

WWO Worldwide Orphans Foundation

Volume 5 | Issue 2 | December 2006

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

So much has happened in the last six months that we decided to enlarge this issue of the newsletter to report on all of our activities and share with you our growing list of needs. Please use the enclosed envelope to help support any of the programs you read about in the following pages, or to help with our general fund. The growth of our programs and the numbers of children we serve require that WWO keep pace structurally and organizationally.

There is plenty of news from the WWO Board of Directors. First, we are saying farewell to Melissa Faye Greene who has served faithfully on the Board for many years. Melissa is the mother of nine (five of whom were adopted) and she is an acclaimed author. Her latest book, "There Is No Me Without You," is a moving and informative study of the AIDS crisis in Ethiopia. We wish Melissa well and look forward to many more books (and children?) in the future.



Mary Knobler & Janet Kagan with children from AHOPE.



WWO at the African Union: Dr. Sophie Mengistu, Mimi Asfaw, Mary Knobler, Janet Kagan and Ruby Kaur



Dr. Aronson at the XVI International AIDS Conference

Last July, Janet Kagan and Mary Knobler (Chair and Member of the Board), spent ten days on a site visit to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They went to Barlow House, WWO's free standing HIV/AIDS pediatric clinic and attended the African Union conference where they discussed issues and ideas with leaders of NGO's as well as with members of the Clinton Foundation team (including Bill Clinton).

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the WWO Board of Directors. They are Anthony Benten, Vice President and Treasurer, The New York Times Company; Yvette Teofan, Partner in the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb; and Edward Vetri, President, Wind-up Entertainment. Board Chair Janet Kagan said of these three new appointments, "Anthony Benten, Yvette Teofan and Ed Vetri bring new strengths and talents to our Board, especially in the financial and legal areas. They are committed to the WWO mission and have already begun to fulfill significant roles. These appointments help WWO to expand the outreach and expertise of our Board. We welcome Tony, Yvette and Ed to the Board and to the WWO community."

I was in Toronto last August for the XVI International AIDS Conference. It was a stirring time and I was heartened and encouraged to meet with representatives from many organizations working hard to ensure medication for all people with HIV/AIDS. I was especially gratified to meet with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) President Michael Weinstein and Global Advocacy Director Terri Ford. WWO will be partnering with AHF in Ethiopia to establish the WWO-AHF Family Health Center.

WWO's Second Annual Benefit Gala was held on October 16th (see center pages) and under the skilled leadership of Co-Chairs Janet Kagan and Mary Knobler, \$1.4 million was raised for WWO programs. We are deeply grateful to hosts Deborra-Lee Furness Jackman, Katie Couric and Whoopi Goldberg, our honoree Mary Fisher, our special guests Mary-Louise Parker, Naomi Watts and Liya Kebede, and of course our Tony-award winning entertainment director, Kathleen Marshall, stage manager Peter Hanson, and an incredible group of entertainers including Kristin Chenoweth, Melissa Errico, Peter Jay Fernandez, Donna Murphy, Michael Parrish and Suzie Schomaker.

From Asia to Africa to Eastern Europe ... please read about all we are doing and the support we are receiving. Leadership gifts, grants, and creative fundraising efforts run the gamut from private dinners to sponsored marathons. People understand WWO's work and are eager to help. They know, as you do, that we are all part of something that matters in the lives of the most vulnerable children in the world.

Happy holidays and my best wishes for a healthy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane".

Dr. Jane Aronson,
Founder & Executive Medical Director

**WWO's office has moved to
Maplewood, New Jersey.**

Please note our new information:

511 Valley Street | 2nd Floor

Maplewood, NJ 07040

Tel: (973) 793-9961

www.wwo.org

Early Intervention Program Growing Internationally

WVO's Early Intervention Program (the EIP or "granny" program) addresses a child's basic need for a one-to-one relationship with a caring adult. Experts in the field of child development and psychology long have recognized that the longer a child lives in an institution without this attention, the further behind that child's development falls. Pioneered in the Targoviste Orphanage in Bulgaria by WVO's Chief Program Officer, Dr. Jill Cole, the granny program pays women in local communities a stipend to work directly with one or two children, under the supervision of the orphanage's psychologist.

