

Hope For AIDS Home-Based Care

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Category: Development and relief

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Thokozani with her grandmother after a year of treatment.

As the AIDS pandemic spreads, the already stretched Malawian health system is unable to cope, with 70% of hospital wards filled with HIV patients. Hospitals are turning HIV sufferers away. Some have family, some have no one. Families generally do not know what to do for these patients. SIMaid is in the process of establishing home-based care programs in 5 communities, where volunteers make regular care visits to the sick and offer health advice to families.

Update from SIM Malawi HOPE for AIDS nurse Helen Fazakerley, June 2010.

Thokozani lives with her grandparents. We know nothing of her father, while her mother, re-married, is unable to include her in her new life.

A year ago Thokozani was malnourished, dirty, dressed in a few shabby clothes. She had sores all over, some of them oozing, and she was covered in flies. But today she is truly beautiful, here's how it happened.

The HOPE for AIDS staff assisted with feeding, offering free nutritious food from the clinic, and advising her family to give her more than ONE meal a day!

Antiseptic solution, cream, and gauze were supplied for cleaning and healing her wounds, and

soap was given to enable them to wash her, her clothes, and keep her good skin healthy. My medical book, says such sores are rare, and a course of antibiotics, and careful washing of the skin clears it up in 5 days! In Malawi they're fairly common, and don't heal well, but when I saw Thokozani today there was finally no sign of any sores...just lovely skin. It took 13 months!

One of the most worthwhile aspects of this program is teaching ordinary folk how to change their situation. All the time it is an uphill struggle to go against the apathy and acceptance of poverty, and "I can't do anything about it!" yet seeing Thokozani today I know it's possible.



The relief and development fund of SIM Australia www.sim.org.au
PO Box 42 Penshurst NSW 2222 Tel: (02) 8568 8890
ABN 43 484 030 223

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Contact: Juanita Manahan - Project Promotions Manager simaid@sim.org.au