

ROTARACT AIDS HIKERS WALK FROM JOHANNESBURG to DURBAN to RAISE AWARENESS for HIV/AIDS VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ORPHANS

On December 21st, seven members of the service organization, the Rotaract Club of Johannesburg, arrive in Durban after walking over 800 kilometers from Johannesburg to Durban to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS vulnerable children and orphans.

Durban, South Africa December 10, 2007 -- On December 21st, seven members of the Johannesburg Rotaract Club will complete their 21-day journey walking over 800 kilometers from Johannesburg to Durban to raise awareness and funds to support the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Rotaract AIDS HIKE 2007 including six hikers and one camerawoman began their journey hiking from Johannesburg to Durban on December 1st. The journey will come to an end at Durban City Hall at 12:30 p.m. on December 21, 2007.

The purpose of the hike is to raise awareness and funds for HIV/AIDS vulnerable orphans and children. They also hope to shed light on HIV/AIDS related issues facing the communities they will pass along the way.

The hikers will be walking from Johannesburg through Mpumalanga to Durban in 21 days. During this twenty day journey, the hikers will visit HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children projects already established along the hike route. These projects will include Rotary projects and projects by the group Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity (NOAH). In addition to raising funds, the entire event is being filmed with hopes of producing a documentary on the journey. The hikers believe that a documentary will serve as a powerful tool for spreading awareness about issues concerning HIV/AIDS and vulnerable children and orphans.

The Johannesburg Rotaract Club participated in the Rotaract AIDS HIKE of 2006 where hikers walked from Johannesburg to Cape Town to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. The success of their journey, prompted this year's members to continue the project. The Johannesburg Rotaract Club is a service organization made up of people ranging from 18-30 years old, and is sponsored by the Rotary International. There are Rotaract clubs worldwide, including several within and around Durban.

On December 21st, members of Rotary, Rotaract, and supporters will be meeting outside of Botha Garden at 11:30 a.m. to walk to the city hall with the hikers. The Rotary District Governor, Richard Fisher, will welcome the hikers at 12:30 p.m. on the steps of City Hall. There will also be music and poetry by local artists to highlight the issues of HIV/AIDS and the accomplishments of the hikers.

The Rotaract AIDS Hikers of 2007 invite friends and family to join them at the finale of the twenty-one day hike on December 21st at 12:30 p.m. at City Hall.

For additional information on the new that is subject of this release, contact Tiara Letourneau.

Tiara Letourneau is a member of the Durban Rotaract Club and helped organize the final event welcoming the hikers into Durban.

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