After the first year, developmental tests showed that all the children in the granny program had achieved appropriate milestones – a major breakthrough. There are now four Bulgarian programs, three of which are fully underwritten by Jim and Nadine Hartnett (Targoviste), Robert Brenner (Rousse) and Howard and Janet Kagan (Pleven). There are two programs in Azerbaijan in partnership with United Aid for Azerbaijan, one in Viet Nam (called Hieu Roi Thuong, or "heart"), for which both men and women are working – and that's a first! An eighth early intervention program is set to begin in Ethiopia.

*Here is an excerpt from Granny Milka's journal
(Pleven, Bulgaria):*

"My little girl is now learning to walk without my help. I heard her saying 'granny' for the second time. Now the weather is warm, we often go out for a walk, I cradle her and she is not afraid. I am happy that I can help this child, to make her understand that there are good people who want to take care of children."

From Rousse, Bulgaria, Granny Penka writes: "My work makes me very happy. I notice the great advancement in (the child's) development. From a child so lagging behind, he has achieved so much success and I am proud to be one of the causes. My greatest joy now is that he makes a few steps while walking without my help....I love this child and I love to work with him."



The Pleven Grannies meeting their new children. / Photo By: Jill Cole

A \$500 gift to WVO can sponsor a developmental "toy chest" for toddlers that is designed to challenge, foster, and meet the developmental needs and milestones of children in this age group. Toys will be selected by educators and clinicians who work closely with these children and their devoted grannies.

Arts and Recreation – Keeping Pace With HIV Treatment in Ethiopia

WVO's Barlow House was the first free-standing pediatric AIDS clinic in Ethiopia and we were the first to treat orphans with HIV/AIDS. Today we are proud to be treating children referred from African Service Committee as well as from the AHOPE, Atetegeb, Artists for Charity and Hope for Children Orphanages in Addis Ababa. There are an increasing number of walk-in visits from parents with ill children who have come to know and trust Barlow House. This spring, WVO, in partnership with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, will officially open our new, expanded care facility, the WVO-AHF Family Healthcare Center.

WVO has initiated a series of programs for children who are living with HIV to ensure that they have opportunity to flourish in every aspect of their lives. Orphan Ranger Lee Samuel began a hugely popular Orphan Soccer League last year that now includes children from six different orphanages.

Last April, WVO sent four actors/directors – James Hallett, James Haven, Antoinette LaVecchia and Lisa Rothe - to Ethiopia to work with children from the AHOPE Orphanage. They spent a month with the kids teaching them what a play is, how to write a script, how to create scenery and how to direct and act. The children wrote skits based on their own life experiences, and Dr. Sophie Mengistu, WVO Medical Director, Ethiopia, was able to secure the National Theater for a show-stopping performance on May 17, 2006. The audience of 1,500 included schoolchildren, their parents and teachers, government officials, Clinton Foundation officials, and others. It was a great experience, not only for the performers, but for the audience – for many, it was the first time HIV/AIDS had a face that was hopeful and unafraid.

In the following months, Orphan Rangers Kristine Templeton and Suzie Schomaker worked with the same group of children to develop their artistic and musical abilities. Both will be returning to Ethiopia in the coming year as part of the Suzie Schomaker Visiting Artist Series.

It costs \$5,000 to send an Orphan Ranger to Ethiopia for three months. Your gift can help keep the arts, theater and recreation program going strong. With a gift of \$2,000 you can purchase new medical equipment for the WVO-AHF Family Healthcare Center, and with \$1,000 WVO can outfit an orphan soccer team with uniforms, cleats, sporting goods and safety equipment. ■

**We are deeply grateful
to The Edward and Leslye
Phillips Family Foundation,
which has made a
leadership gift of
\$250,000 over two years
for a primary school for
Ethiopian orphans.**

WWO Partners in Kenya

Last April, WWO partnered with the humanitarian organization, Rafiki Society, which supports the Samburu Handicap Education and Rehabilitation Program (SHERP) in Maralal, Kenya. At their request, Mary Margaret (Missy) Windsor, an exceptional occupational therapist and WWO Orphan Ranger, traveled to Maralal with Dr. Bonnie Gillis, a psychologist and a member of the Rafiki Board. Their goal was to determine the needs and status of the children living at SHERP.

The trip, to the very outpost of the African bush, was extremely difficult. The town itself has no paved roads and at night it is considered safest to stay indoors and away from the cattle rustlers whose fights often erupt into gunfire.

