

the corner



Nancy Epstein for MCW

In New York, MCW 8th Youth Leadership Retreat participants break bread.

Miracle Corners of the World Launches Youth Village in Songea, Tanzania

MCW leaders traveled to Tanzania in August to participate in the opening ceremony of the new MCW Education, Health and Youth Housing and Community Village in the rural town of Songea.



Alfred Hanssen for MCW

New Houses in Songea, Tanzania.

"We value, cherish and... are very grateful for your contribution," said Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Honorable Said S. Kalembo, at the event. "We now regard MCW as one of our major development partners in the region."

In August, MCW completed the first phase of construction of the new village, with twelve houses, a health and dental clinic and a community center on more

than fifty acres of land provided by the local government.

The community center includes classrooms, a town hall, a computer lab, a library, and a kitchen and dining area. Project Coordinator, Felix Nyakatale, is currently developing educational programs out of the center, with support from former NYC public school teacher, Haviva Kohl, who arrived in Songea in November to work as a volunteer.

In addition to operating its annual dental outreach program out of the new Liana Cohen Health and Dental Clinic, MCW is working to keep the clinic open year round through a small pharmacy, which will operate in cooperation with local health officials.

Three of the twelve houses will be used for guests, including the Hanssen House for volunteers. Local teachers and health workers will live in another three houses. Rent helps sustain the village, as well as a new agricultural project on the Condoulis Community Farm.

Building the new village provided a substantial boost to the local economy since one hundred percent of the labor and materials used for construction came from Songea.

"This project provides a unique opportunity for Songean youth to engage in education and development activities that lead to positive change," said Songea District Commissioner, Honorable Abeid Mwinyimsa. He also pointed out the importance of global exchange and the need to continue to work in partnership with youth from around the world.

Continued on Back Page...

IN THIS ISSUE...

From Editors & Co-Founders	2
Youth Leadership Training	3
Community Center and Housing Development	3
Healthcare Outreach	4
Miracles We Make / Calendar	5
Partner Initiatives	6
Other News	7



Miracle Corners of the World (MCW) was founded in 1999 as a non-profit organization serving youth worldwide, primarily through programs of youth leadership training, community center and housing development, and healthcare outreach. Our mission is to empower youth to become positive agents of change in order to improve their lives and contribute to their own communities. We achieve our mission by working collaboratively with a diverse network of public and private sector partners and through our commitment to Local Change Through Global Exchange™.



Khalid Elachi for MCW

In Songea, painting Local Change Through Global Exchange™ on archway.

From the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of The Corner™, MCW's new newsletter. For more than five years now, people of all ages and from around the world have come together to create Local Change Through Global Exchange™ and we are thrilled to be part of this unique process.

The Corner™ will serve as a forum for the ideas of MCW program participants, volunteers, friends and supporters, as well as a source of information on the progress of MCW's work worldwide. Each issue will be organized like this one, with a word from our editors, a message from our co-founders, project updates, partner initiatives, a calendar, and "Miracles We Make," which features personal perspectives on how MCW makes a difference.

Thanks to Susan Vassallo and Shareen Mani for volunteering their time and expertise to help MCW share its story, and to Lyle Berman for his help with the design of the newsletter.

Our goal is to produce The Corner™ with direct input from you. So, please send your feedback and contributions to sharon@miraclecorners.org or paul@miraclecorners.org.

Co-Founder Corner

By Rob Alsbrooks and Eddie Bergman

We must begin by saying "thank you." Our gratitude goes out to all of you for your compassion and commitment to our cause, as well as physical and intellectual synergy toward our actions, and financial support for turning our dreams into reality.

Our appreciation begins with those who were with us during the early days and every soul that came aboard over the years. Each of you has contributed in a unique way to the Miracle Corners of the World process, and without each element, MCW's accomplishments would not be what they are today.

Yes, it's true! MCW has worked with people on four continents. We have set up programs and partnerships in more than fifteen countries and exponentially touched the lives of thousands of young people. Behind these statistics lie the root of our organization: personal relationships, which provide the energy to help people help themselves.

This has been a very successful year for us. Imagine where we could go in 2006 if each member introduced a new person to the MCW family.

MCW PROGRAMS

Local Change Through Global Exchange™

MCW's mission is to empower youth to become positive agents of change, to help improve their lives and contribute to their communities around the world, through:

Youth Leadership Training

Training youth in social entrepreneurship, cultural competency and conflict resolution in order to help them make a difference in their own communities worldwide.

Community Center and Housing Development

Building and supporting community centers, housing projects and educational centers worldwide, as spaces for learning and developing employment opportunities.

