Youth from Around the World Gather in Vermont

Youth delegates from around the world gathered at New York University in Manhattan and at Champlain College in Vermont for MCW’s ninth Youth Leadership Retreat to learn that they can lead social change.

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. MCW empowers youth to become positive agents of change, to improve their lives and contribute to their own communities. MCW works closely with a global network of public and private sector partners and through a commitment to Local Change Through Global Exchange™.
Local Change Through Global Exchange™

MCW PROGRAMS

Youth Leadership Training
Training youth from around the world in social entrepreneurship, cultural competency, and conflict resolution by building the skills, confidence, and networks needed to make a difference in their communities.

Community Center and Housing Development
Developing sustainable community centers, housing units, and educational facilities as spaces for learning, exchange, and entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on Africa.

Healthcare Outreach
Providing youth with the skills and knowledge to lead healthier lives, particularly through preventive HIV/AIDS, oral health, malnutrition, and primary healthcare, as well as dental care services, with a special focus on Songea, Tanzania.

From the Editors

By Paul Bergman & Sharon Roling
Welcome to the second issue of The Corner™. Since our first issue a year ago, we have made important progress in all three of our core program areas (see left bar).

This issue provides updates on our programs and partner initiatives, news briefs, and stories from our volunteers, friends, and supporters worldwide. We also introduce the Youth Retreat Alumni Corner, spotlighting how past retreat participants have turned their vision plans into concrete projects.

Thanks to MCW friends who helped make this newsletter a cooperative reality by providing written submissions, pictures, and feedback.

We also want to thank New York University student, Sharon Hakakian, MCW’s Communications Intern, for the hours she dedicated to designing, editing, and proofing this issue and for always keeping us on our toes. Finally, thanks to our friends at Henry Schein, Inc. for their professional support.

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

Co-Founder Corner

By Rob Alsbrooks & Eddie Bergman
Another year has passed and, as always, we look forward to the prospect of what lies ahead. We are excited by the possibilities of doing great things in different parts of our vast planet, which seems to get smaller and smaller with each new MCW project.

We have witnessed much over the past seven years. As an organization, we have seen Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Through MCW, hundreds of ambitious youth have had the opportunity to share their leadership visions and implement their programs.

We have seen friendships born, founding mentors pass away, partnerships develop, and supporters move on to do other great things in life. We have experienced a great deal together, and we have benefited because we have chosen to grow through it not just go through it.

This year, we will begin to look at how we can take what we have learned around the globe, through our initiatives, and bring some of it home, where charity begins.

We hope that everyone who reads The Corner™ will be reinvigorated to serve humanity in their own unique way. This was a founding idea behind MCW that is still relevant today.

Felix Hyakatake for MCW

The complete welcome archway in Songea, Tanzania.
MCW Helps Youth

Continued from Front Page

involve schools and religious groups in helping communities integrate displaced people, increase food production, and access healthcare services.

“The retreat has moved me to dream big, start small, and share our stories,” said Alan Garcia of Riverdale, New York.

For the first time, MCW held its annual Open Doors Ceremony outside New York City, at Champlain College in Vermont. Dozens of local Vermonters learned about MCW, met with retreat participants, and celebrated the new MCW-Champlain College connection.

The retreat concluded at NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) where youth delegates shared their vision plans with dozens of MCW friends and supporters.

Thanks to Dr. David Finney, President of Champlain College and former Dean of NYU’s SCPS for his continuing support of MCW’s youth leadership retreats and for facilitating the connection with Champlain.

Since 1999, MCW has graduated nearly 400 youth from around the world in its internationally-recognized leadership development program.

The retreats have been organized through cooperation with a wide range of individuals and organizations, including NYU, UN agencies, NGO partners, the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and private sector partners, such as MTV/Nickelodeon.

Youth Leadership Retreat Alumni Corner

Instead of heading to a sunny beach for spring break, students from Long Island’s Stony Brook University and Northport High School participated in MCW Long Island’s first-ever alternative spring break in April.

MCW Long Island members and former youth leadership retreat participants Levy Solomon and Nick Turvin designed the program, drawing inspiration from MCW’s annual youth leadership retreat model.

