



Healthcare is a human right

MKI What's up

July 2009

MKI, What's up?

Without you no projects of the Medical Knowledge Institute would exist. In this second newsletter, you read about the opening of another new Health Information Centre (HIC) in Soweto, and in June the introduction of a health passport started. In his recommendation, Desmond Tutu says: "I salute the MKI and priv-ID, for having developed this important initiative. Let us all work together to achieve the best possible healthcare system, for every citizen throughout our wonderful country."



MKI IS PROUD THAT:

- ✓ You support MKI in several ways;
- ✓ Last April 29th our President Harold Robles was honored with a Dutch royal decoration. On behalf of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands he was appointed Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau, amongst others for his work for MKI;
- ✓ The Yoell jewelry and post cards are now for sale at the Bijenkorf throughout the year;
- ✓ The Millionaires Fair generated € 4.885 for MKI and the Hour of Power concerts € 4.045;
- ✓ MKI is nominated for the Gates Award for Global Health, a prize for organizations that focus on improving healthcare in areas with few resources. This nomination means a special international recognition for MKI;
- ✓ Sandton Hotels, a successful hotel chain, has become a hospitality partner of MKI. This means that Sandton Hotels will sell Yoell jewelry in their hotels and at their website. Also a voluntary contribution of R 1 will be requested of every hotel guest;
- ✓ The new website is up-to-date and interactive: www.infomki.org. Here you can also read the presidential blog of Harold Robles!

MKI and the Red Cross introduce health passport



In June MKI and priv-ID introduced a health passport. About 500 patients of the MKI HIC in Khayelitsha received the first copies.

The passport is developed in cooperation with the South African Red Cross by Harold Robles and Tom Garven from the vision that healthcare can be improved with an ID like this, and that patients will get a stronger grip on their own health. Also identity theft, medical errors and insurance fraud will decrease. After these first 500 passports, a wide distribution of the health passports among patients of the MKI HICs, and clinics of the Red Cross in South Africa will follow. MKI's partner in this project is priv-ID from Eindhoven. Priv-ID is a spin-off of Royal Philips Electronics, and a market leader in the field of biometric identification solutions that protect privacy and are low cost.



New MKI ambassador Nurlaila Karim

Musical star Nurlaila Karim did not hesitate when she heard about the work of MKI: she is now also an Ambassador for MKI. Nurlaila says: "everybody has a right to a healthy life, from a young age onwards. There should be no distinction in medical care, which should be of good quality throughout the world. MKI aims for this unselfishly. It is a privilege to dedicate myself to this cause. I want to help people see that with the right education and coaching they can make a difference."

You can also support us via Pifworld.com

MKI started cooperation with Play it Forward (Pifworld), a charity platform enabling people from all over the world to support their favourite project. With a simple and fun search at pifworld.com everyone can select an appealing development project. MKI seeks sponsors through Pifworld for the set up of two HIC's in Worcester and Pietermaritzburg. You can click and support these projects at www.pifworld.com. We would like to invite you to watch our video clips about the HIC's at <http://www.pifworld.com/#/project/MKIHealthCenters/34/overview>





Beads of hope

In this Beads of Hope a contribution from Kathy Hawthorn. Kathy is a social worker in Cotland, Soweto, where on the 12th of May a new HIC was opened.

It was a beautiful fresh autumn morning in Soweto. The sun was as shiny as the four proud women whose life would change swiftly into a new adventure. Busi, Eslina, Phindle and Sharlotte already arrived early in the morning in order to assist me with the preparations for their big day. I was pleased to see that they were beautifully dressed in their own traditional garments of the Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho

and Tswana. They had obtained their trainer certificates several days earlier in a workshop. What a change when you consider that these women recently were dependent on food parcels from Cotlands. This would change in a couple of hours: out of his dedication and love for our country, Dr. Harold Robles would provide these women with strength and control over their own lives with their monthly allowance, quarterly training in new programs, and the opportunity to help their communities. Several clinics, shelters and an additional 52 NGO's were invited for the official inaugural ceremony. Proudly I saw how the women were presented as trainers. After months of patience and hard work they finally received the reward they deserved, and the honor to enter into this wonderful challenge.



YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT THESE WOMEN IN THE NEXT MKI WHAT'S UP

Cooperation between MKI and Health Information Center (HIC) in Soweto

Last May the 12th, Harold Robles and Lebogang Maloi, (representing the Dutch Ambassador) opened the MKI HIC in Soweto. Four trainers are starting to work there in cooperation with Cotland, one of the oldest organizations in South Africa providing healthcare to children. Through all kinds of projects, Cotland provides care to about 5000 children and their families, many of whom suffer from HIV/AIDS (also read Beads of Hope about this opening).

Workshop for street boys in Kayelitsha



Near the MKI Health Information Centre in Kayelitsha (Cape Town) over a long period of time a group of juveniles were hanging out spending their day smoking, drinking and robbing people to get cash. With their loud noises they disturbed the workshops. During conversations with trainers the boys told about their hopeless existence, without work, income or education, and about their dream to still achieve something in life. The Centre developed a special workshop with the objective to give the boys back their self confidence and discover and leverage their capabilities. This worked: the boys participated enthusiastically, and are determined not to fall back into their old ways. The trainers are convinced that with the right coaching the boys will develop into good citizens. Another advantage is that the disturbance near the Centre has decreased. This picture of Harold Robles with the street boys was taken at the end of May when they came to thank him personally for the difference MKI made in their lives. "They have sung and are now loved in the neighborhood" according to Harold Robles.

The MKI Club of 100

You can still join the MKI Club of 100. This club is for people who carry MKI close to their heart, and want to provide support in a structural way. For more information please email Udo van Unen at udo@development.infomki.org

MKI shares knowledge with Clover Mama Africa

In a two day workshop organized by MKI, a group of women from Clover Mama Africa learned how to recognize the first symptoms of cancer. Cancer is an important cause of death in South Africa as it is in the rest of the world, and can be effectively treated when detected at an early stage. The women also received training about dental care and oral hygiene.

The Clover Mama Africa – Ukwakha Isizwe (building and nurturing our nation) project has the objective to support and empower communities at grass root level so they can help themselves and their surroundings. The project specifically targets women who take care of neglected or abandoned orphans, children, children with HIV and elderly people.



AGENDA

- ✓ During their open tournament in the first week of July, the tennis association Badhoevedorp will bring attention to the activities of MKI. Also, the Yoell jewelry will be available for sale.
- ✓ The Summer Competition, a soccer competition between several business companies from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht, ties up with MKI. Ten percent of the registration fee goes to MKI. Besides this, every soccer player can win an all inclusive trip for two persons to South Africa by collecting the largest sum of money for MKI through Pifworld.com.
- ✓ During the summer holidays three Dutch students in Business Administration will do an internship in the Khayelitsha HIC. Many challenging projects await them, like writing a business plan for transforming Yoell into a community based project, transferring business and computer skills to the HIC staff and assisting with the introduction of the health passport in Khayelitsha. It goes without saying that the students will learn a lot from these projects as well!



READ THE PRESIDENTIAL BLOG OF HAROLD ROBLES! WWW.INFOMKI.ORG

Colophon

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