Kenya Smiles

A Model Program for Improving Children’s Oral Health in Kenya, East Africa, & Beyond

A Program of Districts 5160 (North Central California), 9212 (Kenya), & 6150 (Central & NE Arkansas)

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

Moderator: PDG Bill Gray
Panel members: PDG Laura Day, Dr. Stephen Irungu, Dr. Sheila Hurst

2014 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
2011-12 District 7040 Governor Bill Gray

Rotary Club of Cataraqui-Kingston

Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor, Zone 24 East

Director, Rotary Action Group for Microfinance & Community Development
The Rotarian, February 2014

FEFRUARY 2014

Project gets to the root of dental problems

F

over 1,000 dentists serve the 20 million people of Kenya, from the far reaches of this bushy, mti-

nba's vast Kibera slums. Dental hygiene is a rare commodity privileged to only a few.

most rural areas, people have to travel long distances to see a dentist,” says Stephen

Irungu, chief dental officer at Kenya’s Ministry of Health and past president of the Ro-

tary Club of Nairobi. “Most of the patients will go to the
dental clinic only because they have pain.”

Cultural norms suggest that “it’s OK if your teeth fall out if your teeth are broken. They

think people are not going to die when their teeth fall out,” says Past District

Governor Gusta Mauo.

These perceptions belie the fact that tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood and a

hurdle in health care in many countries around the world. “We worry about AIDS and malaria and TB among the

world’s poor, but tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of children,” says Past District

Governor Geeta Manek.

Tooth decay is often caused by eating too many sugary foods and not brushing teeth regularly. The

Kenya Smiles project gets to the root of dental problems by empowering the poorest of the poor to

prepare traditional grain and produce-based meals. Team member Peter DuBois, a member of the Rotary Club of West

California, Calif., expects that the 32-hour days the group spends in the field will pay divi-
dends as mothers instill good habits in their children. “No mother in the world wants any-
thing but good things for her children,” Green says.

The educational compo-
nent is what sets Kenya Smiles apart from many other dental projects, says team member

Peter DuBois, executive

director of the California Den-
tal Association, concrete: “The

program quite like it.”

Dr. Hurst, where 25,000-

member organization serves a state with roughly the same

population as Kenya, arranged

meetings with dental profes-
sionals for the Kenyan VTT

deligation and brought the

team members to the floor

to make it easier to

see the kids with their big

miles on their faces. When

we talk to them, they’re so

proud about it. We can see the

knowledge spread from one

grader to another.”

SHEILA HURST

In July, 5,000 children in Kenya received backpacks filled with items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible cups. The Kenya Smiles project also funds education for mothers and helps train local dentists.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

donation funded each kit.

The team demonstrated how to use the kits with a

hippo hand puppet, a comic strip, and more mobile facilities, including Hurst, Day, and

Sokal-Gutierrez’s pop-up dental operating units, educational

materials, and 5,000 Rotary blue backpacks filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste,

and collapsible stainless-steel cups – dubbed “magic cups” by their young recipients. A $10

FEBRUARY 2014

THE ROTARIAN

16

17
Kenya Smiles

Breakout Session at the
Rotary International Convention
Sydney, Australia
How did this happen?

We’d like to describe how we

1. Identified a problem worth doing.

2. Identified some ways to address the problem.

3. Found funding to help address the problem we identified.
Dr. Stephen Irungu Macharia

Chief Dental Officer of Kenya
Charter Member and Past President, Rotary Club of Murang’a, District 9212
Kenya

43 million people, 42 tribes
Kenya Ministry of Health

... is committed to Kenya Smiles and will give all the support possible.
Identifying the Problem

Kenya
43 million people
1,000 dentists

California
38 million people
30,000 dentists

Canada
35 million people
23,000 dentists
Kenya dentists volunteer in rural clinics.
And in the slums of Nairobi.
Kenya dentists provide free dental care.
The Kenya Dental Association takes its mobile caravan to schools.
Kenya dentists volunteer at schools teaching children how to brush.
Dental school students and interns also serve the community in free clinics.
#1 Vocational Training Team of 6

From Kenya to Northern California - April 2013
#1 Vocational Training Team of 6

Dr. Stephen Irungu
Chief Dental Officer
Kenya Ministry of Health

Dr. Jane Wamai
Kenya Dental Association
National Chairwoman
Government Dentist

Rotary Sydney
#1 Vocational Training Team of 6

Dr. Linus Ndegwa  
Dentist In Charge  
Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi  
KDA Council Secretary

Dr. Regina Mutave  
Nairobi University Dental School  
Department Chair, Periodontology/Community & Preventive Dentistry  
KDA Council member
#1 Vocational Training Team of 6

Dr. Peter Gaitho  
Director & Dental Surgeon  
Everest Dental Group, Ltd.  
Rotary Club of Meru

Dr. Kimathi Mwongera  
Meru Dental Services  
Public Health Lecturer,  
Kenya Methodist University
UOP Dental School in San Francisco
University of California Berkeley
Henry Schein Dental Workshop in California
Honored by the California State Assembly
#2 Vocational Training Team of 10

Northern California to Kenya - July 2013
Both Vocational Training Teams in Nairobi
At the University of Nairobi Dental School

Instruction and training for faculty & students
Professional consultations and demonstrations
At the Kenya Dental Association

4 continuing education classes
Sheila Hurst, Ed.D.

Kenya Smiles Project Leader

Rotary Club of Redding West, District 5160
Addressing the Problem

Kenya Smiles

Improving the Oral Health Of Children in Kenya through a Sustainable, Easily Adapted, Dental Preventive Care Program
Rotarians of District 9200/9212

Rotary Club of Karen-Nairobi
Past Country Chair Chair Jeff Bamford

2012-13
District 9200 Governor
Geeta Manek
Dentists can better treat underserved children.
Equipment and supplies for children’s treatment provide improved dental care for children.
New funding for children in Mukuru Slum.

Screening, oral prophylaxis, and dental treatments
The dental exam isn’t really scary.
Clean teeth = a bright smile.
Dental supplies are available & affordable.