



DuPage Gloçal AIDS Action Network

<http://www.dgaan.org>

Keeping the Promise: Leaders in Making Poverty History Sixth Annual Report: 2008 Goals

The DuPage Gloçal AIDS Action Network (DGAAN) was formed as a result of Bono, of the rock group, U2, stopping at Wheaton College for an evening appearance of the Heart of America Tour in December 2002.

DGAAN was formed with three guiding purposes

- To build a strong advocate voice in the DuPage area and to expand that voice into local, national and international arenas.
- To find ways to network successfully and build an enduring community.
- To strengthen the lifeline, offering strands of hope to stop the spread of AIDS gloçally. (The word gloçal, an amalgam of gloçal, and local, is to remind us that our efforts should be as far reaching as the HIV/AIDS pandemic itself).

The network is chaired by two people: Sr. Sheila Kinsey, OSF, D.Min. and leader of the Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office for the Wheaton Franciscans, which is a nonprofit Catholic advocacy organization, and Dr. Sandra Joireman, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Politics and International Relations at Wheaton College.

In 2003, the first annual report, entitled "A Successful Advocacy Group," chronicled the formation of DGAAN. The second annual report was titled "Future Directions for DGAAN," and the third highlighted DGAAN's efforts to lift up the poor and marginalized; the report was called "Campaign to End Poverty." In 2006, DGAAN embarked on an advocacy mission; the annual report, called "Campaign to Make Poverty History" reflects that commitment. The fifth annual report called "Leading to Make Poverty History" was meant to bring attention to DGAAN's leadership role on the global front. At the start of 2008, members of DGAAN established the following goals for the calendar year:

- **Recruitment and Movement Building,**
- **Continuing Education,**
- **Activist Training and Network Building**

This 2008 Annual Report demonstrates the progress of DGAAN with these goals.

1. Recruitment and Movement Building

- DGAAN members information about DGAAN's purposes at various meetings.
- Dr. Joireman worked on a variety of papers regarding the use of violence as it is employed on women's property rights in Kenya and other African nations.
- Meetings with the AIDS Task Force at Wheaton College.
- STEP programs held at the parishes of St. Joan of Arc, Lisle, and St. Thomas the Apostle, Naperville, featured HIV/AIDS statistics and mission opportunities.
- Tom Richardt hosted the annual St. Joan of Arc Octoberfest for Upendo Village in Naivasha, Kenya.
- Dr. Evvy Campbell presented on "Global AIDS" to Public Health Class at Wheaton College.

- The core group of regular participants at DGAAN averaged 14 persons. Over 100 cards are sent for reminders.
- Participants from various groups included Wheaton College, Canticle Ministries, Student Global AIDS Campaign, Wheaton Franciscans, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Parish, Lombard Mennonite Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, ONE, Mosaic Initiative, Gwaimen Center, DuPage County Health Dept., Loyola University, and DeKalb Chapter of Bread for the World.
- Articles featuring the topic of HIV/AIDS and African issues appeared both in Mother Earth Sister Peace and the Wheaton Franciscan JPIC Blog.
- Ann Piasecki was interviewed by WXRT Radio on her work with DGAAN.
- Increased awareness among Redeemer Lutheran Church parishioners around world hunger issues. This included a hunger banquet.
- A panelists presentation focused on AIDS was held at Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church.
- Presented at two education classes at Elmhurst College about Gwaiwen Center.
- Facilitated a project at Timothy Christian Grade School, involving interaction among sixth graders in the U.S. school and youngsters at Gwaiwen Center in Nigeria.
- Spoke at Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Women & Property Rights in Africa.
- Student Global AIDS Campaign (SGAC) of Wheaton College hosted a number of World AIDS activities during the week of December 1 focusing on the theme: Where do you fit? Events included publicity, interdisciplinary faculty panel, and the presentation of the Wheaton College Theology Statement on HIV/AIDS.
- Kristin Hartsaw, DuPage Health Department, implemented routine screening for HIV within health department STD clinic.
- Conducted an Offering of Letters at Lombard Mennonite Church & Wheaton Christian Reformed Church.
- Hosted Sr. Florence Muia's visits to the U.S. regarding Upendo Village.
- Presented to 10th graders at Martino Jr. High School, New Lenox, on Uganda in the wake of the LRA.
- Scholarships awarded to persons with HIV/AIDS through Canticle Ministries and Mosaic Initiatives.
- Joined in the Midwest AIDS Housing Conference.
- Participated in the World Vision Experience at First Presbyterian.
- Joined in the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, which embraced the AIDS campaign
- Led a spiritual group at Canticle Place.
- Participated in a Nigerian businessmen's meeting.
- Presented a session on the Franciscan International Seminar on Uganda for Eastern Africa at the Franciscan Annual Conference in Denver.
- Joycelyn Smolia planned World Vision experience and prayer vigil for AIDS as an ecumenical experience.
- Brochures and booklets on DGAAN have been distributed at events locally, nationally and internationally.
- DGAAN's Web site served and continues to serve as a basis for timely updates. Suzie Broomes is responsible for the Web site publications.