Healthcare Outreach

Providing youth with medical and dental treatment, as well as the skills and knowledge to lead healthier lives, particularly through dental care and preventive HIV/AIDS education.

Miracle Corners of the World

Post Office Box 14
Murray Hill Station
New York, NY 10156

Tel: (516) 885-0894

Email: events@miraclecorners.org

Web: www.miraclecorners.org

Miracle Corners of the World, Inc. (MCW) is a US-registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Youth Leadership Training

Youth from Around the World Convene in NYC

Participants from more than ten countries gathered at New York University in New York City to foster cross-cultural understanding at MCW's 8th Youth Leadership Retreat in July.

Drawing on their experiences as community leaders, more than fifty youth from around the world and diverse communities in the



Khalid Elachi for MCW

Roberta Richin receives Open Doors Award.

U.S. participated in a week of interactive workshops. The delegates were joined by past retreat alumni who served as mentors, including Tanzanians, Americans, South Africans, Israelis and Palestinians.

"The Retreat is a testament to the power of young people to foster peace in today's tumultuous landscape, because it unites an international team of retreat alumni and young leaders to provide interactive learning opportunities for participants to develop leadership and entrepreneurship skills," said Eddie Bergman, Executive Director and Co-Founder of MCW.

MCW youth delegates from Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East shared their experiences as young leaders working to foster peace and empower youth worldwide. Highlights included discussions with the leadership from prestigious institutions, such as New York University, the United Nations, the US Department of Commerce, and the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development.

Under the theme Local Change Through Global Exchange™, participants engaged in a series of team-building activities. One of the highlights included a visit to MTV's Total Request Live (TRL) and a panel discussion with Viacom executives to learn about the role media plays in shaping cultural attitudes, public affairs and social initiatives.

The week concluded at the New York Tolerance Center with the annual "Open Doors Ceremony," where MCW honored participants and supporters, and provided updates on MCW's current projects in Tanzania. Youth delegates also shared their "vision plans," which highlighted their personal and professional goals.

Congratulations to Board Member, Roberta Richin, and Project Coordinator, Khalid Elachi, who co-chaired the volunteer organizing committee.

Community Center & Housing Development

Update from Arusha

MCW performs miracles worldwide, particularly in Tanzania, by raising funds for and building youth villages and community centers.

The miracle began in 2001, when MCW built its first community center in the Arusha municipality: the MCW Dr. Herman Wrice Youth Empowerment Village and Community Center, located in the densely populated Majengo area.

Catering to more than one thousand young people every year, the center offers low-cost computer training, pre-school education, language classes, and sporting activities. The community also benefits from arts and crafts courses and cultural and social-exchange programs.

MCW partners interested in learning about Tanzania, its culture and people, as well as going on safaris and climbing



MCW friends at the Dr. Edward B. Shils Computer Technology Center in Arusha.

Mount Kilimanjaro, also use the center as a volunteer/cultural travel destination.

After five years, the center is nearly fully sustainable through minimal fees for educational and computer programs, arts and crafts sales and Internet services, which were set up thanks to One World Youth Project. Self sustainability is a vital part of MCW's mission.

Continuing to provide youth with learning and entrepreneurial opportunities, MCW recently shipped more than twenty boxes of computers, monitors and keyboards to be used in a new computer lab at the Dr. Edward B. Shils Computer Technology Center.

The Arusha center has served as a pilot model for the new MCW Youth Village in Songea. MCW is now preparing for the development of a youth center in Sierra Leone, working in partnership with the UN Mission in Sierra Leone, UNDP and Nigerian peacekeepers.

MCW believes that it has created a viable community-building model that can be shared with other organizations working toward community development around the world.



Dr. George Sideris for MCW American and Tanzanian friends in Arusha.

Healthcare Outreach



Keith Drayer for MCW

The Songea Dental Team (from left): Tameka Tompkins, Maria Cristina Kim, Dr. Girish Shah, Dr. Mitchell Pines, Courtney Russell, and Pompilia Belean.

MCW Provides Free Dental Treatment

In partnership with New York University's College of Dentistry and with product donations from healthcare products and services distributor, Henry Schein, Inc., MCW provides free dentistry services to hundreds of people in Tanzania ever year.

The program began in August 2001, when NYU professor, Dr. Anthony Vernillo, and alumni, Dr. Ruben Cohen and Dr. Mai Nguyen, set up a dental clinic in the neighborhood of Majengo in northern Arusha. During the three-week mission, the small team treated more than 200 patients out of the new Dr. Herman Wrice Center.

