



WORKING TOGETHER

Tiyende Pamodzi

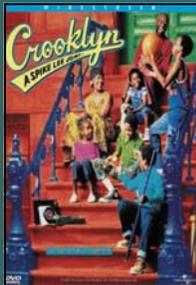
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NOW SHOWING

JANUARY 10:
Crooklyn



JANUARY 24:
Diary of a Mad Black Woman



American Center 5:30 PM
FREE

American Embassy Lusaka
Public Affairs Section
American Center
COMESA Building
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U.S.-BASED HASBRO TOYS GIVES BIG TO ZAMBIA



A public-private partnership helps orphans and vulnerable children *see page 4 >*

A Message from Ambassador Carmen Martinez



Americans have a generous spirit. In 2005, Americans spent more than 29 million hours doing volunteer work—an amount of time that added up to roughly \$226 million dollars. As Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, Merle Curti says, “Emphasis on voluntary initiative has helped give America her national character.”

I was reminded of this during a wonderful visit to Chikumbuso Community Center last month. I was there, along with other generous corporate donors, handing out toy dolls to girls at the school. The beautiful dolls were made by Hasbro Toys, specifically to be given away—and look like they could be the baby sisters of the Zambian girls now taking care of them! The arrangement, which came about after encouragement from U.S.-partner RAPIDS, shows what I believe will be the next step in corporate social responsibility and generosity to help those affected by HIV/AIDS. But more importantly, they will make 18,000+ Zambian children very happy.

So will our Toys for Tots campaign, an annual Christmastime campaign by the U.S. Marine Security Guards here in Zambia and around the world. Since 1947, Marines have collected more than 100 million toys for needy children around the world. The Marines in Lusaka handed out hundreds of toys this year at Lusaka orphanages.

With pride, we applaud corporate and civic generosity here and around the world.

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GETTING TO KNOW...

Mophat Phiri



Mophat shows off his VCT bracelet.

Mophat Phiri is a motor pool driver at the U.S. Embassy. Mophat joined the Embassy in June 1987, initially on the charforce, before working as a maintenance clerk then a

switch board operator and finally to motor pool.

On November 8, 2007, Mophat was assigned to drive the Public Affairs team for an HIV/AIDS benefit concert aimed at raising awareness about the importance of voluntary counseling and testing among Zambian youth, at Maramba Stadium in Livingstone.

“I was very happy to see so many people getting tested for HIV and I thought of getting tested myself, so that I know my status. I did it voluntarily and I tested negative”.

I am therefore encouraging my fellow drivers to go for an HIV test so that they know their status. **“I know, do you know? Please get tested and know your status”**

“...USED CORRECTLY THESE CONDOMS WILL SAVE ZAMBIAN LIVES.”

[Excerpts from a speech delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Koplovsky, at Medical Stores Limited in Lusaka.]

Condoms save lives. The condoms we are giving you today will save Zambian lives.

We are here today to give the first half of what will be a donation of 40 million male condoms. This shipment, containing 20 million condoms, has been given directly to the Zambian Ministry of Health by the U.S. Government. These condoms will enable Zambians to protect themselves from HIV and sexually-transmitted infections.

These 40 million condoms represent a simple, but profoundly meaningful, exchange. With this government-to-government exchange, the American people are giving directly to the Zambian Ministry which fights daily to protect its citizens.

The Zambian National Health Strategic Plan clearly articulates a comprehensive strategy for HIV prevention, an approach which includes abstinence, being faithful and correct and consistent condom use. It is essential that people understand that the ABC approaches should not be seen as separate, unrelated pieces, but rather as a comprehensive whole. People everywhere need to be equally well-versed in A, B and C.

However, it is also essential to note that “C”—the correct and consistent use of condoms—is not an excuse to forego abstinence or being faithful. A, B and C are equally important.

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GETTING TOGETHER



Left: Public Affairs Officer Christopher Wurst (second from left) meets with outgoing Zambian press attachés (from left): Rejoice Lukumba (London), Philip Chirwa (Pretoria), Dorcas Ilunga-Chileshe (Addis Ababa) and Ben Kangwa (Washington, DC) to discuss the roles of press attachés on diplomatic assignments abroad.



Above: Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Koplovsky presents Deputy Health Minister Dr. Lwipa Puma with a copy of *Our Family, Our Choice*. The new film, produced by USAID partner Health Communication Partnership, teaches family planning strategies for people living with HIV. The film was aired on ZNBC on World AIDS Day.

Right: Ambassador Martinez presents the U.S. Embassy-sponsored Award for HIV/AIDS Reporting to *Post* reporter Mazuzyo Chakwe while Media Institute for Southern Africa-Zambia Chairman Henry Kabwe looks on. 2007 was the sixth year the U.S. Embassy sponsored the MISA Awards, which go to the best print, TV, radio and photojournalism coverage of HIV/AIDS issues in Zambia.



Above: One of the Mwale Sisters performs at the 6th annual MISA Awards

All three approaches are forms of risk management but, clearly, each comes with a different level of risk. Allow me to illustrate the point I am trying to make:

If I stay out of the water completely, I will not drown. It's an undeniable fact. I will be hot, but I will be dry and I will be alive.