During her three week stay, Missy was able to create a master list for each child, including their social and medical history as well as a photograph. Three workshops were held concerning children with disabilities. Attendees included staff from the Catholic Mission Clinic, the primary and secondary schools, and SHERP. In addition, specific recommendations were made for some of the children, including a chair with padding for Laaku Lengess who suffers from spastic quadriplegia and has severe pressure sores (see picture, above right).

Missy observed in her journal that, “the sanitary conditions are appalling...and I am just talking about the guest house: the same cloth and bucket are used for cleaning the floors and the dishes. I am afraid to see what is used for cleaning the toilets. There is no hot water in the kitchen.” She also notes that, “the staff seems tremendously dedicated; the people here are honest and I think can be trusted to do what is right for the children, when there is money and education to help them make good decisions.” ■



Missy's recommendations for future WWO involvement are to develop staff, introduce a granny program, purchase playground equipment and a washing machine, and begin a subsistence garden.

Disabled children receive very little care addressing their special needs. Healthy infants often lie in cribs for hours, with muscles becoming weaker and weaker and leading to preventable disabilities. Your \$100 gift can provide mobility for a walking chair for one child. A gift of \$1,600 will furnish SHERP with a washing machine.



Medical Mentor Program Launched in Viet Nam

Last February, the government of Viet Nam and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief began supplying free antiretroviral medicines (ARV) to children with HIV/AIDS throughout the country. Dr. Aronson, understanding that the administration of these drugs requires experience and expertise, worked with the Columbia University volunteer team to create WWO's Medical Mentor Program, which was launched in Viet Nam last summer.

The Medical Mentor Program is a way to channel the expertise of US pediatric HIV/AIDS experts. US pediatricians volunteer to spend a month in Viet Nam working on a one-to-one basis with a Vietnamese pediatrician. The mentor teaches the appropriate timing, selection and dosing of ARV, as well as how to recognize and manage tuberculosis in children with HIV. WWO partnerships have been forged with the CDC, the Clinton Foundation, and USAID to identify talented and devoted mentors. WWO greatly appreciates Bristol Myers-Squibb's generous underwriting of this new training phase. A generous grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has increased WWO's funding to \$239,000 for treatment for the coming fiscal year.

Dr. Glenn Fennelly, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, served as a medical mentor for a month last August. He and his family lived in Ho Chi Minh City where Dr. Fennelly worked closely with Vietnamese counterparts. While there, Elisa de la Roche (Dr. Fennelly's wife), with the help of their daughter Yuri, created puppet shows in the hospital clinic hallways, to the children's great delight (see picture, above left).

WWO is the first non-governmental organization (NGO) to train Vietnamese pediatricians and nurses in the care of children with HIV-AIDS, so that they, in turn, can treat Vietnamese orphans with ARV's. In Viet Nam, WWO operates three treatment sites in orphanages. ■

You can sponsor five children for a year's HIV lab tests for a donation of \$1,500.

NEW FACES NEW PLACES

WWO could not achieve its delivery of excellent services to more and more children without the expertise and dedication of its staff. Dr. Jill Cole, formerly a Program Consultant, has been named WWO Chief Program Officer. She is responsible for the implementation of programs worldwide. Jill brings to WWO her 38 years of work on the International scene. She was a consultant to UNICEF, the Director of International Adoption at Spence Chapin, and the International Consultant to the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNICEF (Serbia and Montenegro) during which time she developed protocols for child protection for the entire country. Jill first consulted for WWO in 2000. She holds a B.A. in History from Smith College and an MSW and DSW from Columbia University.

WWO wants to express very special thanks to our former Executive Director Kashif Iqbal. Kashif was a very significant part of our growth in the last year, and we wish him great success in his new position. Our new Executive Director, Scott Cotenoff, has served as a strategic and administrative consultant to WWO. Scott has managed organizations and developed programs for the NYC Commission on Human Rights, Queens Legal Services/HIV Advocacy Project, the NYC Department of Health and the Children's Hope Foundation. Scott holds a B.S. in Political Science from Duke University, a J.D. degree from Boston University School of Law, and a Masters of Public Health from Hunter College.

Finally, WWO welcomes Bertha Garcia, who is the new Office Manager. Bertha comes to us from the Frost Valley YMCA Development Office. She holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science from Berkeley College.

