

LIFESTYLE

Team of volunteers heads to Tanzania

By Meghan E. Jones

Dental Surgeon and Orthodontist Dr. Deborah Tuzo, Director of AHEAD Bermuda, will be leading a team of 10 volunteers on another trip to Tanzania this July, the purpose of which is to assist young Tanzanians to become more self-sufficient.

The volunteers' work will include providing gutter piping for Mzeanga Girls School, assisting in establishing an immunisation programme in the Kisarawe District as well as equipping the Masaki hospital and helping them to develop their policies and procedures. Volunteers will also be teaching sewing, reviewing agricultural techniques and giving lessons in entrepreneurial skills to teenagers.

In 2004 a donation from Pembroke Rotary and Salsus Senior School provided funds which allowed AHEAD Bermuda to build dormitories and a water catchment system for The Girls Mzeanga School in Kisarawe, Tanzania. This meant that the girls were safe and no longer had to walk long distances in search of water.

This summer a second donation from Pembroke Rotary of \$3,000 will help AHEAD Bermuda to build dormitories for the Chanzinge Girls School, also in Kisarawe, Tanzania. This school needs dormitories for female students whose homes are far away. The girls are currently forced to find housing in the village and are often violated. They are prevented from completing school due to pregnancy and, even worse, are often infected with HIV.

AHEAD Inc. was founded 20 years ago by Dr. and Mrs. Irving Williams, to provide primary health care in the rural areas of Tanzania, primarily through an immunisation programme. AHEAD Inc. (Advances in Health,

Education and Agricultural Development) is a non profit organisation based in Rockville, Maryland and their mission is to work with under served communities in developing countries to improve the quality of life by implementing programmes that lead to self-reliance.

AHEAD Bermuda is the Mid-Atlantic network organisation for AHEAD Inc and was started in 2002 by Dr. Tuzo who after doing her Masters in public health developed an interest in international health. In 2001 she accepted an invitation from the Williams to work with the AHEAD programme in the summer.

"It was an awesome and inspirational trip that motivated me to try to do as much as possible for Tanzanians in rural areas," she said of her first trip to Tanzania when she noted they had limited access to basic health care and clean water.

The achievements of AHEAD Bermuda in Tanzania include hospital ward renovation, providing educational scholarships for Tanzanian high school students, working in dental education, AIDS prevention, education in primary and secondary schools and much more.

The AHEAD Bermuda volunteers go to Tanzania every two years to do charity work. Led by Dr. Tuzo, 19 Bermudian volunteers went in 2004 and worked in various fields including, medical, dental, education and construction.

Tracy Wicks, 21, will be a returning AHEAD Bermuda volunteer to Tanzania this summer. Miss Wicks volunteered in July 2004 and "loved it." She taught basic computer skills and will do so again this summer along with sewing and jewellery making.

When asked what prompted her to volunteer for work in Africa, Miss Wicks said, "it's something I have wanted to do for a long time, anyway I can help I want to."

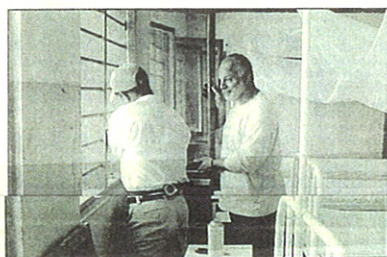
"It is a beautiful country, the people are awesome, so welcoming and friendly."

She noticed that the children paid great attention in class, even in classes as big as 100.

"The kids were just so eager to be there," she said.



Helping hand: AHEAD volunteer Veronica DeCouto holds a recently immunized Tanzanian baby



Repair work: AHEAD volunteers, Oliver Darrell and Dr. John Cann fitting window screens for a local hospital



Off to Africa: Dr. Deborah Tuzo (left) and Tracy Wicks who will do charity work in Tanzania



Happy girl: Leonie Exel with orphan Khadijah in Uganda

Rotary donation to assist Ugandans

By Meghan E. Jones

Pembroke Rotary has made a generous donation of \$3,000 to the ISIS Foundation to be used for their work in Uganda.

The money will most likely be used to support a home for street kids and projects at a rural hospital which has a neonatal intensive care unit for over 400 babies a year.

The unit was built by ISIS six years ago and is now completely funded by the charity for such things as medication and equipment and training for the nurses and doctors.

The ISIS Foundation also works with people living with AIDS, providing food and medical care and supporting AIDS

orphans.

"It is estimated that 70,000 people in the district in which we work, which is about half the size of Ireland, are HIV positive and yet there are anti-retroviral drugs for only 150 people," said Leonie Exel, General Manager of the ISIS Foundation.

"It is truly terrible to see what they are going through."

Khadijah is a two-year-old AIDS orphan. She is intellectually disabled and has HIV, which she got from her mother at birth.

Both parents have died from AIDS and she now lives with her grandmother who supports seven family members from a mud hut growing food on her

plot of land.

Khadijah will be lucky to live until the age of five, according to Ms Exel.

