

WORLD AIDS DAY 2009

Reaching Communities



Through the Dhaba Project in Mursan, India, a program supported by the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, 6,000 truck drivers receive HIV testing.

Courtesy of the Methodist Public Health Center, India

Hari is a truck driver from Mathura, India. He learned he was HIV positive while at a restaurant stop in Mursan, India. At this stop, Dhaba, as it is known locally, many truck drivers like Hari come to rest, bathe, eat and sleep after a long day's journey. But, while food and rest is available to weary travelers, drugs and sex are also offered, placing many at risk of contracting HIV.

Thanks to the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund-supported Dhaba Project, a program of the Methodist Public Health Center in Mursan, India, several communities are being reached and educated about HIV/AIDS. About 6,000 truck drivers receive pre- and post HIV testing, education on AIDS prevention, and counseling support services.

"I never thought this could happen to me."

After being tested, Hari was encouraged to visit the Methodist Public Health Center for more confirming blood tests. He brought along his wife and son for testing. His wife also tested positive. Thankfully, their son is not infected.

"I never thought this could happen to me, but the staff told me that I should get treatment and help," said Hari.

The Methodist Public Health Center helped Hari by providing him with regular antiretroviral treatments. Today, Hari and his wife are not alone. They have joined a monthly support group, where others like them share their experiences and encourage one another.

Because of the Dhaba Project, surrounding communities in Mursan are fast becoming aware of HIV/AIDS and its spread. Individuals are learning prevention strategies and educating others.

United Methodist Global AIDS Fund

The United Methodists Global AIDS Fund is working toward an AIDS-free world. Since 2005, the United Methodists Global AIDS Fund supports 155 AIDS-related projects in 33 countries throughout Asia, Latin American, the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa. The Fund, established at the 2004 General Conference to raise \$8 million dollars, is helping eradicate this deadly disease through prevention, education, counseling and community outreach programs.

How to Give

Put a stop to HIV/AIDS in our world by giving to the **United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, UMCOR Advance #982345**. Write the Advance # and name on the memo line of your check.

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