Solomon and Turvin decided to bring the 17 high-school and college students to Heifer International Outlook Farm in rural Massachusetts.

“We chose to go to this farm because it represents a lot of what we stand for... a lot of what MCW stands for,” said Jane Pechera, a MCW Long Island member who also helped plan the spring trip.

Heifer Farm is a global village that educates the public about world hunger, poverty, and sustainability. By learning about global agriculture, livestock, and housing models, visitors can step into the shoes of people from Peru, Thailand, Guatemala, or Uganda and learn how to be more responsible global citizens.

The students also participated in a variety of educational workshops, covering issues such as female empowerment, global hunger, poverty alleviation, and equitable food distribution.

“MCW makes our world smaller. I never met anyone from Israel before—I only read about them in the Bible—but through MCW, I have met many. MCW is a place where you make life-long friends.”

Gabriel Poth, Sudan

“At the retreat, we had inspiring speakers who presented us with practical approaches to implement [our vision plans] on our ways to becoming great leaders. It was fun to have participants and mentors from all over the world. I loved it.”

Tanya Praise, New York

“The ideas that I learn and the people I meet at MCW inspire me. It was very beneficial for me to learn about new concepts, like entrepreneurship and networking. The opportunity to be a mentor is a tool to help younger participants through their experience with MCW. MCW is not only an organization; it is faces of friends from around the globe.”

Manar Alnatsheh, Hebron

“I always look forward to MCW retreats. They’re a challenge, an opportunity, and an amazing experience for those who want to do good in their community and who wish to acquire the tools to do so. My utmost gratitude goes to the organizers, and my colleagues and friends from all over the world.”

Eyal Ronen, Tel Aviv
From Arusha to Songea, Tanzania, and from East Freetown, Sierra Leone, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, MCW sees opportunities to expand its reach to new countries in Africa.

"MCW’s Community Center and Housing Development Program aims to help vulnerable communities in rural and urban areas build sustainable youth centers," said Eddie Bergman, MCW Executive Director and Co-Founder. “Working with grassroots groups, in concert with local and national government bodies, helps us develop effective solutions to challenges facing the local community.”

MCW runs centers in Tanzania’s rural town of Songea and urban area of Arusha. Working with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), MCW is also building a center in East Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Now, MCW is turning to Addis Ababa as a possible site for a new community center, building on the groundbreaking efforts of Rob Alsbrooks, MCW Programs Director and Co-Founder. In August, Alfred Hanssen, MCW Construction Coordinator, visited potential sites in Addis Ababa to assess the land and discuss designs with local architects. To move ahead, MCW also submitted an application to register as a non-governmental organization in Ethiopia.

Hanssen then traveled to Tanzania to assess the condition of MCW’s centers in Songea and Arusha and to explore new project ideas in Iringa.

“Going to different places, visiting friends, and assessing our Arusha and Songea sites made me realize that relationships are key to the success of an MCW project,” said Hanssen. Even someone who helps move things into a truck, someone you see everyday, or someone you go to a restaurant with, [allows you to see how] the strength of these relationships helps the project and gives the community a strong sense of ownership.

**UPDATES**

ARUSHA, TANZANIA

By The Perfect Brothers

The MCW Community Center is one of Arusha’s most important assets, as it does a lot to make sure that the local people benefit from the low-cost services it provides. This is something we seldom seen in our area.

We have a nice center in a pleasant and attractive environment, with Mount Meru in the north and the sunset in the west. Most importantly, we offer a lot for our local people, including:

- **Computer Courses:** More than 50 students complete training every three months, enabling them to find employment in different organizations.
- **English Courses:** Many people, especially youth, attend these courses because they want to use English as a second language. English is also a means of global communication, which can lead to increased access to information and more job opportunities.
- **Nursery School:** We train children to become treasures of the future by providing education that is not yet available in the community. This way, we help create a nation of educated youth. We love kids because we know that this is where we all began.
- **Perfect Youth Group:** PYG is for youth with dreams of success. Youth
SONGEA, TANZANIA
A Local Perspective
By Felix Nyakatale
Youth Miracles for Present (YMP) has begun generating income through a new vegetable project, where members buy vegetables for half price. They hope to become Songea’s vegetable center.