Over the next two years, the team worked out of a clinic in a local hospital in Songea, a region with limited access to oral healthcare. MCW's dental program reached yet another level in August, when its fourth dental team delivered services out of the new Liana Cohen Health/Dental Clinic. MCW plans



Dr. Marion Bergman for MCW

to keep the clinic open all year and to make it self-sustainable by opening a small pharmacy.

From the Field

By Dr. Girish Shah

After months of preparation, the MCW-NYU dental team left for Tanzania on August 13, 2005. Our objective was to provide two weeks of dental care to hundreds of residents of Songea, a region with only three dentists for a population of nearly 1.2 million people.

With support from Henry Schein Cares, represented by Keith Drayer, the team included Dr. Mitchell Pines, and four dental students from NYU's College of Dentistry. [Dr. Shah led the team.]

The program combined oral screening with preventive education and treatment. Based in MCW's new health/dental clinic, we treated hundreds of patients and provided informal oral hygiene instruction. We also trained local teachers and students about oral hygiene techniques to ensure the project's sustainability beyond our time there.

Moving ahead, MCW plans to introduce a Train-the-Trainer program for local teachers, in cooperation with regional government officials and health

practitioners. We are also exploring the possibility of running an ongoing dental clinic with a Tanzanian dental school.

MCW's dental treatment program continues to provide an opportunity for students to travel abroad and gain field experience, while also encouraging global awareness, a spirit of volunteerism and outreach to the underserved.

Promoting HIV/AIDS Education

In August, MCW coordinated a four-day workshop in Songea, with a local NGO called Youth Empowerment for Tanzania United (YETU). Targeting young people, the workshop focused on entrepreneurship development, leadership training and HIV/AIDS education.

Since 2003, MCW has worked closely with YETU to promote AIDS education and leadership training for youth leaders and youth-focused organizations in Botswana, China and Tanzania.



Sara Berg for MCW

YETU workshop participants in Songea.

Working with Technoserve, a US-based organization that provides business solutions to rural poverty in the developing world, MCW facilitated entrepreneurship training sessions, which helped the young Songean participants further develop business plans and small business projects.

The Teenage Life Program of Dar Es Salaam led a session on the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while MCW volunteers facilitated seminars on the biological basis of HIV/AIDS and the importance of the ABCs (Abstain, Be Faithful, Condomize).

The workshop also included an art activity, which showed how creative production and expression is an effective tool for HIV/AIDS and reproductive health education.

Miracles We Make

Make a Difference

By Roberta Richin and
Kym Stewart

We all dream of making a difference.

Imagine you could share your dream with a youth-led team that has a can-do attitude and track record to match. Imagine the team helps you turn your dream into reality at the speed of thought. No frustrating bureaucracy; no put-offs or put-downs; just a passion for doing the right thing at the right time. That would be a miracle.



Khalid Elachi for MCW

Israeli, Palestinian, South African, and Tanzanian retreat mentors in New York.

Now imagine you could join that team, regardless of your age, experience, culture, education, income, or language of origin. That would be a miracle, too.

These miracles drew us to MCW, where people across cultures and continents empower youth to make Local Change Through Global Exchange™. We learned that MCW was founded on the alchemy of values and vision for youth empowerment, healthcare and hope, literacy and leverage. No idea was too small or grand.

Want to help youth build a community? Start an entrepreneurial endeavor? Discover a passion? Fight HIV/AIDS? Each action generates equal or greater positive reactions. MCW helps us turn our own dreams of making a difference into sustainable results we can see and support. You can make that kind of miracle, too, and we invite you to join us!



Rob Alsbrooks addresses the UN student assembly in New York.

Peace in Action

By Monica Willard

MCW Co-Founder Rob Alsbrooks addressed the UN student assembly in New York on September 21, 2005. Rob asked the youth-filled audience, who gathered to celebrate International Peace Day, to recognize the importance of promoting "power to young people."

Kym Stewart, a member of MCW's Advisory Board and Manager of Media Products for MTV, Nickelodeon and Viacom, facilitated the event and introduced the youth representatives, which included Jessica Rimington, founder of One World Youth Project and a strong supporter of MCW's programs in Tanzania. Other youth representatives came from youth-focused organizations, such as Children of the Earth, Peace Alliance, iEARN, Roots of Peace, Roots & Shoots, and Seeds of Peace.

To hear Rob, Kym and Jessica, visit www.cyberschoolbus.un.org and click on the International Day of Peace link. This live webcast can be used to gain and share information and exchange ideas on how to put peace into action. It is also an example of the work that MCW seeks to promote around the world.

