'S CENTER



**Idweli, Tanzania
East Africa**

LUNDY FOUNDATION

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Lundy Foundation Wins Rockefeller Grant to Study Impacts of Children's Center on AIDS Orphans in Tanzania

The Denver-based Lundy Foundation has received a \$150,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to conduct a \$200,000 evaluation study focusing on the impact of a new children's center for AIDS orphans in the rural Tanzanian village of Idweli.

The Godfrey's Children's Center opened June 8, 2005, in this East African farming village of 1,200 people. About 400 of the residents are children, and about 200 of those have HIV/AIDS or have been orphaned by the disease.

The Center provides housing for 50 children, along with meals, health care and a preschool. Ultimately, it will expand to provide some or all of those services to an additional 150 village children.

A multinational team of experts led by the Lundy Foundation will conduct an 18-month pilot evaluation to determine the impact of the children's center on its residents from the psychosocial, health and economic perspectives.

"A great deal of money is being poured into Africa at an unprecedented rate, but there have been few rigorous empirical studies to determine whether work being conducted there is effective – whether it is really having a positive impact on the long-term well-being of the children," said Lundy President Vic Dukay, PhD., who heads the nonprofit organization.

Areas of study include the Center's impact on the psychosocial development and physical health of Center residents, as compared to their peers in the village. The study also will assess impacts of the children's center on the social fabric and economic self-sufficiency of the village, said Dukay.

"So few of the interventions focusing on orphans and vulnerable children actually measure the impact of such interventions," said Dr. Pat Naidoo Associate Director, Health Equity, Rockefeller Foundation, Africa Regional Office.

"The Rockefeller Foundation provided the grant, not only in the interests of helping Center residents, but also to determine the impact of this type of intervention and its potential for replication in other African villages impacted by HIV/AIDS."

The Rockefeller Foundation also was drawn in by the fact that village children were instrumental in identifying the problems faced by orphans, and in designing a facility to meet their needs. “It’s a solution the children themselves were actively involved in from the early conception of the project. Many times, an intervention such as this is imposed from outside, which makes long-term sustainability a very real problem when donor interest subsides,” Naidoo said.

“The Lundy Foundation grant will help in identifying some of the impacts of HIV/AIDS as it affects households grappling with the various ramifications of the disease. Our strategy, in talking about HIV, aims at bringing the problem closer to home...Besides the virus having broad impact – both medically and socially – on households in much of East and South Africa, caring for orphans and children has a big economic impact as well. The struggle to meet the basic needs of many of these children introduces new vulnerabilities that continue the vicious cycle of poverty, desperation and greater transmission risks for the virus.

“For us, understanding and making attempts to tackle such root causes has a direct bearing on all of our work,” Naidoo said. Rockefeller’s strategy deals with AIDS across the spectrum – from prevention to mitigation to treatment. This project fits in across that strategy.”

Furaha Nsemwa, director of Godfrey’s Children, an NGO in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, actively involved in developing the Godfrey’s Children’s Center, said that, of particular interest will be the impact on children who live away from their families, in a culture that highly values the involvement of extended families. Those extended families have been overwhelmed by the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and are often unable to help, he said.

The Lundy Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) public operating charity based in Denver, Colorado. It supports the building of collaborative leadership and the strengthening of organizational capacity in nonprofits seeking to meet the social challenges of our changing world.

Lundy joined the Tanzanian NGO, Godfrey’s Children, and Africa Bridge of Portland, Oregon, to aid villagers in planning and building the children’s center. The Lundy Foundation has since withdrawn from active management of the project to spearhead the assessment.

In addition to Dukay, the assessment team includes:

- Harryl Hollingsworth, M.A., an instructional designer and distance learning specialist in the areas of curriculum and evaluation development, serving as project manager for the evaluation project.
- Carl E. Larson, Ph.D., a retired professor of Human Communication at the University of Denver and an expert in evaluative methodology.
- Dr. Frederick Mahenge, M.D., Director - Dept. of Psychiatry, Mbeya Consultant Hospital Mbeya – Tanzania; and consultant and supervisor, National Mental Health Programme for Tanzania.
- Claude Ann Mellins, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, Columbia University, NY., and Consultant, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Office of AIDS Research, on issues related to Pediatric AIDS.
- Rosemarie R.N.G. Mwaipopo, Ph.D., is a lecturer in sociology and anthropology at the University of Dar es Salaam, and a consultant for UNICEF.
- Furaha Msemwa, a director of Godfrey’s Children (a Tanzania NGO) is completing his third year in the accounting program at the Institute of Finance Management in Dar es Salaam.
- Dr. Fausta Maliti Philip, M.D., M.Med Psych., is a psychiatrist at Muhimbili National Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Jennifer Thompson, Ph.D., an expert in human communications studies with a concentration in intercultural, cross-cultural and interracial communication.
- Allan D. Wallis, Ph.D., Interim Director of the Wirth Chair in Sustainable Environmental and Community Development, University of Colorado at Denver, an expert in economic development and HIV/AIDS.