



Med25 Newsletter

JUNE 2010

Questions? Contact Executive Director Rebecca Conte at: rebecca@med25.org

ABOUT MED25:

Med25 works at the community level to actualize the basic human right of all individuals for access to competent, culturally appropriate, and affordable health care to improve the health, welfare, and social justice of people everywhere. In accordance with Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Med25 provides basic health care to those most in need, most at risk, and who have suffered the most as a result of historical neglect.

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For more info please visit us at our website: www.med25.org

Using Soccer to Kick Disease out of Mbita

Our first Annual Med25 Football Tournament, "Kick Disease out of Mbita" was a fabulous success. Eight teams from nearby villages turned out to fight for a new set of soccer jerseys, health vouchers to the Med25 Clinic, and, of course, bragging rights within the community we serve. The football (soccer) was amazing, a knock out round on the first day, competitive semi-finals,



Referees with team captains prior to coin toss for the opening game

and the ultimate final on Sunday. The football games were fun to watch, but the fans, especially the women from different villages, were the true entertainment. They ran

up and down the sidelines cheering for their team, and with every goal, all the fans rushed the field. While the football game was the entertainment, the focus for



Evelyn warms up the crowd before the peer educators perform

Med25 was community sensitization and mobilization. We partnered with local peer educators who performed health skits at half time on topics such as, HIV/AIDS and the harm of witchcraft. Although we had services for all, our focus for the event was the health of men over the age of 18. We tested and counseled about 50 people for HIV, and we had



Volunteer Red Cross first-aid workers attend to an injured player after a game

male medical circumcision available. Circumcision is very important in this community because it greatly decreases a man's risk of contracting HIV.

This event was one to remember with 200+ community members viewing the games and involving themselves in the health activities. The weekend's events confirmed how much the government is in support of our work and the services we provide to the community. Our Med25 Staff and the Mbita community eagerly await the 2nd annual Med25 football tournament.

Meet the Staff: Evelyn Okoth, Social Worker

Evelyn Okoth is the social worker at the Med25 clinic and is also the coordinator of the community health worker program. She comes to work every day eager to support our staff and our patients. Evelyn has experience in counseling families through challenging health experiences, with a focus on care and support of HIV positive patients.

Evelyn was the Program Director for this year's Med25 football tournament, and was a main reason for the event's success. She organized peer educator groups to perform health skits that truly left an impression on the audi-



Evelyn Okoth— Social Worker

ence. She is a local young woman enthusiastic about bringing her community together to improve health outcomes and to improve the overall quality of life. Evelyn finished her schooling in Social Work but was unable to take her certification exam due to the cost. She works hard every day in hopes of continuing her education, become officially certified, and thus make an even larger impact on her community.

To learn more about the clinic staff and to contribute to Evelyn's exam fees or to assist in paying her salary, please visit our website.