

DGAAN pays Tribute to U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde

Members of DuPage Global AIDS Action Network (DGAAN) fondly remember U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde, chair of the International Relations Committee, for his valiant efforts to stem the spread of HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. He was the author of a bold initiative in 2003, which was initially referred to as the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; the program is now called the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Hyde's legislation authorized \$15 billion over five years for this program. Program administrators continued to seek DGAAN input even after it was passed into law.

In fact, when Kenya's Sr. Florence Muia, ASN, informed DGAAN in 2004 of the obstacles that stood in the way of accessing antiretroviral drugs for the residents of Upendo Village, a community that assists individuals and families impacted by HIV/AIDS, she blamed the problem on the high cost of administration fees. A staffer from Rep. Hyde's office who was in attendance at the meeting gathered more information on the situation and reported the problem directly to the Congressman because this kind of fee structure was in contradiction with the PEPFAR legislation.

A few weeks later, upon Sr. Florence's return to Kenya, she discovered that the Congressman had wasted no time righting a wrong—the administration fees charged for the desperately needed antiretroviral drugs had already become miniscule.

Rep. Hyde also moved through Congress the Northern Ugandan Crisis Response Act to assist the night commuters in Northern Uganda. These were children who went to refuge sites at night to escape the threat of being abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Rep. Hyde's compassion for people was further evidenced by his active support of the promotion of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. Aware of the complex political situation in Sudan and China's involvement in the economical advancement of that country, Rep. Hyde moved to identify ways to comprehensively address this dire genocide.

Rep. Hyde worked for the economic advancement of developing countries and was given the Masaai Warrior Sculpture from

Upendo Village for his efforts to slay the enemy of poverty in Africa.

The members of DGAAN will also remember Hyde from our annual visits with the political statesman who listened to our concerns and made a concerted effort to advance causes related to HIV and AIDS. DGAAN awarded Rep. Hyde a plaque recognizing his outstanding leadership and his heroic efforts to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS.