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Treating and Caring for Swazi Children Orphaned by AIDS

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Abstract
- Our goal is to assist Swazi land children with HIV who were orphaned by AIDS
- Establish a two-part program in conjunction with Build-A-Bear Workshop called Build-A-Life
- We hope that through this program the children will be able to live healthier physical and emotional lives

Project Goal
- To provide support for Swazi children orphaned by AIDS and who contracted HIV

Impact of AIDS
AIDS Today:
- 22.5 million sub-Saharan Africans live with AIDS
- 1.8 million have died
- HIV adult prevalence rate in Swaziland is 25.9%
- 100,000 orphans in Swaziland, 69% due to AIDS

HIV works in two ways:
1. Immune system
   - Attacks fighter T cells
   - Breaks down body’s first line of defense
   - Leaves body vulnerable to infection
2. Central nervous system
   - Causes damage to the brain

Methods
Start a two-part program partnered with Build-A-Bear Workshop
For initial funding submit a grant proposal to the Global Fund
- Part of the proceeds from every bear wearing the tag will also add to the fund
- Lend a hand in Swaziland, proceeds from each bear will be used to send life-saving medicine to a school child with AIDS in Swaziland.

Part 1:
- Supply orphaned school children with antiretroviral drugs (ARVs)
- ARVs will be handed out each morning at school

Part 2:
- Offer grief counseling
  - Teachers will undergo a training program to learn how to counsel children
  - Alumni will return and tell the current children in the program how their lives have changed

Outcome
- Enable children to live a longer life
- Medicine will control the symptoms of HIV
- Children will find emotional stability and cope with their parents’ deaths
- The Build-A-Life program will generate enough revenue to expand into other schools

Problems Faced by AIDS Orphans
Emotional Impact:
- Suffer from emotional neglect and trauma
- Experience anxiety, depression, social isolation, low self-esteem, and anger
- 12% said they wished they were dead
- 34% have contemplated suicide within a year after their parents’ deaths
- Are more likely to become infected with AIDS

Household Impact:
- Have no income
- Children-headed households

Education:
- Miss out on valuable life-skills and practical knowledge
- Are more likely to face social, economic, and health problems as they grow up

Stigmatization:
- Experience shame, fear, and rejection associated with people with AIDS
- Are assumed to have AIDS and face discrimination

References