

Camp Sunburst 2013 KENYA



"Those who bring sunshine in the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves"

Empowering HIV/AIDS impacted youth and families by providing social-psychosocial support to help build **positive relationships**, improve **self-esteem**, and **acquire life-skills** through recreational and educational interventions.

SUNBURST PROJECTS: A VITAL MISSION

Our mission is to keep families together (family preservation) by providing services that strengthen and empower individuals, families, and communities, to ensure youth living with HIV/AIDS reach their highest potential.

OUR WORK

Sunburst Projects decided to focus its efforts in Kenya because, despite being one of the countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS, it has recently shown potential to emerge as an economic and social leader in the region. We believe Kenya is now at an inflection point where investment in the health sector will contribute significantly to rapid improvements in the care available for individuals infected with HIV/AIDS. We take great care in constructing our programs to ensure that they address important areas of need and are constantly evaluating and improving the programs both internally and through participant feedback.

Our programs are designed to fulfill our mission and catalyze our broader global vision - **a vision for the HIV/AIDS impacted youth to become the leaders of the next generation**. We believe that the sustainability of our programs depends on educated local populations with the skills and the motivation to form their own future.

Sites: 3

HIV-positive children served: 409

HIV-positive adolescents served: 1,644

Peer Leaders Trained: 7

CAMP SUNBURST KENYA

In August 2013 Sunburst Projects implemented our first Camp Sunburst Kenya- targeting 34 HIV positive youth. The program was conducted in partnership with the University of Eastern Africa-Baraton. This beautiful campus housed all 34 youth, provided a large activity center, and also allowed us to tour their productive agricultural campus with the children. The youth loved touring the University and for many of them it provided inspiration to continue their education.

With 30 years of Camp Sunburst US under our belt, we brought the successful model to Kenya- changing some of our programs to fit cultural and community needs. At the 4 day/3 night camp children learned about medication adherence, sex education, disclosure, and HIV/AIDS education. Sunburst staff and volunteers led activities in programs such as storytelling, mask making, yoga, puppetry, and peer leadership.

Our signature Messengers of the Heart was performed which made a big impact on the staff and children. Stories, poems, dance, and songs were engaged in and children shared their stories of becoming infected, living with the virus, and their home life. At the end of Camp, after numerous goodbyes and tears, the children left with their heads held high ready to tackle any obstacle, study hard for their school exams, and bring passion and HIV education to their Kenyan village.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

UCSF FACES

In 2010, as we neared the completion of almost 3 decades of work in the United States, Sunburst Projects joined forces with (FACES) Family AIDS Care and Education Services a (UCSF) University of California San Francisco and (KEMRI) Kenya Medical Institute partnership to further develop models of best care for more than 10,000 HIV positive youth receiving care at FACES clinics throughout Kenya. Now, 2013, Sunburst Projects has

partnered with over 20 local Kenyan organizations and has reached 2,000 HIV-positive youth through our peer leadership, Camp Sunburst, and support group programs. We currently work at 2 FACES clinic sites in Kisumu and 1 FACES clinic site in Nairobi. In the next 3 years we plan to expand to more sites and run additional programs.

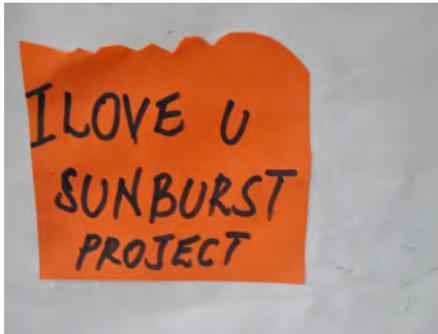


THANK YOU FACES for continuing to be a supportive partner and to all of our volunteers and staff for making Sunburst Projects in Kenya a success!

Messengers of the Heart



Poetry from youth



A Memorable Camp



During the camp the 34 youth worked to prepare for a final night grand performance of music, drama, art, storytelling, and poetry. In a magical evening filled with joy and love, campers shared inspirational and funny skits and stories, and sang songs they had written about growing up with HIV/AIDS.

"Sunburst Projects is helping me realize my dream. I want to be a journalist and travel the world. I now know being HIV-positive wont stop me"

-Camp Sunburst participant

THIS IS ME!

I used to be the kind of gal who
hid my face
Stayed by myself
With no one around
But I know it's time for me to show
it out..!
I know now that am a star, its true!
I know it's real, it's for real!
This is real!
This is me!
Am exactly where am supposed to
be
Am gonna let the light shine on
me
Now I have found who I am
There is no way to hold I in
No more hiding who I wanna be
This is me!
- Camp Sunburst participant

"The sunburst camp has helped me a lot, on how to take my drugs, how to take my medication on good time and not to skip even a single dose, I have learnt that my CD4 cells will drop if I don't take my drugs well, leading to infection with opportunistic diseases i.e. rashes, tuberculosis and malaria. My colleagues have helped me learn that I am not alone in this lonely world..., I have been encouraged by all my counselors and leaders too."

- Camp Sunburst participant