YMP is incredibly excited to begin feeding the community and hopes to help reduce malnutrition in Songea!

A Global Perspective
By Dr. Marion Bergman
In October, I spent three days at MCW’s Community center in Songea, where pre-school and English classes are in progress.

The students are motivated and disciplined and want to improve their English, which is the medium of education at the secondary school level. This is a great challenge for the students, who learn Swahili in primary school. The teachers await the arrival of MCW’s second container, which includes school supplies.

The community is proud of its vegetable garden, which is yielding several cash crops, despite the challenges of inadequate water supply. Together, MCW and the local government are currently exploring creative solutions to address this challenge.

I also met with the men’s and women’s community groups, which are led by graduates of the English courses. We spoke about the lack of affordable fertilizer.

The women also said that they want to make and sell handicrafts. They also want to learn how to contain HIV/AIDS and provide care for ten children who are now orphans after losing their parents to the disease. The men want to attend technology classes at the local college and learn how to fix computers.

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
By Rob Alsbrooks
Last year, I traveled to Ethiopia several times to assess the possibilities of establishing an MCW project in the country.

In the capital city of Addis Ababa, I connected with grassroots organizations and government bodies to begin the process of building an MCW youth community center.

During my trips, I learned about many detrimental issues facing youth. The need to form partnerships with local organizations, grassroots initiatives, and the government to eradicate these issues and address the sense of hopelessness is present everywhere.

Although the process of registering an MCW Trust in Ethiopia is currently underway, we have already initiated some programs and partnerships to begin helping youth.

With a volunteer named Ms. Meskerem I helped establish KiddieTechTalk, a new computer literacy program that will help street children become computer literate through a variety of CD-ROM educational programs.

The first day of the program was a success. The entire lesson costs only 117 Birr or $13. Once MCW secures a site and sets up computers, we can do this for a minimal cost per day. This is growth and development at a grassroots level.

In taking step toward building a new community center in Addis Ababa, MCW is working with a local youth group called Tena Kebana, as well as the Gilfile Cleaned Association. Run by two teens, the group works with orphans and uses a small greenhouse, a garden, and an office as a base for workshops in organic gardening, environmentalism, and health education.

It is the simple things in life that mean so much to young people, and we at MCW are happy to be a vehicle of change in the lives of these children.

Continued on Page 10
In 2005, volunteers from MCW and New York University’s College of Dentistry teamed up with Henry Schein Cares, the global social responsibility program of Henry Schein, Inc., to treat hundreds of patients in Songea, a remote region in Tanzania with three dentists for a population of 1.2 million.

The team, including four dentists and nine students, delivered free dental treatment out of the MCW Liana Cohen Health/Dental Clinic, which opened in the summer of 2005.

Although the two-week initiative was a great success, conditions were far from optimal. Patients received treatment while sitting on wooden chairs with their heads uncomfortably perched on pillows. In addition, the lack of electricity forced the clinic to close at sundown, limiting the number of patients to receive treatment.

Last year proved to be a very different experience. When the dental team reached the clinic in August, they brought with them four state-of-the-art dental units donated by Sirona Dental Systems. The team professionally installed the chairs and additional donated equipment in the facility, even though it meant removing and replacing one of the clinic’s large windows.

“This was the most productive and professionally satisfying mission yet to Tanzania,” said Dr. Anthony Vernillo, who led the 2006 team.

“We were able to treat more than 1,100 people, primarily children, with a standard of dentistry that is comparable to what we deliver in the U.S., and to provide them with oral screening and preventative education.”

“The addition of the Sirona dental units made a huge difference in the level of care we were able to provide,” said Keith Drayer of Henry Schein. Drayer provided leadership and technical help at the site, alongside fellow Team Schein Member Jules Paoletti.

“MCW’s vision of community development and sustainability has a great impact on the people of Songea. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a part of the 2006 dental care program. Our team treated hundreds of patients in Songea who needed dental work. We were fortunate to have received exceptional support from local health and public officials. Although Tanzania is one of the most impoverished countries in the world, the people of the country were extremely gracious and giving.”

