



Your Donor Impact

Because you give for child health

Your donations improve child health all around the world.

The AAP program “**Addressing Mental Health in Adolescents Around the Globe**” issued a call for proposals to support addressing mental health issues in adolescents around the world. Thanks to Friends of Children Fund donations, six grants were awarded to organizations across the globe. All six grants have had an incredible impact on the communities that the organizations serve.

One of these grant-funded projects had powerful results in Tanzania. **The Pediatric Association of Tanzania** started their campaign called “Vijana Afya Ya Akili” meaning “Youth and Mental Health”. This social media and media campaign raises awareness and engages youth in creation of youth-based interventions for mental health. On Twitter and Instagram, they are doing biweekly topics related to mental health for youth to engage in, along with an exchange between youth and experts. On top of which, they secured a slot on a major radio broadcast in Tanzania to discuss important mental health topics – every Tuesday for one hour. The message is not going unheard, with 1,041 young people tuning into the first radio session.

Through school-based programs, they met with students who were affected by mental health conditions and had no idea about them. These young people, who were referred to nearby hospitals for further mental health support, felt the life-changing impact of your gifts.

H. Barrett Fromme, MD, MHPE added “The importance of gender equity cannot be understated and despite notable change over the past few years, it still impacts those in pediatrics. It has given me the opportunity to work with and learn from an outstanding group of women in pediatrics on our shared passion.”



“Our media campaign for mental health has been launched and is reaching hundreds of young people in Tanzania. We are grateful for the support of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Shining a light on mental health issues in adolescents is so important to bringing health and wellness to young people,” Dr George Msengi, Pediatric Association of Tanzania.

An abundance of good came out of this grant recipient, and it is only a fraction of the full Friends of Children-funded program. From the **Work Her Dream Organization** creating a safe space for girls to increase their mental health and access to services in Kenya to **All For Mental Health, Way Forward Youth Africa** seeking to create awareness of mental health and destigmatize and demystify mental health and related illnesses in Uganda, these six grantees are delivering significant change across the globe.

So far, the projects reached 323 physicians, teachers, or staff with training on addressing mental health disorders in adolescents; 3,436 students in training or education for mental health; and 2,308 community stakeholders.

It is spectacular to see so many programs assisting so many communities. Your contributions are far-reaching and meaningful. Thank you for making that difference for children, their families and their pediatric professionals.

As we continue to support programs like these, I look forward to sharing another story of a fantastic initiative powered by your gifts!

Warm regards,

Sandy L. Chung, MD, FAAP, FACHE
President

