

Messages of support and thanks

Introduction: We have greetings on this 20th birthday from many parts of the world. And two of our Trustees, **Karima Brooke** and **Peter Stalker**, are going to put them to you. **Tony Williamson**.

These are just a few of the messages that we have received, and obviously there were many more people who did write, including people who might be in the audience today, but we thought we would give you a sense of what all of these people have said.

1. (PS) Ian Pett (UNICEF, formerly ActionAid): "SFH instinctively did something that I've continued to apply as a 'business model' ever since - which was to avoid attempting to do everything ourselves but instead to identify partner organisations that could take on roles that ActionAid was not best placed to perform....As long as mankind is challenged by chronic disease, SFH will be an outstanding example of how to use communication to promote and create knowledge, understanding, compassion, capacity and practical care for those affected."

2. (KB) Dr Laura van Vuuren, Medical Teams International, Portland, Oregon, USA: "The SFH materials are a 'must-read' for all involved in community-based AIDS initiatives. ... for every worn, rain-splattered copy of *Stepping Stones* that is in circulation, there are thousands of people that have benefited from it. This enduring manual has been passed around, copied, memorized and acted out in countless communities, who are hungry for its clear information and empowering, learning-centred approach to HIV and AIDS education. As a result, communities have been mobilized, lives saved and hope restored."

3. (PS) David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Food Security and Nutrition, Geneva and New York: "I believe that SFH has been one of the most cost-effective initiatives in the field of HIV and gender. Through Strategies for Hope books and films, concepts like 'home-based care', 'shared confidentiality' and 'living positively with AIDS' were first promoted.Thank you, Strategies for Hope, for all you have achieved in the past 20 years."

4. (KB) Dr Lucy Steinitz, Family Health International, Namibia: "My typical experience with Strategies for Hope is when I have to assess some small community group or church congregation in some remote African village, only to find - on a rickety table or shelf - one or more well-worn copies of an SFH publication. It always brings a smile to my face and goes into my reports. Based on this single indicator, I know that this is an organisation that really cares."

5. (PS) Richard Walker, UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development: "It has been a great 20 years! You've dealt with important issues and produced work of the highest quality. I want to commend you particularly for your work on faith issues - a fine and substantial body of work of vital importance. ... All this is a testament to your hard work and dedication."

6. (KB) Noerine Kaleeba, founder and patron on The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO), Uganda: "I am filled with joy, excitement and real pride to have been associated with the intense passion and commitment that have characterised Strategies for Hope. Let us celebrate the vision which led to the naming of this project Strategies for Hope. For we have learned that hope is the key, not only to our personal survival, but to our ability to totally defeat AIDS."

7. (PS) Professor Alan Whiteside, University of Kwazulu Natal, Durban, South Africa: "Strategies for Hope is a remarkable initiative. It began at a time when there was

very little hope in the AIDS epidemic. ... Since then SFH has grown in strength and reflected the changing epidemic. Well done and keep going!"

8. (KB) Elsa Ouko, co-founder, Kenyan Network of Positive Teachers: "My experience of Strategies for Hope is wide, deep and long. I have used the SFH materials to reduce HIV stigma and discrimination within the Education sector and in many churches and communities. They have helped many people to be tested and to live positively with HIV."

9. (PS) Father Richard Bauer, Catholic AIDS Action, Namibia: "I am grateful to Strategies for Hope for 12 years of collaboration in both Tanzania and Namibia. We have used *Stepping Stones* with thousands of youth. This outstanding manual is one of the best materials available for HIV prevention. I am proud to be a partner of Strategies for Hope and wish you blessings and peace on your 20th anniversary."

10. (KB) Mama Wandoa Mwambu, UPENDO AIDS Centre, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: "I warmly congratulate the Strategies for Hope Trust on your 20th anniversary. It has been two decades of hard but successful work. Many developing countries have benefited from your publications, videos and information about fighting HIV and AIDS, and stigma. Religious communities have been blessed, especially by the film, *What Can I Do?*". I have witnessed so many HIV-positive people going public after viewing this video and thus taking a step towards fighting stigma. Translating these materials into local languages has given them an added value. I heartedly salute all the Strategies for Hope stakeholders, who have made this possible through their various contributions. I am proud to be one of the many partners and beneficiaries of Strategies for Hope."

11. (PS) Eddie Ndungi, Tabernacle Sifa, Democratic Republic of Congo: "The Strategies for Hope materials are more than books and videos. They are relevant tools, which have been empowering people in the Democratic Republic of Congo to address HIV and AIDS issues more effectively. The film, *What can I do?*, and the *Called to Care* handbooks have been particularly effective."

12. (KB) Rev Renate Cochrane, South Africa. "As a South African I am deeply indebted to Strategies for Hope. We heard about AIDS at a time when we still struggled for liberation. As pastors, however, we noticed the number of funerals of young parents rising at an alarming rate. It was apparent, that this disease was not a rumour, it was real and frightening.....The booklets from Strategies of Hope were the most valuable source of coping in the face of the unfolding pandemic. We felt in solidarity with all the various care groups portrayed in the booklets and we had ideas and guidelines on how to set up our own care and treatment support projects. For AIDS activists the SFH materials remain sustainers of hope. After watching the film *AIDS Orphans* I felt called into AIDS ministry and became a comrade in the new South African liberation struggle, the struggle against AIDS. I remember many evenings when I wanted to despair but instead I reached for the SFH booklets to gain spiritual strength. This is exactly what Strategies for Hope meant for me and for many others I know. We were given that hope which gave us the passion to get involved in life-saving activities. Hope motivated us into action. Action for compassionate care but also action in the fight for justice and access to health care for the poor. Truly, we all grasped as never before, hope is an active concept and SFH helped us with this insight."

13. (PS) Colin Williams, former ActionAid Country Director in Uganda: "There are few initiatives that were visionary enough to begin in the early days of the AIDS epidemic in Africa. And even fewer that have stood the test of time and endured.... We are sorry that Strategies for Hope needs to exist, but pleased that it still does!"