Amita Damani

The 2006 MCW Dentalcare Team at the Liana Cohen Health Clinic in Songea (Front, from left): Juan Hernandez, Amita Damani, Anne Yu, Meeta Grewal, Sung Min Lee. (Back, from left): Dr. Mitchell Pines, Dr. Girish Shah, Noah Ariola-Tirella, Tam Tran, Clint Timmerman. (Not pictured: Dr. Anthony Vernillo, Dr. Douglas Pollack, Alyssa Brown, Shirley Green.)

“MCW sends Fifth Volunteer Dental Team to Songea
We are extremely proud of our dental outreach program, which began with my former college roommate, Dr. Ruben Cohen, who was studying at NYU’s School of Dentistry. Ruben brought his professor, Dr. Anthony Vernillo, into the program, and he now serves on MCW’s Board. So many amazing people have joined us since then. Dr. Girish Shah has led several dental missions, and Dr. Mitchell Pines has provided on-site support on four missions. Keith Drayer has helped us stock the new Songea clinic with equipment, and Steve Kess has offered strategic support. We’ve sent more than 30 volunteers to treat more than two thousand patients and educated thousands on the importance of oral healthcare prevention. Now, building on our success, we want to offer services beyond the summer with the help of new and former volunteers."

Eddie Bergman, Executive Director

Together with local healthcare professionals, MCW is exploring new ways to help rural Songea, Tanzania deal with health challenges.

Since anti-retroviral treatment was introduced at Songea Regional Hospital, large numbers of HIV/AIDS patients from the region are seeking treatment.

In December 2005, MCW sent a pediatric AIDS treatment team from Songea to the Pediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa (PATA) conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

“PATA provides a forum for health professionals from rural areas to learn from each other and experts in the field,” said Dr. Marion Bergman, MCW Health Projects Coordinator. “This provides MCW with the opportunity to improve rural healthcare, specifically for children with HIV/AIDS in Songea.”

The second PATA conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya in December 2006, attracting 35 treatment teams from 23 countries in Africa. MCW sponsored the Songea team again, as well as a new team from Kilgoris Hospital, in Transmara, Kenya.

“Our goal is to facilitate the sharing of ideas, experiences, and best practices between the local healthcare providers in two similar rural communities,” said Dr. Bergman.

MCW Supports HIV/AIDS Treatment Exchange

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Long Island University to Arusha, Tanzania

By Anna Condoulis

Long-time MCW supporter Dr. George Sideris, accompanied by MCW board member Anna Condoulis, brought another Long Island University (LIU)-Brooklyn campus class to Arusha, Tanzania in August to spend a week with the community center’s youth group, the Perfect Youth Group (PYG).

This visit has become an annual tradition for the U.S. students and PYG members that is both enjoyable and beneficial for everyone involved.

“The idea of a field course is to see things firsthand and experience a habitat with all of one’s senses and intellect,” said Sideris. “One of my intentions with the field courses is to add a community interaction/service component. In addition to studying the regional ecology, contact with the area’s residents should also be established. Students visiting another country should gain awareness of the local culture.”

Several approaches were taken to building connections between the LIU students and PYG members. To break the ice on the first day and explore cultural differences, Sideris facilitated an open question and answer session. Both sides asked questions about youth issues, relationships, health, family, education, and politics.

To continue the conversation on a more personal level, participants separated into groups based on gender. This created a dynamic where everyone felt comfortable sharing their own personal stories, fears, and concerns on sexual relationships, female circumcision, family structure, and gender roles. It also brought participants closer together.

PYG members also asked Sideris to provide lectures on nutrition, infectious diseases, dance, exercise, and motivational techniques.

Building on the 2005 visit, when the young participants wrote and performed a play titled, “In Touch-Our Lives,” the students filmed a documentary, depicting the life of young people living in Arusha.

PYG also wrote and filmed smaller vignettes, such as “Geneii and the Three Wishes,” “Man and the Honey Bee,” and “Friends in the Street.” A documentary based on the project is scheduled for release in the Spring.

IDAAY and MCW

By Rob Alsbrooks

In 2006, MCW formed a new partnership with the Philadelphia-based Institute for the Development of African-American Youth, Inc. (IDAAY), by co-sponsoring a new entrepreneurial program for youth. The program teaches students ‘business basics’ in an empowering environment at Temple University.

MCW matched a $2,500 grant, to be used by the students as seed money for new projects. Last summer, the first group of students received $200 to purchase car-cleaning equipment for their OWN business project.

IDAAY is a community-based, non-profit organization that serves Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. Steven T. Robinson and S. Archye Leacock founded the organization in May 1991 in response to the alarming statistics characterizing disadvantaged youth in the Philadelphia area. To address these issues, the co-founders created IDAAY. The organization’s mission is to provide educational and cultural programs dedicated to serving and empowering youth at risk.

Coney Island to Calabar

MCW helped send three American college students to an international symposium on eco-tourism in the port city of Calabar, Nigeria to help launch a young professionals leadership forum in November.

Sponsored by the Africa Travel Association (ATA), the symposium brought together dozens of travel professionals, including tourism ministers, travel agents, and tour operators, to promote travel to Africa.

Young people interested in a career in travel also had the opportunity to learn about different tourism opportunities in Nigeria and to network with other young professionals.

“Thank you MCW for helping us discover Nigeria, a country like no other” said Johanne Briere, a Kingsborough Community College student in Brooklyn. “As a Hospitality and Tourism major, the symposium left me with a lifetime of educational and cultural experiences that go beyond the classroom. I am now inspired to help MCW bring young people to Africa in the future,” she said.

MCW Sierra-Leone Project Coordinator Harry Gbetuwa, facilitated the inaugural discussion of the young professionals’ leadership forum.
Human Rights Corner
By Jacqueline Murekatete

In 1994, my country Rwanda experienced one of the worst genocides in documented history. In just 100 days, more than one million innocent men, women, and children were brutally murdered. Although I was one of the few lucky survivors, after the genocide I learned that my parents, six siblings, as well as numerous other relatives had all been killed. I was nine years old.

Fortunately, I had an uncle who lived in the United States and who, after finding out I had survived, adopted me and brought me to this country in 1995. As a survivor, I felt a responsibility to call attention to what had happened in my country, both for the sake of those who died and in hope of preventing such a thing from happening again.

And so I spent my high school and now my college years addressing thousands of people through programs at schools, intergovernmental organizations, communities of faith, conferences, and media outlets around the world.

Today, although Rwanda has come a long way in rebuilding, thousands of orphans and widows remain without such basic human rights and necessities as food, water, and education.

To help redress this tragedy, I recently partnered with MCW to create Jacqueline’s Human Rights Corner.

Our mission is to empower Rwandan genocide survivors to secure and protect their rights to live in peace and create prosperity for themselves and generations to come. We seek to build on that success by helping others in need, beyond Rwanda.

I have decided to partner with MCW because MCW truly helps youth develop the leadership and networks to create real and sustainable Local Change Through Global Exchange.

Since first encountering MCW, I have felt no greater respect for any other organization. Time and again, I am amazed by MCW’s commitment to better the world by empowering youth like me to be global leaders.

I have no doubt that the continual dedication and generosity of MCW’s staff and supporters will make the world a brighter place—a place of hope for all.

Jacqueline has established a fund with MCW to support organizations and programs in Rwanda that assist victims of genocide. To get involved, e-mail jacqueline@miraclecorners.org.

Digital Divide
By Glory Minja

As MCW’s computer instructor in Arusha at the Dr. Edward B. Shils Community Technology Center, I feel proud to have a large number of students who have graduated.

The courses are based on Microsoft Office software, which includes word processing, spreadsheet development, database analysis, publishing, and electronic presentations through PowerPoint. Students come from different parts of Arusha as well as other towns and villages.

Since we began our activities in 2001, about 600 students have graduated, enabling them to work in a variety of new and exciting jobs in Arusha and beyond. These past students often provide me with information on their new jobs, which motivates all of us.

