



## Mission Accomplished in Kilimanjaro Hunger and HIV AIDS is a Deadly Combination!

Zerf Challenge 2020 Team, Wilhelmina Fredericks, Elisabeth Allen , Sister Freda Kessy and Joe Joseph , worked in Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania in September, 2008 was HIV/AIDS testing at the KIKUHE Community and Orphans Centre in Hedaru. The same district has one of the highest HIV rates in the Kilimanjaro region. KIKUHE in Swahili is an acronym for a Group Fighting AIDS in Hedaru. KIKUHE Chairman, Emmanuel Msinga, told us KIKUHE works to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and holds seminars and workshops to teach how to prevent acquiring the virus. In Tanzania there is a dangerous stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. People are afraid to come out and get tested. If a person is known to have HIV they risk being ostracized from their family, friends, and community. In some cases even a person who knows they are HIV positive will hide this information and continue to spread the disease because they are afraid to talk about their HIV positive status. Hiding a positive HIV status prevents a person from getting the medicine they need to help prolong their life and the education they need to stop the spread of the disease. We tested many mothers and children. Several were positive. However, these children will be taken care of the rest of their lives by Zerf productions along with their partners and the Notre Dame de Grace community. Life in this orphanage is difficult for these children. They have no running water, no food, they eat porridge, twice a day, have no sanitary facilities, no kitchen, no self-esteem no Hope. Hunger and HIV / AIDS is a deadly combination the children in KiKuhe Centre need all the help they can get. Please be part of our mission with your donations and volunteer in Hedaru, Tanzania

In July of 2007 the president of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, took an HIV test in public. Tanzania has instituted free voluntary HIV testing, but with the stigma surrounding HIV and the fact that many people don't live near a facility where they can get tested - HIV/AIDS continues to be a problem.

Trinity Biotech of United States gave Zerf (USA) 40,000 tests, worth \$750, 000 (US) for free, to test the people. The tests were delivered to St. Joseph Hospital in Moshi Kilimanjaro. Zerf Productions Canada delivered \$150,000 worth of medicine, from the people of Canada. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS. See our website for pictures of the mission in Africa.. [www.zerfchallenge2020.com](http://www.zerfchallenge2020.com)

### ***Ko – Koo - 20th Anniversary of Zerf:***

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zerf will be celebrated at St. Ansgar's Church on Saturday, Nov 29 at 7:30 p.m. Community groups will participate in a concert to commemorate the event. As usual, the cost is a donation of non-perishable food for the NDG Food Bank. A freewill donation will be collected during the evening for the Mothers and children Affected and infected with HIV and Aids in Africa.