2. Continuing Education

- *The Dangerous Act of Worship*: Rev. Mark Labberton spoke passionately and clearly about the call to balance local and global issues concerning justice within the church. He inspired the group with stories about his congregation's involvement with HIV/AIDS programs in Africa and trafficking in San Francisco.
- *Chaos and Unrest in Kenya after the December 2007 Election*: Sr. Florence Muia, ASN, in Kenya poignantly shared her grief around the chaos and violence in Kenya. She shared painful stories about the consequence of mistrust among her fellow countrymen in the aftermath of the December 2007 presidential election in Kenya. The political calamity stirred the destruction of property and, tragically, spilled over into brutal and senseless killing. Much of the unrest was seeded from unfair distribution of property. Societal decline becomes more poignant when one considers that Kenya had once been considered the Pride of Africa.
- *Gwaimen Center for AIDS Widows and Orphans*: Mary Sytsma shared her visit to the center through a powerful PowerPoint presentation about the work at the center. Gwaimen Center staff works to ease nutrition gaps, distributes medication, school supplies and facilitates micro-financing opportunities.
- *Franciscans International Seminar in Uganda*: Sr. Sheila Kinsey vividly presented the experience of her visits to a prison near Kapala in Northern Uganda, where the Lord's Resistance Army threatened residents and in IDP camp for Kenyan refugees. The seminar attracted about 50 enthusiastic Franciscans from Eastern Africa. It was designed to address human rights, planning, fundraising, peace building and networking.
- *Updates on the Farm Bill*: Bob Gronski, policy advisor for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference discussed the reasons for the food crisis: a rise in transportation costs, an improved diet among the population of some developing countries, an increase in livestock feeding demands, the birth of the biofuels industry (crops designated for ethanol production), severe droughts and floods.
- *DuPage HIV/AIDS Program*: Kristin Harsaw, new program manager, serves the public in addressing all HIV/AIDS related areas. She discussed HIV/STD programs; HIV/Counseling, testing and referrals; HIV Prevention and HIV Case Management.
- *International HIV/AIDS Conference in Mexico*: Carolyn Boyd, director of Faith and Community-Based Outreach for Global AIDS Alliance, updated the group on the latest developments and research on HIV/AIDS.
- *Challenges, Opportunities and Hopes of the new Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Plan for HIV/AIDS*: Jeana Stewart, co-director of Canticle Ministries, discussed the reporting criteria and the implications for communities.
- *Ethiopian Summer Teaching Experience and the Global Food Crisis*: Dr. Sandra Joireman offered an engaging description of her educational experience with the religious leaders. Her aim was to raise awareness on gender equality issues, HIV/AIDS, poverty and nutrition. The situation in Addis Abba, where Dr. Joireman was teaching, was dire, considering the exponential increase in the price for food.
- *Mary Crickmore, MPA, HIV/AIDS Team Leader for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) in Nigeria and Senegal*: shared her supervisory experience with successful HIV/AIDS programs. She addressed essential components: 1) Support for those living positively with HIV/AIDS; 2) voluntary testing and counseling; and 3) addressing systemic issues of justice. With the compelling use of a DVD-format for the presentation of student-authored stories, Mary demonstrated effective opportunities for culture change.
- *Life Beyond Medications*: Donna Faur, Min. Div., CA, and consultant to the DuPage County Health Dept., shared her deep respect for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS. Donna is a compassionate, nonjudgmental counselor who encourages her clients to be responsible for themselves, she described the importance of her supervisory role in these countries, where she promotes the key components for successful facilitation.
- *Update on the Student Global AIDS Campaign of Wheaton College*: Students shared impressive information about their political advocacy and campus event.

