

The Orange County Peace Corps Association (OCPCA) sponsored my HIV/AIDS testing event which took place on October 30th 2009. At the HIV/AIDS field day which I organized, there was a soccer match with two Basic schools competing against each other. In addition to the soccer match, there were also cultural dances from the community Basic school and the High school. The elementary school Anti-AIDS group performed a play which focused on the importance of getting tested for HIV/AIDS. The actors performed a skit detailing what took place in an HIV/AIDS counseling and testing session. The main purpose of these activities was to draw out people from the community and educate them about the benefits of HIV/AIDS testing. In Zambia, the HIV/AIDS prevalence is 13-15%; this makes it a devastating problem. As a health volunteer, one of my main projects was organizing HIV/AIDS testing events as well as health education in the schools.

With a donation of \$75 from OCPCA, I was able to provide food for both of the soccer players from the schools and the HIV/AIDS counselors. Also, I was also able to purchase snacks for participants who were involved in the drama and the cultural dances. The event was a success as 125 individuals were tested and the performers drew out hundreds of people. OCPCA's donation plays a huge role in making this event possible. I am very thankful for their assistance and support throughout my 2 years in Zambia.

Staci Pham

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