Ekisa Web site:

Ekisa Contacts:

Nick and Becky Ramsing 410-740-4221

Patti Hewat 410-961-3384

AOET (Action for Empowerment)

www.aoet.org

AOET is an independent, indigenous non-government Christian organization with the prime mandate of providing an education - formal and/or vocational - to desperately poor, neglected and forgotten orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. AOET assists children with AIDS and widows, most of them HIV+, who have lost their spouses to AIDS. Their current programs include education, orphan placement, empowerment training programs, health education and medical care

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

8200 Old Columbia Road
Fulton, MD 20759
240-553-1030
www.gcconline.org

EKISA

AOET (Action for Empowerment)
www.aoet.org

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Africa Initiative

Grace Community Church Africa Initiative

In 2007, Grace Community Church began a new venture to address AIDS and poverty conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa based on a responsibility to serve the poor and partner with fellow Christ-followers in other parts of the world.

Ekisa means "Grace" in the Ugandan language. The Objectives of the *Ekisa* Initiative are twofold:

Partner with an African indigenous organization (AOET) to care for the poor and AIDS afflicted population and to build organizational and delivery capacity.

Affect hearts and minds in Howard County as we partner with fellow Christ-followers in Uganda.

The first objective focuses on tangible means of assisting the needs of the poor and vulnerable in Uganda. By partnering with an indigenous organization in Uganda, Grace desires to *humbly* leverage its skills and resources in *partnership* with a respected local organization to assist vulnerable people. Grace's partnership with AOET will lead to expanded service delivery, touching more people in a positive manner.

The second objective addresses the unique opportunity to see the diverse Body of Christ learn and appreciate God's heart and work in partnership to care for the poor and vulnerable. Through the initiative, it is expected that individuals in the Grace community will have a greater understanding and appreciation for the AIDS pandemic.

What Ekisa is doing now:

- Providing advocacy and educational opportunities for the Grace body
- Assisting with the AOET child sponsorship program.
- Short-term (2-3 week) trips to Uganda: Bible camps, computer training, construction, child sponsorship assistance
- AOET resource/fund-raising (gift catalog, special projects, general donations)
- AOET-US technical assistance (financial, board development)
- Long-term specific skill transfer to Ugandan staff

How can you get involved?

1. **Learn**
2. **Pray**
3. **Give of talents, time, & resources**

   Sponsor a child

   Contribute through the gift catalog

   Go on a short-term trip

   Join an Ekisa Team!

EKISA TEAMS

Administrative
Eric Heflinger
heflinger@mindspring.com

Coordinate & keep track of *Ekisa* volunteers

Assist with communication and administration within teams

Advocacy
Angela Whalen
angwhalen@gmail.com

Educate Grace community about the larger issue of AIDS and Justice in the world, especially as it affects the African continent.

Child Sponsorship
Jen Long sniperjen@gmail.com

Assist AOET with child sponsorship (Uganda and Kenya), particularly management of sponsors, and communication between child and sponsor.

Recruit new sponsors from Grace, and communicate with Grace members who sponsor children in Uganda and Kenya.

Education

Greg Murach
gregsays2you@hotmail.com

Support AOET with educational needs - both in terms of AOET schools and Bible education. Projects could include identifying curriculum for Bible Camps, skills transfers with AOET teachers, providing textbooks and school supplies.

Finance
Amy Hall
amyhall68@yahoo.com

Assist AOET--US with financial reports, monitoring, and donor management.

Grace Resources
Dave & Erin DiDonato
DiDonatos@comcast.net

Plan, manage and creatively involve the community of Grace in projects that raise funds for AOET

Communicate with Grace Community Church to keep the body engaged in Uganda and AOET.

Health
Becky Ramsing,
nbramsing@verizon.net

Provide short term, specific medical skills transfer to AOET Uganda as needed.

Educate Grace community about worldwide health issues.

Information technology
Johnny Long ihackstuff@gmail.com

Bill Schneider
bschneider@peart-hannon.com

Manage Grace *Ekisa* Web site

Provide technical assistance for AOET Web site.

Marketing/Grants
Nick & Becky Ramsing,
nbramsing@verizon.net)

Assist AOET US and AOET-Uganda to identify and apply for grants that will serve AOET longer term.

Help market AOET to donors, and other organizations that will partner with AOET financially

Short-term Trips
Patti Hewat aphewat@verizon.net

Identify and plan short-term trips to Uganda in coordination with the AOET-U.S. office and Uganda County Director.

Train leaders and teams; manage logistics of team preparation and travel.

Skills Transfer
Nick & Becky Ramsing
(nbramsing@verizon.net)

Match individuals at Grace to staff needs of AOET for 6 month -2 year periods.