3. Activist Training

- Advocacy efforts to support Bread for the World's offering of letters to grow support for the reduction of global hunger and poverty with the implementation of effective and socially just Farm Bill legislation. The campaign highlighted the life and death significance of proper nutrition and sanitation for the poor, including persons with HIV. The last bill passed with increase nutrition, food support domestically, but no change on agriculture subsidies.
- Dr. Joireman elected to the Bread for the World Board: she is a member of the organization's executive committee and chairs the advocacy impact committee.
- Coordinated an offering of letters at Wesley United Methodist Church seeking passage of the Global Poverty Act.
- Met with U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin, Wheaton's Rep. Peter Roskam and a member of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's staff and urged them to support the Global Poverty Act which he did. The bill was introduced in both the House and Senate; it has not yet passed.
- Promoted Jubilee Act legislation through calls, e-mails and postcards.
- Met with Hinsdale's Rep. Judy Biggert and encouraged her support of HR 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation. Rep. Biggert was a co-sponsor and encouraged other republicans to vote favorably. Some DGAAN members were mentioned in her presentation of the bill.
- Conducted calls and or visited with Rep. Peter Roskam, Rep. Mark Kirk, Rep. Jerry Weller and Rep. Bill Foster, thus, gained their support for the Jubilee Act. In all 16 (ILL), house congressional leaders voted for the bill.
- Met with Rep Donald Manzullo on Jubilee Act and PEPFAR. He is a member of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee.
- Participated in meetings regarding global solidarity and advocacy in the Joliet Diocese.
- Advocated on behalf of PEPFAR legislation and secured support from Senators Obama and Durbin as well as Representatives Biggert, Kirk and Foster. However, Rep. Roskam did not support the effort.
- Joined conference calls and authored a draft of a statement for the Catholic Religious Leaders in Illinois regarding human trafficking.
- Spoke at Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church about advocacy for HIV/AIDS.
- Promoted international declaration on poverty homelessness and HIV/AIDS.
- E-mailed questions on poverty issues to presidential candidates.
- Met with Illinois Sen. Dan Cronin of Elmhurst to raise awareness of AIDS in DuPage County
- Engaged Annisa Wanat, ONE Campaign field organizer, to help move a variety of advocacy, such as PEPFAR and the Jubilee Act along with the Global Child Survival Act.
- Advocated for peace in Darfur.
- Took action with the ONE Campaign to encourage Obama to act on behalf of the hungry and the poor people around the world.
- Participated in Jubilee USA **What's on your heart campaign?** To secretary of Treasury designate as a request to making fighting global poverty and debt cancellation a priority.
- Urged Rep. Judy Biggert to co-sponsor HR 7221 Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act which would include more at risk children. She did co-sponsor.
- Urged congressional leaders to address environmental concerns which impact the persons who are poor and the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Prayerful support for advocacy concerns.

4. Network Building

- Sr. Sheila Kinsey prepared presentations for the Franciscan training seminar in Eastern Africa to be held in Jinja, Uganda. The seminar included programs on empowerment and how it lifts up the issue of human rights, HIV/AIDS, peace building and advocacy.
- Mary Sytsma of the Gwaiwen Center for AIDS widows and orphans in Nigeria, reported about her work as it deals with providing education and fundraising opportunities.
- Systema is a professor at Elmhurst College. Many of the students on campus were attracted to her promotion of student service work. She taught them, as well, how to appropriately conduct an interview with individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS.
- Susan Bertrand served in mission HIV/AIDS clinic in Nigeria.
- Nick and Gingie Noe helped and assisted Nigerian people in a short-term service project.
- Participated in Joliet Diocesan Mission experience to Naivsha, Kenya.
- Attended UN breakfast meeting in Chicago with guest speaker UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon
- Dr. Evvy Campbell presented a program entitled “What Makes Christian Relief and Development & Organization Unique” at the annual conference of the association of Evangelical relief and development organizations.
- Dr. Evvy Campbell presented a program called “Distinctiveness of Christian Social Justice Organizations” at the Micah Challenge Steering Committee meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Dr. Evvy Campbell presented a program called “Jubilee: Quo Vadis” to Wheaton College at the conclusion of Jubilee week activities. This included a focus on social justice issues.
- Mosaic Initiatives have partnered with the DuPage County Health Depart. to hold a number of HIV/AIDS Testing Clinics.
- Participated in Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C. and followed the HIV/AIDS agenda
- Visited clinics in South Africa and received gratitude for the PEPFAR program.
- Earth Summit 2008 included presentations on work with African countries
- Attended World Hope Board Meetings.
- Participated in PRC food pantry which benefits residents from Canticle Ministries
- Residents at Canticle Place and PLWA members were involved in environmental initiatives and worked to help an Ethiopian family attain basic needs.
- Wheaton Franciscans collaborated with Family Shelter Service and Upendo Village in Naivasha, Kenya, with a labyrinth walk. The focus was aimed at stirring reflection on the violence, abuse and repression of victims of domestic violence. The event was held to raise awareness of domestic violence.
- Participated in World AIDS Day events facilitated by Mosaic Initiatives and Canticle Ministries
- Participated in World Vision AIDS Experience & Concert—300 Wheaton College Students
- Wheaton College Students walked/ran in the Chicago AIDS Foundation event with Canticle Ministries.
- Visited AIDS services in Santo Angelo in Brazil and witnessed the care for the basic needs
- Mary Sytsma received a grant from CRWRC and Embrace AIDS program to raise awareness for CRWRC programs.
- Dr. Joireman is in conversation with both Bread for the World and ONE with involving the evangelical community in the AIDS issue.

DGAAN has become a very strong network through the personal and group efforts of the members. All the members are commended for their successful efforts of advocacy, networking and strengthening the lifelines of hope, locally and globally.

For more information, please go to <http://www.dgaan.org>