But, it is hot outside! I know the risks, but I must cool off. How can I mitigate the risks? I can make sure that I have learned how to swim. I can try to stay close to shore. I can make sure that I swim only in those parts of the Zambezi that are known to be safe. I can stay away from fast moving currents. If I do all of those things, the chances are that I will be safe. However, when I dip my toe into the river, I will be taking a risk and, despite all of my safe behavior, I may still get carried off by the river.

But the sun is unrelenting, and the water appears calm. I decide to go into the deeper waters. It's a risk, surely, but one I've decided to take.

However, I do know that I can lessen the risk even more by wearing a life jacket. The life jacket, of course, is not a guarantee of my safety, but it greatly increases the chances of my survival.



From a risk management perspective, there's no doubt that Choice A—staying out of the water completely—is my best bet. My risks of drowning are extremely low. My risks appear immediately with Choice B. However, by sticking to familiar waters and preparing myself, I am keeping those risks low. When I venture into deeper waters—Choice C—I am cutting myself off from many risk management variables that I can control. However, by choosing to wear a life preserver, I am managing my risks to the best extent possible.

If I stay on the banks of the Zambezi, I stay alive. If I dive in with a life jacket, I might just save my life.

Minister...here are 40 millions life jackets. Used correctly, they will save Zambian lives.

In preventing HIV and sexually-transmitted infections, there are three proven approaches: abstinence, being faithful, and using condoms. The U.S. government stands with the Zambian Ministry of Health in our belief that all three approaches are essential to prevent HIV. I would like to thank the staff at the Ministry of Health for their dedication to protecting Zambians against HIV. I would also like to commend the Crown Agents for managing Medical Stores Limited warehouse—you ensure that vital health materials get to the Zambians who need them most. I am proud both that we are working together and that we are working intelligently to save lives and prevent new infections.

Thank you very much.

Kukondwerera tsiku la kubadwa

January 11, 1755: ALEXANDER HAMILTON



One of the Founding Fathers of the U.S., he was a statesman, a politician, Army officer, lawyer and financier. He was instrumental in calling the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and, as one of the chief authors of the *Federalist Papers*, a leading proponent of a stronger federal government. Later, as the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton charted a financial course that still defines America today. He was killed by Vice President Aaron Burr in a duel, in 1804.

SPOTLIGHT:

Moonlight VCT

HIV and AIDS has continued having a devastating toll on Zambian society. Yet there is now hope for those who are HIV-positive because they can access Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARVs) which help prolong their lives when taken consistently and correctly.

First, though, it is vital that people know their HIV status. Voluntary Counseling and testing (VCT) is an essential and widely available service. VCT is an entry point to accessing ARVs. Knowing your status, whether positive or negative, will also help you make responsible decisions that will help you live longer and protect your loved ones.



For some VCT is a problem because they are busy during the day. Stigma makes others uncomfortable to be seen around

VCT centers. As a way of helping solve this problem, an NGO called Latkings has introduced a popular Moonlight VCT program. Moonlight VCT tents are stationed in communities at night and offer film shows, music and opportunities to get counseled and tested for HIV.

As part of activities leading up to the HIV/AIDS Benefit Concert in Livingstone, Latkings set up Moonlight VCT in Dambwa, one of Livingstone's townships. In less than a week over 1000 residents were tested. "I tested like this because during the day I am at my shop and also because people can't see you testing at night," said Mutukwa Sitali, a resident of Dambwa. Moonlight VCT offers hope for many more people to know their HIV status.

U.S.-PRODUCED HASBRO TOYS BRINGING JOY TO ZAMBIAN CHILDREN

Bright smiles lit up Chikumbuso Community Center in Ng'ombe as Ambassador Carmen Martínez distributed dolls donated by U.S. toymaker Hasbro Inc. to 150 orphans and vulnerable children, ahead of the Christmas season. The generous donation of dolls demonstrated the power of public-private partnerships in bringing comfort to children and protecting their basic right to play.

Mindful of the effects of HIV and AIDS on children, the Ambassador made a heartfelt request to visiting Hasbro officials to create a doll with African features that a Zambian girl could more easily identify with. The simple request turned into a partnership that led to *Baby Alive*, a doll manufactured specifically to be given to Zambian girls—and a doll that looks like the baby sister of these girls! Hasbro donated over 18,000 of the dolls to U.S. government partner RAPIDS.



RAPIDS, a consortium of 6 U.S. and local NGOs, aids more than 220,000 orphans and vulnerable children through 15,000 volunteer caregivers.

Encouraging sustained action to fight HIV and AIDS in Zambia, Ambassador Martínez said: "When businesses, governments, and communities become partners to improve the lives of children—the nation is bound to prosper and shine. Today's toy donation is a reflection of our compassion and we hope these children understand that they are truly loved, cared for and appreciated."



AIDS orphans account for two-thirds of the 1.2 million orphans in Zambia. Often deprived of basic needs, many are exposed to abuse, exploitation and discrimination.



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