"We admire the work that Rotary does in Bermuda and so we are doubly delighted with this donation, because it comes from another charity," said Ms Exel.

"To get their vote of confidence is wonderful!"

The foundation's General Manager emphasised how substantial the donation was in terms of what it would achieve on the ground in Uganda.

The ISIS foundation works in partnership with the local community groups in Nepal and Uganda to provide health and education services to local

women and children and now provides support to thousands of people living in extreme poverty.

ISIS is an acronym for Initiating Sustainable, Integrated Solutions.

ISIS is also the Egyptian goddess of fertility and motherhood and is depicted in pictures as straddling the land and sea.

This was seen to be an appropriate symbol for the foundation as they assist mothers and children.

They aim to bridge the divide between business and charities with much of their funding coming from ISIS Ltd.

Local designer ready to unveil new collection

By René Hill

After a two year break local designer Amethyst Richardson is back with a new collection - Silk Metal.

He will unveil the collection on Sunday in a unique location - his back garden.

When interviewed by The Royal Gazette last week, Amethyst said the show would have an ambience like no other. He is also planning to have drummer, vocalist Onika Best, aka Blak Kja Soyl, violinist Taylor Rankin, and one model in particular being the trans-gendered Chrissy Ratterray.

On the collection front, Amethyst has fused the use of shantung and raw silks, with his Spirit Wear standard of natural lines.

"This year the patrons will see much of white linen, which of course is my trademark," he said.

"This will be detailed with metal colour of silk along with Spirit Wear's signature pieces,

which I have been creating over the past years.

"As always I continue to work with linens and cottons but this year I am looking forward to introducing the raw and slanting silks which can be worn to the workplace as well a formal affair."

Although at the time of the interview, Amethyst did not have a fuller-figured model, he has designed a line with full bodied women in mind.

"Long lines are great for the fuller women 'the real women' because it allows her to be free in her movement, while also creating an illusion the she is taller," said the designer.

"I cannot make one look smaller, but I can make her look longer. The colour of his collection is predominantly white with a bit of oranges and greens mixed with the silk palette."

The collector will be jewelled with subtle jewellery which is mostly natural and wood along with other stone.

His inspiration for many of

the pieces in this collection was inspired and initiated by people here on Island.

"I have decided to keep it simple light and fluid, providing freedom for a highly playful criticism that parades sexiness without shyness and vulgarity just so it floats over the body to suit the needs of everyone.

"With this collection everyone is able to wear the soft silhouettes, of a modern poetry with transparent pants under skirts unevenly tucked and placed, some crinkled replacing structure and creating style.

"The men are relaxed in crumpled linens and raw silks. For day or evening, and this offers a long-line silhouette with wide bottom pants and pulls it together to display rough art.

"Overall contrasting with shiny fabrics bring a touch of subtle femininity."

Shantung and raw silks offer the texture and style that is needed in almost any wardrobe.

"I decided to use shantung silk along with raw silk simply

because it works well with linens and cottons," Amethyst added.

"It also allows one to be able to dress up what they already have in linens without having to spend money on something new.

"Just perk up and old piece with a new touch of shine and a pair of CFM pumps and off you go."

Asked about his choice of models, the designer said: "Most of the models are Spirit Wear regulars along with some fresh new faces.

"They are all very natural and they were chosen simply because they are fresh natural and have an exotic way about themselves.

"This year we were unable to find a fuller-figured model, but I would very much like to have a beautiful female strutting her stuff."

Chrissy (Chris) Ratterray, the trans-gendered model, spoke about her history of modelling with Amethyst and her links to the fashion industry.

"I have been modelling for about six or seven years, but I

don't do as much runway work as I used to do, although I still do head shots for magazines and stuff like that," she said.

"But whenever Amethyst calls, I always rush to walk for him - he is fabulous.

"His work flow - and it is very early - it is different.

"Each season his clothes are different and I think with most local designers it is always a question of where they get their inspiration from. Many are inspired by international designers, but I know that Amethyst doesn't even like to look at magazines while he is designing.

"If he is feeling inspired to do a collection, he won't even look at a magazine. It is always different, always original, and it makes a woman or a man, and I am speaking from a woman's point of view - feel very natural.

But in spite of all her experience as a model, when it is time to walk, she still get the jitters.

"Right before I walk, I get nervous and I make sure that

everything is perfect, the hair, the make up and everything is in divine order, but every time I hit the runway I get the jitters," added Ms Ratterray.

"But once I am out there my personality comes out and I could walk a mile-length runway. I just keep walking and it is usually after the first walk that I start delivering.

"I love to feel beautiful, I love being in trendy clothes, this is my industry even though I don't work in it as much as I used to."

This year the designer has added a new touch, rather than have recorded music - he has opted for live impromptu tunes.

"Blak Kja Soyl of Barbados, formerly of Bermuda, will beat congas along with Taylor Rankin who will be on violin," he said.

"And together their rhythm, melody will accentuate, relate, and create a vibration on the runway for the Spirit Wear Collection."

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