The Dr. Shils Center is very helpful to the community and continues to touch the lives of many people of all ages. For me, it’s a miracle corner!

Although the people of Arusha have never met Dr. Shils, his vision of empowerment has helped improve the lives of Tanzanian people. Inspired by him, MCW has introduced computer technology that helps people obtain and create employment opportunities. It also has enabled me to learn a lot since I began working with MCW.

Glory is a computer teacher at the MCW Community Center in Arusha.

Call to Service
By Haviva Kohl

As a child, I remember being told “When you have a dream, find your North Star and follow it toward accomplishing great things.”

So, I did. I went straight to Songea, a rural community in southern Tanzania, where running water and electricity are scarce, laughter is grand, and the average level of education attainment is seventh grade.

But, above and beyond this, it is a place where most of its inhabitants dream small because of their community’s lack of social and economic opportunities.

Continued on Page 10
Call to Service
Continued from Page 9

I remember one of the first English classes I taught to MCW members. I asked every student to introduce himself. Ishmael, 22, said: “My father is a peasant, my mother is a peasant, and I will be a peasant.”

I realized at that moment that MCW had a challenging task: to teach community members the essence of dreaming big and providing them with lasting skills and a knowledge-base to bring their dreams to life.

Therefore, I dedicated my time (six months) in Songea to creating sustainable programs that would teach community members just that.

Today, MCW’s center in Songea, Tanzania is flourishing, and every day many more miracles are born.

UPDATES
Continued from Page 5

SIERRA LEONE

By Harry Gbetuwa

Sierra Leone is recovering from ten years of civil war, which destroyed and damaged most of the country’s infrastructure, educational centers and services, and private homes.

In fact, almost 70 percent of the nation’s schools were destroyed. Approximately only 30 percent of the population is literate.

In Freetown, most children attend school until eighth grade. Yet, since the civil war’s outbreak, many children have not returned to school. Things have become even more difficult since only a small number of professionals are trained to teach youth.

As a result of this situation, many children often go to work to bring in an additional income for their families, when they’re not in school.

MCW hopes to address the challenges facing Sierra Leonean youth. We hope that a new MCW youth center will provide a creative and empowering outlet for young people in the eastern region of Freetown and surrounding areas to learn, share, and develop new entrepreneurial skills.

Our plan is for the center to help youth develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills through a variety of educational courses and through global cultural exchange programs.

MCW-Sierra Leone also plans to offer basic computer and Internet training to young people. These services have not yet been offered in primary schools. Adult literacy classes will also be provided.

Opening a preschool is another integral part of the project, to encourage education from an early age and to prepare children for primary school.

We hope that the center will be opened by the spring.

Harry is the Project Coordinator for MCW in Sierra Leone. He is working with US-based MCW Project Coordinator Amanda Blount.

Entrepreneurial Boys and Girls Club

By Rob Alsbrooks

One of the biggest problems facing the city of Philadelphia in recent years is a rising murder rate. Last year alone (2006) saw over 370 murders, representing a 30 percent increase from 2002. According to Philadelphia Police Research, approximately 45 percent of those killed were under the age of 25.

Young, inner-city youth are forced to navigate the tough Philly streets, often becoming victims and perpetrators of violence themselves.

It does not have to be this way, and together we can change it.

For the last ten years, I have had a dream to build a safe haven in my community, where public, non-profit, and private organizations can work together with local citizens to enrich the lives of our youth.

We have already begun the process by acquiring a square-acre plot from the City of Philadelphia. I believe that MCW can lead the charge to build the first-ever Entrepreneurial Boys and Girls Club.

To make this happen, I have started a dialogue with the offices of State Representative Jewell Williams (197th Legislative District, PA), and with District Councilman Darrell Clarke (5th District, Philadelphia, PA), as well as other public officials and neighborhood leaders, who are excited to help move this project forward.

After hearing the dream, the Philadelphia-based Institute for the Development of African-American Youth (IDAAY) has also expressed a strong interest in partnering with MCW on this unique initiative.

