



12/8/09

Contact:

Wendy Will, 708.434.5006, wendy@wilkspr.com

**World Vision Experience: AIDS—Step into Africa
Walk through a free, interactive exhibit and for the first time experience the consequences of the
AIDS epidemic from the perspective of the world’s poorest children.**

Elk Grove, CA—The nationally touring, interactive World Vision Experience: AIDS Step into Africa exhibit is coming to First Baptist Church of Elk Grove to raise awareness about the effects of the AIDS pandemic on children in developing countries. First Baptist Church of Elk Grove along with volunteers from other churches in California, is hosting this innovative and non-denominational exhibit in order to engage the community on the issue of how AIDS is devastating parts of Africa.

“World Vision is providing local residents of the greater Chicago area with an opportunity to see, hear, and experience in a personal way, the lives of children whose worlds have been devastated by AIDS,” said Karl Uebelhoer, the project manager for the exhibit. “The statistics are staggering. Worldwide, two million children are living with HIV and more than 15 million children have lost one or both parents because of AIDS.”

When visitors enter the church’s multipurpose room, turned into a 2,500 sq. ft. virtual African village, they will don headsets and ‘become’ one of three real children—Kombo, Babirye, or Mathabo—whose life has been affected by AIDS, and whose life has been touched by World Vision, one of the world’s leading charities for children. The exhibit is set in the hardest hit region of the world: Sub-Saharan Africa, where about 22 million people are infected with HIV, about two-thirds the world’s total.

“Our congregation is excited to host the exhibit and invites the community to come join in as we do our part to make a difference in the lives of those most affected by this disease—our children,” said Derek Zahnd, outreach/mission pastor for First Baptist Church of Elk Grove. “And although most of the infected children are in Africa, there are also many who are suffering right here in the Americas.”

The exhibit has visited over 100 cities since 2007, drawing 250,000 people. This year, World Vision is expected to visit an additional 25 cities and reach an additional 100,000 visitors.

“World Vision, unfortunately, cannot take thousands of Americans to Africa to witness the tragedy of the AIDS pandemic personally,” said Richard E. Stearns, president and CEO of World Vision, U.S. “So we’ve created this exhibit to enable people to ‘step into Africa’ and learn more about the effects of the greatest humanitarian disaster of our time and how they can help. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something to help turn the tide against AIDS.”

The World Vision Experience: AIDS—Step into Africa exhibit will be at First Baptist Church of Elk Grove on January 23-29. Hours of operation are as follows: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm daily

Reservations are available online at <http://www.worldvisionexperience.org/minisite/minisite.aspx?id=204> and are strongly suggested.

Contacts:

Wendy Will, 708.434.5006, wendy@wilkspr.com

-more-

Bryan May, 916.321-3373, bmay@News10.Net

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. For more information, please visit www.worldvision.org.