The Corner

By Heather Moore

To understand the mission and work of MCW is to know its stories, stories about people sharing, and stories about the dedicated community leaders all

over the world, who have brought miracles to their own corners of the world.

Since its founding in 1999, MCW has given people from all corners the opportunity to share their stories and ideas and speak about the challenges they face in their own communities.

There are stories about children visiting a dentist for the first time; stories about young people learning they have a voice and a choice to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS; stories about community members finding affordable housing and places to learn; and stories about youth from diverse backgrounds realizing for the first time that there is indeed hope for peace and coexistence.

The Corner™ will allow this storytelling to continue and highlight opportunities for making positive change. It will also seek to address injustice worldwide, whether the need is for health care and dental treatment, community center and housing development or empowering and training youth as the next generation's leaders.

CALENDAR

December 21, 2005 - January 8, 2006
LSC PROJECT KILI
Arusha
TANZANIA

February 2006
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
New York
USA

February 21, 2006
2ND ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISER
New York
USA

July 2006
9TH YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT
New York
USA

August 2006
MCW ANNUAL TRIP TO AFRICA
Arusha, Iringa, and Songea
TANZANIA

Partner Initiatives



Dr. George Sideris for MCW

Tanzanian and American youth act in a scene from a play on drug abuse in Arusha.

New York Students Visit MCW Center in Arusha

In August, students from Long Island University and New York University visited the Dr. Herman Wrice Youth Empowerment Village and Community Center in Arusha, Tanzania to participate in an interactive workshop. Led by Professor George Sideris, the trip provided a unique learning opportunity for everyone involved.

"Every trip has a history behind it. There has to be a rationale for setting out on a journey. In the case of this field course, there were several: one was to visit Tanzania to study the local ecology and fauna and learn about the different cultures. Another was to hike Mount Kilimanjaro; and the final was to give some lectures and guidance to a local youth group," said Sideris.

The project brought together students from different backgrounds, cultures and countries to share experiences and exchange ideas. Topics of discussion ranged from relationships to dating and

sexual activity and from HIV/AIDS to politics and family.

"The local youth group [Perfect Youth Group] was the perfect group for us to meet," said Board Member Anna Condoulis, who accompanied the group to Tanzania. With 65 members, the youth group's mission is to empower its members to help themselves through learning, leadership and entrepreneurship.



Dr. George Sideris for MCW

Small group discussion in Arusha.

To give the students a chance to work together, the project included writing and performing a play on topics important to the Tanzanian youth group,

such as HIV/AIDS, teen pregnancy, sexual harassment and drug abuse.

The students divided into four mixed groups and then wrote a script in both English and Swahili. A stage was built, props were prepared and costumes were made. Titled "In Touch, Our Lives," the play was performed for more than 75 people at the center. The play also had a practical purpose: it will become something long lasting for the youth group to further develop and perform for profit.

Ultimately, the project bridged the two worlds in an unexpected way: the students discovered that they share the same issues and concerns. Lasting friendships were also formed and when the participants bid good-bye, more than a tear was shed.

LSC Reaches Higher Ground in Tanzania

By Dr. Catherine DeLeo

Lyndon State College (LSC) faculty, alumni and friends are participating in a new model of expeditionary learning: Project Kili. This collaborative initiative provides the opportunity to learn, serve and summit in Vermont and Tanzania.

Working in partnership with MCW and Educo South Africa, an adventure-based youth program, participants in LSC's Outdoor Expedition



Source: Tanzanian Tourism Board

course will discuss global economic and environmental challenges with their Tanzanian counterparts, participate in a youth conservation workshop with the National Parks Association, and volunteer on community service projects at the MCW Center in Arusha.

The highlight of the program will be a summit climb on Mount Kilimanjaro. MCW will sponsor the participation of three Tanzanian MCW program participants from Arusha and Songea to join LSC on the climb. For more information on Project Kili, please contact events@miraclecorners.org.

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Dr. Edward B. Shils*
Dr. Herman Wrice*

*deceased

CO-FOUNDERS

Robert Alsbrooks
Edward J. Bergman

STAFF

Sharon Roling

MCW Donates Books to New University in Iringa

A container of books traveled from New York to Tanzania in August, thanks to Khalid Elachi, NYU and Adcom Worldwide. The donation was made to the new Ruaha University College in Iringa, in response to a request from Tanzanian Ambassador, Honorable Dr. Augustine Mahiga.



Donated books in new library in Iringa.



