

The Rose Project

AIDS in Africa | Living and Dying with Dignity



Who is Rose?

Rose Atieno was a young Kenyan who Mary Donohoe had the privilege to nurse on her first trip to Nakuru, Kenya in 2003.

Rose died in a rat-infested hut cared for by her 7-year-old son who since her death continues to care for his father and younger sister, both of whom have are HIV positive. The Love and Hope team in Nakuru supported the family during Rose's illness but lacked the necessary drugs to save her life.

Assisting Patricia (the leader of the programme) to erect an intravenous drip in these conditions, brought home the reality of the tragedy. For Rose, there was no hospital no doctor, no medicines and no food.

Rose's husband Bonavice has lost his sight as a result of an AIDS related tumour. The Love and Hope team provided the funds in 2006 for Bonavice to attend an intensive course to facilitate his independence and this has been of great benefit to him and the children.

Both children are making progress and The Rose Project recently made a commitment to ensure that they will receive a full education.

Harriet, though HIV positive, is well at the moment and has been living with her aunt. She was a baby when Rose died and for this reason her aunt is caring for her.

The Love and Hope team, a community based programme funded by The Rose Project, are the only providers of care to this family.

Since the centre opened, additional support programmes have been initiated for teenagers (mostly orphans) who have experienced sexual violence.

In addition during the ethnic violence earlier this year Nakuru was particularly affected. The new centre provided refuge to approximately 100 families who were threatened with violence. Many of these families homes burnt down.

It has been a real challenge for the Love and Hope team to track down their clients who are on AIDS treatment, to ensure that there is no break in the treatment. Many people fled Nakuru in the violence. A break in treatment has the potential to create drug resistance.