



TLC Ohio Auction Inspires Young & Old to Get Involved

The Luke Commission auction & dinner in Cedarville, Ohio, may become a pre-Thanksgiving tradition that sparks students and adults alike to consider the poor in southern Africa.

Consider - and then do something. That's what happened earlier this month, said Mark Kordic, Director of Advancement for TLC.

Lions Dr. Harry and Echo (PAC) VanderWal recently returned from Swaziland where they direct mobile clinics. This year more than 20,000 patients were treated out in the bush.

"You could hear a pin drop when Lions Harry and Echo spoke," Kordic said. "The more than 200 people in attendance were taking it all in and very motivated to get involved themselves."

An 11-minute DVD answered questions about what a typical day in the bush was like.

A photo of trailers packed with medicines, eyeglasses, Bibles, wheelchairs, clothes for orphans, and medical supplies caught the audience's attention, particularly. The reason? Those trailers need vehicles to pull them.

"We can't leave tens of thousands of people waiting," noted Kordic, speaking of the Swazis who are waiting for the VanderWals to return in Swaziland in January and resume the mobile clinics.

Kordic was encouraged by the financial response of folks living in a state hard-hit by economic woes. Some \$10,500 was raised for vehicles at the November 7 auction.

"I know people gave sacrificially," he said. "We thank everyone who donated."

That brings the total donated for vehicles to \$30,500. Three Swazi-road-worthy vehicles that can pull thousands of pounds and transport a couple dozen people will cost \$100,000.

Kordic is touched by the younger people's firm desire to fight the HI V/AIDS pandemic in Swaziland that is claiming the lives of a whole generation about their age.

"Recent grads and current students don't just want to talk. They want to do something," explained Kordic. "Lions Harry and Echo suggested real ways they can work locally, right now."

More than 25 churches and institutions were represented at dinner/auction. Two Nigerian musicians played five instruments throughout the evening capturing another culture and giving folks a taste of Africa.

Those in attendance lingered around the art work donated for the silent auction, Kordic noted. "The photographs from Swaziland framed in African wood showed beautiful, humble people."

He continued: "The more we can put ourselves in their sandals – if they have sandals – the better we'll understand true human suffering and extend ourselves."

The live and silent auction brought in another \$12,000 for The Luke Commission.

"This annual event kicks off a year-long opportunity for relationships to develop and for participants to share the message and get involved," Kordic explained.

Please note: A similar Idaho gala called "Christmas for Africa" will be held Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. in Sandpoint, Idaho, at the Events Center on Euclid Avenue. Lions Harry and Echo and the boys will be there. Tickets are on sale for \$25 at www.lukecommission.org.

Lion Janet Tuinstra for Harry and Echo and the boys



Mark and Paula Kordic of Cedarville, labor in God's vineyard in Ohio, spearheading projects for The Luke Commission.



Lion Dr. Harry VanderWal takes listeners to the African bush as he speaks at the November, 2009, dinner/auction at Cedarville University.



Auctioneer Bart Sheridan often offers his services to TLC,



Bill and Shelley Schlueter (center) drove from Missouri to be with

benefiting the needy 8,000 miles away.

their daughter Tiffany (right), a 2009 Cedarville nursing grad, at the recent Ohio dinner/auction. Tiffany has worked with the VanderWals for two summers in Swaziland and continues to volunteer her time here.



Grandpa Harry VanderWal Sr. shows his grandsons how to video tape memorable events at the 2nd annual TLC Ohio auction.



Paul and Marilyn Carlson join the VanderWals. Dr. Carlson, Director of Strategic Planning and past Associate Dean of the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine (Harry's alma mater), has witnessed TLC bush clinics firsthand.



In Swazi garb, Luke VanderWal waits to sing with his brothers at the Ohio auction.



Lion Echo VanderWal, a physician's assistant with experience in surgery, tells stories about their patients in Swaziland, who had little hope until Jesus touched them through The Luke Commission.



This one-of-kind African-framed Swazi photo is just one of the items auctioned recently in Ohio.



Little brother Zion (right) and his big brother Jacob VanderWal are part of the program whenever and wherever Harry and Echo speak.



Medical school student Joe Rettig, who spent this summer with TLC in Africa, and his wife Amanda now work on this side of the world to help Swaziland's poor and sick. They're pictured here with the VanderWal family at the recent Ohio auction.