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

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

Back
Front