The last newsletter reported on the appointment of Linh Do as Project Administrator in Viet Nam, and now Makseba "Mimi" Asfaw has been named to that position in Ethiopia. Prior to joining WWO Mimi analyzed and approved financial contracts for RealNetworks Inc. She served as a commissioner of the Seattle Women's Commission focusing on issues of immigrant and refugee women. Mimi holds a B.S. degree in Business and Information Systems and an MBA. She is Ethiopian by birth and has lived in the Seattle area for the last 16 years. She traveled to Ethiopia last summer to see the work WWO is doing, and now looks forward to making a significant contribution and a positive difference. ■



Dr. Jill Cole, Dr. Jane Aronson & Scott Cotenoff



Mimi Asfaw / Photo By: Jill Cole

WWO's office has moved to Maplewood, New Jersey.

Please note our new information:

511 Valley Street, 2nd Floor | Maplewood, NJ 07040

Tel: (973) 763-9961 | Fax: (973) 763.8640

www.wwo.org

GIVING LEVELS



Please complete both sides of form and mail or fax to:

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Maplewood, NJ 10021
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- _____ \$5,000 sponsor an Orphan Ranger for three months
- _____ \$2,000 purchase new medical equipment for the WWO-AHF Family Center in Addis Ababa.
- _____ \$1,500 sponsor five HIV-positive children in Viet Nam with lab tests for a year
- _____ \$1,000 outfit an orphan soccer team with uniforms, cleats, sporting goods and safety equipment
- _____ \$ 500 provide Bulgarian toddlers with a developmental toy chest
- _____ \$ 100 purchase a padded walking chair for a quadriplegic child in Kenya

Please accept my gift in the amount of \$ _____

_____ My employer has a matching gifts program

_____ I would like to include WWO in my estate planning

A Gift That Counts

Andrew and Lisa Vaughan wanted friends and family to make a meaningful gift in honor of their newly adopted son, Sam (from Korea). So when they held his welcome home party, they asked guests to make a gift to WWO in honor of Sam and to help the children left behind. They sent DVDs of the gala film with the invitation and had pledge cards on hand. Sam's welcome home party raised \$8,000 for WWO. The most meaningful gifts were from Sam's three older siblings, who offered up their life savings. So thank you to Andrew and Lisa and all the generous guests, but most of all thank you to Jack (age 7) who gave \$55.00; Brittany (age 6) for her \$49.00 and Emily (age 4) who donated \$3.50. ■

Andrew & Lisa Vaughan with their children (left to right) Jack, Brittany, Emily and Sam.



Jim Conley proudly displaying his special WWO running shirt.

Run For Their Lives

Jim Conley tells his story about running for WWO: I was introduced to WWO by John and Susie Rolander. For 2 years, I've been their guest at WWO's Benefit Gala and have been humbled by the sincere efforts of Dr. Jane and her support system. I was struck by the "power of one" in Dr. Jane's speech and wondered what I could do to make a difference. I thought of the daily struggles and tireless work that go into making WWO the effective and powerful organization that it is today. I am a runner and have been training for the Dublin Marathon for the past 5 months. As I listened to Dr. Jane at the Gala, I made the commitment to reach out to my friends and ask for their support for this organization. In return, I would run this marathon while spreading the word about WWO and raise money that could be useful for so many. I have raised over \$2,000.00 so far and the donations are still coming in. I am an actor, husband and father of two incredible children and have learned a very important lesson that will be with me for the rest of my life, never underestimate the "power of one!"

For Chris Yanney from Barclay's Capital, it was his seventh marathon, and the second time he raised money for WWO. Last year in Iowa, supporters donated \$5,000 to WWO; this year it was the New York City Marathon and he's raised more than \$10,000. Next year? Chris is thinking of getting friends to run the Philadelphia marathon with him – with all sponsorships going to WWO.

Jim and Chris are runners who exercise their hearts in more than one way. Many thanks to you both. ■

People Who Care

When people first learn that there are 150 million children living in the world without parental care, some respond by throwing up their hands and say, "I can't make a difference." We know that is not true and have decided to inaugurate an occasional column about people who have contributed to WWO in creative and uplifting ways. From an extraordinary dinner party in California to a fish store in New Jersey, from major leadership gifts to a child's savings, here are how people can and do make a difference.