Amb. Augustine Mahiga and Eddie Bergman

Packed to its fullest capacity, the container included several hundred boxes of books donated by McGraw Hill Companies, New Jersey

Islamic Interfaith Dialogue Center, American Jewish Committee, Lyndon State College, and Miracle on Long Island.

MCW Holds First Fundraiser Gala in New York

MCW unveiled plans for the building of a new youth center in Sierra Leone and raised funds for its youth village in Songea at its first black-tie fundraiser in February. Former NYC Mayor, David Dinkins, served as the keynote speaker.

Other distinguished guests included Tanzanian Ambassador Mahiga and UN Secretary General Special Representative to Sierra Leone, Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago, and NYU College of Dentistry Dean, Dr. Michael Alfano. Dr. Frances White, Dean of NYU's Gallatin

School, served as Master of Ceremonies, and Dr. David Finney, President of Champlain College and former Dean of NYU's

School of Continuing & Professional Studies, received MCW's Lifetime Achievement Award. The dinner brought more than 260 supporters together and raised nearly \$100,000 for MCW programs. Congratulations to Anna Condoulis, who chaired the volunteer dinner planning committee.

MCW Program Director Named Ford Fellow

Congratulations to Felix Nyakatale, who became a Ford Motor Company International Fellow in June. Born in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Felix was chosen for his leadership abilities and commitment to make a difference. Felix has served as a Project Coordinator at the MCW center in Arusha and, currently, oversees the new MCW youth village in Songea.



Felix Nyakatale

MCW Opens NYC Office

Thanks to the in-kind contribution of Seth Besmertnik and his team at LinkExperts, a company that improves advertiser search engine rankings, MCW opened an office in New York in the fall.

Marlbro Hill School

In October, MCW Co-Founder, Eddie Bergman, challenged more than 200 high-school students at Marlbro Hill School for International Studies in the Bronx, New York to get involved locally and think globally.

SAJES Council for Prejudice Reduction

Eddie shared the story of MCW as an example of an innovative framework for combatting prejudice among young people at the Suffolk Center for Prejudice Reduction's annual conference in November in New York.

Temple University

MCW Co-Founder, Rob Alsbrooks, spoke about the importance of empowering youth to be leaders in their own communities in October at Temple University in Philadelphia.

IIPT Thailand Summit

At the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism's third global summit, Rob and Eddie facilitated the Young Professionals Forum. Eddie also shared MCW's story on the Philanthropic and Volunteer Tourism panel.

Africa Travel Association

Rob and Eddie shared MCW's story in Angola in November, when they participated in the ATA's 9th Eco-tourism and Cultural Symposium. MCW also distributed children's shoes, contributed by the Susie Reizod Foundation.

American Dental Association

The ADA's Dr. Edward B. Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund awarded MCW its 2005 Founders Award in June, in recognition of MCW's creative and productive spirit.

MCW Launches New Village

Continued from Front Page...

MCW Co-Founder and Executive Director, Eddie Bergman, said the village provides a platform for job creation and training, and education for young people. "It is a prime example of how global exchange can make a difference on a local level."

The ability to build the new youth village in Songea was made possible by funds raised at MCW's first fundraiser gala dinner in February 2005 at New York University. Alfred Hanssen was another reason why this was possible. Trained as an architect and construction engineer, Hanssen postponed



Alfred Hanssen for MCW

Alfred Hanssen and team break ground in Songea, Tanzania.

his graduate studies to design the site plan and structures for the village. He then managed construction in Songea for five months.

Plans to build the village crystallized in 2003 when MCW Co-Founders Rob Alsbrooks and Eddie Bergman were invited to Songea by Honorable Bertha Mende, a long-time MCW supporter and the former District Commissioner of Songea.

Moving ahead, MCW plans to build an electricity grid and an additional twenty-eight houses in Songea. Individuals and public and private sector organizations interested in global community development and youth empowerment are welcome to sponsor the houses. Opportunities for sponsoring five existing houses are also available. For more information, contact events@miraclecorners.org.

***** SAVE THE DATE *****

MCW 2ND ANNUAL GALA DINNER

MCW honors CNN with the "MCW Africa Advocacy Media Award"

February 21, 2006 / 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Kimmel Center for University Life, New York University, New York City

For tickets, email: events@miraclecorners.org

AVAILABLE NOW!!!

MCW CALENDAR 2006

Featuring photos from MCW trip to Arusha in August 2005

\$20 each. All proceeds will support Arusha's Perfect Youth Group

To order, email: ac5@nyu.edu

the corner

MIRACLE CORNERS OF THE WORLD
Post Office Box 14
Murray Hill Station
New York, NY 10156
USA