



SafariNow 2008: A Passport to Hope



Board Members Present "Heroine in Nursing" Awards to Stephanie Brink, CNM, and Susan Hundshamer, RN for National Nurses Week.

The SafariNow fundraising dinner on May 4th in Moorpark, CA was a wonderful success. A sell-out crowd of over 200 people experienced interactive presentations of what life is like in rural Africa. Guests of the event had an opportunity to understand the challenges of providing basic healthcare to thousands of people in a remote region of Zambia as well as providing prenatal care, well baby care and treatment for malnutrition. Guests also shopped for authentic crafts at a Zambian marketplace, and helped pack first aid kits that will be sent to Africa this summer.

Highlights of the evening included an inspiring message on hope from the keynote speaker, Nick Vujicic, of Westlake Village based Life Without Limbs. Susan Hundshamer and Stephanie Brink, who were able to travel from Zambia for the fundraiser, were each presented Heroine in Nursing Awards.

The funds raised by this event (almost \$30,000!) will be used for medicine and supporting healthcare professionals to work in both South Africa and Zambia, as well as to continue our efforts to train local caregivers for the long term. Heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers and in-kind donors and sponsors who made this event possible.

To view pictures of SafariNow 2008, [Click here](#)

Walk for Africa

May was a very busy month for CareNow as we held our first ever "Walk for Africa" event on May 17th. This walk-a-thon grew out of the interest and enthusiasm of CareNow supporters Neely and Shahin Shokoufandeh. They were moved to organize this event in their own community of Santa Monica, California, with the help Mindy Block, Astrid McClean

and Molly Brennen. It was a beautiful day for a walk along the beach and participants could choose a 4 or 6 mile walk.



Neely and Shahin Walking for Africa.



Stina at the one mile marker station.

More than fifty participants and supporters have raised over \$5,000 to date. This money will be used to help purchase a replacement vehicle for the CareNow mobile clinic in Zambia. The existing vehicle takes a massive amount of wear and tear, being used many miles every week over dirt roads and rough terrain. Recognizing that most people in Africa walk many miles to reach a clinic where they can receive even the most basic healthcare, the idea of a mobile clinic that can bring healthcare to several different locations each week makes the difference between life and death. Some of the patients of our clinic in Zambia have been known to walk over 30 miles to receive healthcare. Walking along a beautiful beach on a Saturday morning was a great way to help those who walk in Africa out of necessity as they seek medical care for themselves and loved ones. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a success!

To donate towards the new mobile clinic, [click here](#).

Looking Forward

The summer is already upon us and like you, we are forming our plans for the remainder of 2008 and beyond. Ed Bjurstrom and Anita Marotta will be leading a team of volunteers from the CareNow Foundation to South Africa in mid-July. While there, the group will be visiting the Lily Medical Centre as well as the clinic at Valley of 1000 Hills which are both in the KwaZulu Natal region near Durban, South Africa. The exciting news is that the Lily Medical Centre has been recognized by the local Department of Health and has been approved for full operation. While this clinic started delivering limited medical care late last year, it now can begin full time operation and can apply to become a delivery site for ARV treatment to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. The 1000 Hills medical clinic had its official opening in May. We will provide a full update on the activities at both of these clinics when the team returns in August. CareNow Board Member Chris Faherty and volunteer Anne Kennedy will be working at the Zambia clinic in addition to a brief stopover in South Africa to visit the clinics.

(Note: CareNow volunteers travel at their own expense and or raise their own funds to pay for travel costs.)



We need your help!

The CareNow Foundation is an all-volunteer organization in order to keep our administrative costs as low as possible and send as much of every donation as possible to Africa to serve the needs of the people there. As a result, we need volunteers at different times for many tasks ranging from working at events, grant writing and helping to write and publish newsletters. If you would like to put your skills to work and make a difference in Africa, we need you!

For information about becoming a volunteer, email us at info@carenowfoundation.org