Ramyne Khan and Garry Spire are people who care about others. When their dear friends Claude and Mary Knobler added a third child to their family through adoption, and when they met him – a five-year old Ethiopian boy named Nati – they were immensely moved. After hearing the Knoblers talk about their good friend Dr. Jane and WWO, the Spires decided that they wanted to help. That is how Mary and Claude Knobler and Ramyne and Garry Spire co-hosted a dinner at the Spires' magnificent Pacific Palisades home in California. Dr. Aronson, Board Chair Janet Kagan, and Claude Knobler spoke movingly about the children served by WWO programs. Guests knew it was a "bring your checkbook" event and the final total raised was \$100,000. To Mary and Claude, Ramyne and Garry, thank you for generously introducing WWO to a whole new group of friends and supporters.

Freeman's Fish Store in Maplewood, NJ had finished their renovations. The final inspection was scheduled and John and Helen Harvey, anticipating their reopening, had stocked the stores to the gills (!) with fresh fish. Then came the call that the inspection was postponed for a day. Unable to legally sell the fish, the Harveys came up with an innovative solution: they created FISH FOR CHARITY DAY by announcing that they were giving away fish in return for a donation (of any amount) to WWO. Customers fell hook, line and sinker and the Harveys proudly presented WWO with a check for \$1,000.

Putumayo Partnership

Putumayo Kids' new CD, *Asian Dreamland*, is a harmonious collection of tranquil lullabies and soothing songs gathered from across the Asian continent. Putumayo Kids is donating a portion of its proceeds from the sale of *Asian Dreamland* to WWO, in recognition of WWO's significant work. You'll find *Asian Dreamland* in thousands of book, record and gift stores, or order it online at www.putumayo.com. And thank you, Putumayo Kids from all the kids of WWO! ■

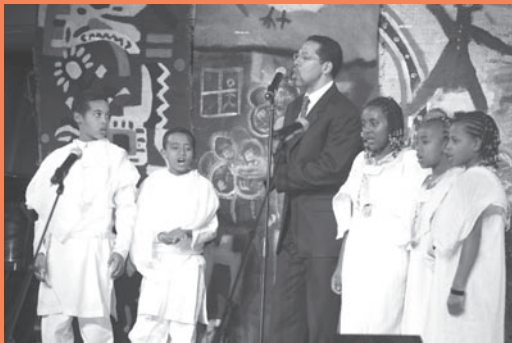


Helen & John Harvey, proprietors of Freeman's Fish (photo by: Desalegn Aronson)

This Little Light of Mine:



*Tony award-winner Donna Murphy
Photo By: Kelly Campbell*



*The children from AHOPE with Peter Jay Fernandez
Photo by: Kelly Campbell*



*Dr. Aronson with humanitarians Liya & Kassy Kebede
Photo by: Kelly Campbell*



*Broadway & TV star Kristin Chenoweth
Photo by: Kelly Campbell*



*Howard and Janet Kagan, Dr. Aronson, Mary and Claude Knobler
Photo By: Amelia Panico*



*Dr. Sophie Mengistu with the children from AHOPE and WWO Orphan Rangers
Photo By: Amelia Panico*



*Hostess Katie Couric,
Honoree Mary Fisher and Dr. Aronson
Photo By: Kelly Campbell*

BENEFIT GALA 2006



*The theme this year was “This Little Light of Mine,”
and the lights were shining brightly on the night of October 16th.
\$1.4 million was raised in order to serve greater numbers of children
with expanded programs, and 870 guests were welcomed at Cipriani Wall Street.*

*This year’s recipient of the Honorary Orphan Ranger Award was Mary Fisher,
the Special Representative for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.
Ms. Fisher, who is HIV-positive, is an activist, artist and advocate for those with HIV/AIDS.
Deborra-Lee Furness Jackman and Katie Couric hosted the event, and Liya Kebede,
Mary-Louise Parker, Naomi Watts and Whoopi Goldberg were present to lend their support.*

*A highlight of the evening was the performance by five of the children from
AHOPE Orphanage who are cared for at Barlow House and who had participated in
WWO’s arts and theater program last Spring.*

*To the WWO Board of Directors, the Honorary Benefit Committee and
the incredibly hard-working Benefit Committee, co-chaired by
Janet Kagan and Mary Knobler, as well as to our dedicated volunteers,
we offer profound appreciation.*



BREAKING NEWS

Dr. Aronson Accepting World of Children Humanitarian Award
November 9, 2006
Photo By: Amelia Panico

At a press conference at UNICEF House this morning, Dr. Jane Aronson won the prestigious World of Children 2006 Humanitarian Award, which includes a donation of \$50,000 to WWO. World of Children honors child advocates whose dedicated services improve the lives of children.

WWO Worldwide Orphans Foundation

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