In the fall, MCW Construction Coordinator Alfred Hansen (see above) visited the site, which is located on block 2200 on North 17th Street in North Philadelphia. He plans to begin drafting the preliminary architectural design of the club in early 2007.

To get involved with MCW programs in Philadelphia, send an e-mail to Rob at rob@miraclecorners.org.
New Jersey to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

MCW sent a second ocean freight container of donations from Sayreville, New Jersey to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in June. The container was packed with hundreds of boxes of books, donated by McGraw Hill and Harper-Collins, and dental and medical supplies, donated by Henry Schein Cares.

The container also included boxes of new shoes from the Susie Reizod Foundation and twenty computers for MCW’s centers in Songea and Arusha, thanks to the University of Pennsylvania donated HP Technology for Community Grant Initiative.

MCW Honors CNN

MCW presented its first-ever Media Africa Advocacy Award to CNN for its positive coverage on the African continent and its people at MCW’s second annual gala dinner at New York University’s Kimmel Center in February 2006.

Special recognition was given to Christiane Amanpour, CNN’s Chief International Correspondent; Jeff Kepnes, Senior Producer; and Mark Nelson, Senior Executive Producer for their documentary, Can We Save Them?, which provided a first-hand glimpse into the challenges facing the African continent in the 21st century.

Lynne Abraham (left), District Attorney of Philadelphia, presented Ambassador Daudi Mwakawago (right), former UN Special Representative to the Secretary General in Sierra Leone, with MCW’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He was honored for his steadfast efforts to build a peaceful and stable world and for his long-term support of MCW.

Tanzanian Ambassador Dr. Augustine Mahiga presented Alfred Hanssen with the Spirit of MCW Award for his work in Songea.

More than 300 supporters attended the dinner, including international business leaders, representatives of non-profit groups, and dignitaries from African governments, embassies, and consulates. Michelle Makori, Bloomberg TV News Anchor, and Liz Claman, CNBC Anchor, also participated.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the MCW’s Dinner Chairs, MCW raised nearly $300,000 for programs worldwide. More than 70 items were auctioned off at the silent auction, which was organized by Khalid Elachi with help from Juliette Montague.

For two years, MCW has hosted its gala dinners at NYU’s Kimmel Center, which has helped MCW keep costs down by reducing the event’s overhead so every dollar raised at the event supports MCW’s programs directly.

Congratulations to MCW Board member Anna Condouls, who led the volunteer dinner planning committee, for a successful event. Thanks to Susan Vassallo, Lorena Bloom, Shareen Mani, Candice Knox, and Maria Porcaro of Henry Schein, Inc. for their support.

Continued Partnership with Microsoft

Since donating Office and Windows software to run the first eight computers at MCW’s Community Center in Arusha in 2001, Microsoft has provided critical support to MCW’s projects.

In 2006, MCW’s collaboration with Microsoft was particularly strong. MCW was recognized as a grant, software, and curricula recipient of Microsoft’s Unlimited Potential (UP) initiative.

UP is a global program designed to help broaden digital inclusion and aid workforce development by providing technology skills through community technology centers.

UP will support the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Training Program for the Promotion of Youth Employment and Income Generation in MCW’s community centers in an urban Arusha and rural Songea.

The program aims to train MCW computer teachers, upgrade networking and Internet hardware, install superior software, and incorporate improved teaching curricula.

In December, three members of Microsoft’s Community Affairs team (Akhtar Badshah, Senior Director; Heba Ramzy, Program Manager of Regional Citizenship; and Ntutule Tshebye, Manager for West, East, and Central Africa) visited the Arusha ICT center.

The team toured the site and then met with MCW’s local youth leaders on the status of current projects and areas for potential improvement.

MCW Shares New Office in New York

MCW moved into a new shared office space, on Madison Avenue in Manhattan, in July.
“There are many forces of good and evil in this world and I believe the good far outweighs the evil. People like Eddie and Rob represent the good because the work they do in Tanzania truly makes a difference in people’s lives. They have a choice—a choice to do good or a choice to do evil. And they choose to do good. Thank you Eddie. Thank you Rob. Thank you.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu