



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



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Hot News!

McCollum Visits AIDS Orphans in South Africa

Rep. Betty McCollum returned this week from an eight day fact-finding mission in South Africa sponsored by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. The foundation is the leading worldwide non-governmental organization dedicated to pediatric HIV/AIDS research and has initiated programs in seventeen African nations to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV.

McCollum visited clinics, hospitals and an orphanage where she witnessed firsthand the devastating affects of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Discussions focused on prevention of mother to child transmission, antiretroviral drug treatments and orphan care.

In South Africa alone, 4.7 million people are HIV positive, and 600 South Africans die every day from AIDS.

"The United States has an opportunity to offer more support and our scientific expertise. When we partner with the world community, we can deliver more of these life saving drugs to mothers as soon as possible," McCollum said.

With the enactment of Public Law No: 108-025, the global AIDS initiative, fourteen countries are targeted to receive funding to fight this pandemic. The initiative requires that \$15 billion over five years be committed to assisting countries in fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

"We must keep our promise and fully fund this important initiative because it will immediately begin saving hundreds of thousands of lives," McCollum said.

McCollum was successful in including a provision supporting AIDS orphans as well as measure requiring closer monitoring of HIV/AIDS pharmaceuticals in the Global HIV/AIDS bill.



Rep. McCollum visits a support group for HIV positive mothers-to-be in a Soweto, South Africa health care center. She is joined by (left to right) Princess, Themesile and Sbondile. The women are supporting each other and determined to prevent the transmission of HIV to their babies. The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is funding this program in Soweto and 45 other programs in 17 countries worldwide, which prevent thousands of cases of mother to child transmission of HIV infection.

McCollum Convenes TCAAP Stakeholder Summit

On **Wednesday August 27, 2003**, Rep. Betty McCollum will convene the largest gathering to date of stakeholders in the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) at the federal arsenal site. The summit will be moderated by Ken Stone, former anchor of TPT Newsnight.

The meeting will allow respective federal, state and local stakeholders to discuss the progress of future redevelopment of the federal property. Senior officials from various agencies and municipalities, including Patrick Donahoe, the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the United States Postal Service; Mayor Bev Aplikowski of Arden Hills and Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega will be among the participants. Also in attendance will be representatives from the US Army, National Guard, General Services Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Alliant Techsystems and the Minnesota Congressional Delegation Members and staff.

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