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**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.**

White Bear Lake, MN—The nationally touring, interactive World Vision Experience: AIDS Step into Africa exhibit is coming to Eagle Brook Church, White Bear Lake, MN to raise awareness about the effects of the AIDS pandemic on children in developing countries. Eagle Brook Church along with volunteers from other churches in Minnesota, 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 Minnesota 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 Tahni Cullen, the promotional 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 2,000 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.

"As Christ-followers, we can't be satisfied with just coming to church to listen to good songs and hear a good message that helps us get our theology and personal lives in order; we have a further responsibility. We have a biblical mandate to have a tangible presence in the world community", says Bob Merritt, Senior Pastor. "We have to do something to serve those who are oppressed, hungry and poor. As a church, we want to bring a fresh awareness and responsibility to make this an ongoing personal value."

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 Eagle Brook Church on February 11-17. Hours of operation are as follows: Wed, Feb 11, 11 am - 6 pm, TH, Feb 12, 11 am – 9 pm, Fri, Feb 13, 10 am – 9 pm, Sat, Feb 14, 10 am – 8 pm, Sun, Feb 15, 11 am – 9 pm, Mon, Feb 16, 11 am – 7:30 pm, and TU, Feb 17, 11 am – 5 pm.

Reservations are available online at <http://www.worldvisionexperience.org/minisite/minisite.aspx?id=207> and are strongly suggested.

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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.