

Fighting HIV/ AIDS in Africa and at home:

How does the Fund work?

All donations to the OPSEU Live and Let Live Fund are kept in a separate account. OPSEU members may make individual contributions, or a Local may vote to make an annual lump sum donation. Money collected by Locals is matched by OPSEU Central and disbursed twice a year to agencies and projects working directly with HIV/AIDS sufferers.

Where does the money go?

Seventy-five per cent of the money raised by the Live and Let Live Fund goes to African organizations, chosen in partnership with the Stephen Lewis Foundation to identify the most suitable projects. Twenty-five per cent of funds go to worthy programs in Ontario.

How can I get more involved?

- Get creative! Your Local could organize a carwash, 50-50 draws, a bingo – you name it – to raise money for the Fund
- One community college local recently won a grievance and had management pay into the Live and Let Live Fund as settlement.
- Consider volunteering at an agency that helps people living with HIV/AIDS. Use your skills for such diverse activities as helping with a newsletter or building a ramp.
- Talk to your colleagues about contributing one cent per month of Local earnings to the Fund. Bring this up at a Local meeting and discuss it as a group.
- Sell the HIV/AIDS red lapel pins (available from OPSEU) and send the proceeds to the Fund.
- Watch the OPSEU web site for news about a province-wide fundraising event.



Ontario Public Service Employees Union
100 Lesmill Road, Toronto, ONT M3B 3P8
www.opseu.org

OPSEU's
*Live and Let
Live
Fund*

Live and Let Live



The OPSEU Live and Let Live Fund exists to support agencies fighting the ravages of HIV/AIDS both in Africa and at home.

This disease is destroying the way of life of many African nations. Parents are dying from HIV/AIDS, leaving grandparents to raise infants and children, some of whom are also infected. An entire generation of productive workers is afflicted, leaving many African societies in

disarray. Family structures, education, housing and health care are unraveling fast. African peoples need help to combat the devastation of the disease.

Here in Canada, the challenges are different. HIV/AIDS can be managed. There is no cure, but a person's life can be extended for several years. Still, not all Canadians have access to the expensive drugs required. Nor can they get skilled care when they are very ill. And children and young people still need preventative programs.

We cannot ignore the suffering of others. We share a common humanity with our neighbours across the globe, no matter what their personal faith or political beliefs. That's why delegates to the 2003 OPSEU Convention voted unanimously to create the Live and Let Live Fund. Since the 2003 Convention, members have embarked on fundraising projects in OPSEU locals around the province. *We can* make a difference!

Facts about HIV/AIDS

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Three quarters of all people with HIV/AIDS live in sub-Saharan Africa. Ninety percent don't know they have the disease.
- Only 30,000 Africans have access to necessary antiretroviral drugs.
- Eleven million children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. UNICEF predicts this number will double by 2010.
- About 90 per cent of these orphaned children are looked after by their extended family – mainly grandmothers.
- In Zambia, one adult in five is living with HIV/AIDS. Life expectancy has fallen from 58 to 37 in the past 15 years.
- Botswana has the highest HIV/AIDS incidence. Between 35 and 40 per cent of everyone aged 15 to 49 is infected.

Canada

- In the developed world, antiretroviral drugs have made HIV/AIDS a manageable, chronic condition.
- The Canadian government has promised to amend patent legislation to permit the manufacture and export of generic drugs at a very low price.
- The World Health Organization is campaigning to get three million people – most of them in Africa – into treatment by 2005 at an annual cost of about \$150 per person.

Ontario

- The HIV epidemic in Ontario has not stabilized.
- A two-week supply of medication to manage HIV/AIDS costs about \$1,600.
- According to the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, young women 14-24 are the fastest growing group of HIV/AIDS cases in the Black community in Toronto.

Women

- Women have the fastest growing rate of HIV infection in Canada.
- More than 26 per cent of new diagnoses in Ontario in 2001 were women.
- Women account for more than a quarter of new HIV infections nationally, compared to less than 10 percent a decade ago.
- Women in Canada tend to be excluded from HIV/AIDS clinical trials and research.

Youth

- About 10.3 million people aged 15-24 live with HIV/AIDS. Globally, half of new infections are among young people.
- In Ontario, about 22,000 people are HIV-positive. About 17 per cent are 18-29. About 61 per cent of these live in the Greater Toronto Area.