

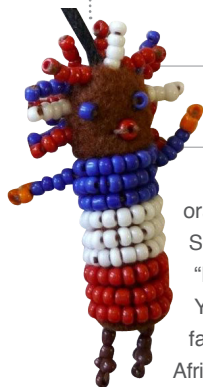


## MKI What's up

#4 - April 2010

### MKI, What's up?

Without you no projects of the Medical Knowledge Institute. In 2009 more than a thousand inhabitants of the South African townships participated in a workshop on basic healthcare! Their knowledge directly contributes to a better health of their environment. In this fourth newsletter you will read especially about MKI's many successful cooperative ventures with other organizations. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your financial support for our work!



#### World Cup jewelry and accessories for the Dutch team and the women of Yoell®

At MKI's initiative a new line of jewelry and other orange accessories have been developed for the Soccer World Championship 2010 in South Africa. "If the Dutch supporters buy this special World Cup Yoell® jewelry and accessories they support their favorite team and help the Yoell® women in South Africa to earn back their place in society. "That is what I call real fair play", states Harold Robles.

For the Yoell® project MKI closely cooperates with the workshops in South Africa where the jewelry is made. The women who work there have often been repudiated by their community on account of their HIV infection, but thanks to the sale of the jewelry they have income nevertheless. The 'Mother and Child First' HIV/AIDS training program also benefits from the proceeds of Yoell®. The new World Cup-line can be ordered at the Yoell-website:

[www.yoell.org](http://www.yoell.org)



#### MKI IS PROUD THAT:

- ✓ MKI Goodwill Ambassador Glennis Grace recently performed at the Sandton Hotel Toor in Alphen aan de Rijn and donated the full proceeds to MKI;
- ✓ The jewelry makers have started with the production of the Yoell®-line designed by the artist Ans Markus;
- ✓ Fifteen American students of the University of Cape Town are developing various training modules for MKI for the prevention and treatment of various illnesses that can be used within the Health Information Centres. You will read more about this in our next Newsletter.

#### Desmond Tutu en Harold Robles give lectures on public health



At the American International College in Springfield, USA, the special Desmond Tutu Lecture Series will be held on 20 April 2010. Both archbishop Tutu himself and Harold Robles will give a lecture on public health. Robles emphasizes the importance of the special cooperation between AIC and MKI: "AIC and MKI share the same commitment; we both make an effort for groups of people that have few chances and are underestimated. Through education and improvement of their health situation their strength increases". The series of lectures will have a festive closure: Desmond Tutu as well as Dr. Harold Robles and Dr. Peter Bittel, the founders of MKI, will receive an honorary doctorate.

#### Introduction of the Biometric Medical Passport gains momentum

In the middle of 2009 MKI started a pilot project for the introduction of a 'smart card' Biometric Medical Passport (in the meantime renamed in MKI Health-ID®) in South Africa. Now, six months after the start, the South African Health Research Ethics Committee has officially approved the pilot. This means that the use can be tested in accordance with South African regulations with the object to introduce the passport within the near future.

The project - a joint initiative of MKI and the Dutch priv-ID - has been received enthusiastically. The medical passport is intended for people who use local healthcare. Their medical data are stored in the passport and are available in a quick, reliable, complete - and due to the biometric fingerprint recognition - highly safe manner. Through the support of SARCS (South African Red Cross) and the big interest of the South African authorities the project has gained momentum. MKI's expertise in the field of healthcare is recognized and contributes to the first South Africans carrying this Medical Passport on them before long.



## Beads of hope

In these Beads of Hope Kirsty Hunt, MKI's director in South Africa writes:

In February we welcomed with much pleasure seven Dutch students, who will all do research of which the results can contribute very nicely to MKI's work:



- Saffiya van Landewijk and Eva Ravensbergen, who are studying Nutrition and Dietetics at the University of Applied Sciences in the Hague, are focusing on the development of educational material on "how to eat healthily with little money?" in Cape Town.
- Proceeding from her "International Public Health" Master at the University of Amsterdam Sarina de Jonge will do research into the spreading and the prevention of hepatitis in South African communities, from the HIC in Soweto.

### Research must contribute to better care during menstruation

The situation around menstrual hygiene is far from optimal in South Africa. Not only young girls but also women use unhygienic solutions to get through the menstruation. This often results in serious vaginal infections. In addition girls and women are restricted in their daily lives during their menstruation. They miss school or work and are humiliated. Sanitary towels and tampons are too expensive, if they are available at all. Four Industrial Design Master students at the Technical University of Delft are going to try and do something about this: since the beginning of March they are in South Africa where they investigate from the Health Information Centres in Kayamandi en Kayelitsha, on behalf of MKI, how the women can be made aware of this menstruation problem and the dangers through education. At the same time they examine how affordable and available means - sanitary towels and tampons - can be acquired. A solution could be to make these aids themselves with a simple machine and local materials. Their research links up beautifully with the Your Hygiene – Your Health-project.

### Your Hygiene – Your Health! 8 March 2010, International Women's Day, Cape Town

"What a wonderful day and wonderful location to start the Your Hygiene – Your Health project", writes Samantha Hartevelde, health educator, from Kayamandi. In this workshop MKI-trainers are certified to provide information about menstruation to young girls. Young girls know too little about menstruation, because it is not talked about. Due to their ignorance unhygienic behavior is created resulting in infections that can be life-threatening. In the workshop a choice is made for a trainers' training so that the scope will be as large as possible. The girls are approached by means of a puppet show. "The trainers and the first group of girls reacted very positive. It is a successful start!" says Hartevelde. In the coming period the trainers will get going with the education of new trainers and the performance of the puppet show.

#### AGENDA

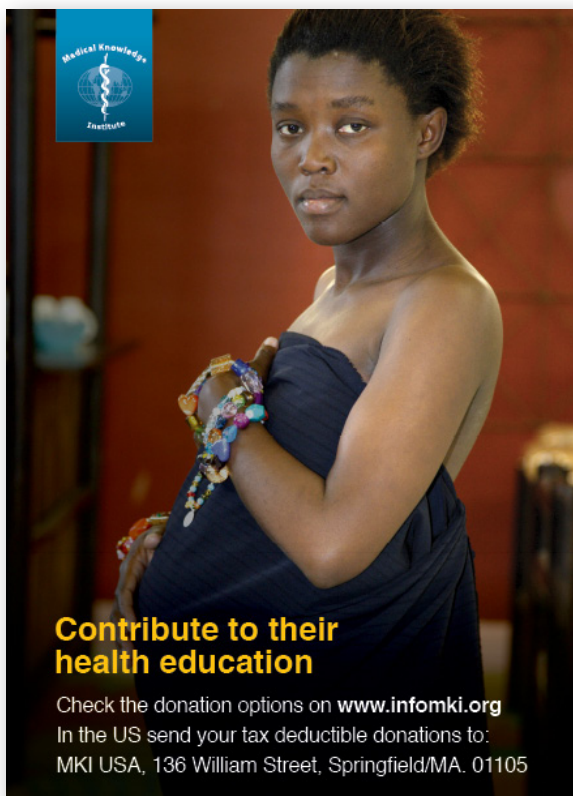
- ✓ **20 April:** Opening MKI USA Office
- ✓ **8 May:** Travelling Exhibition: South Africa through the eyes of Patricia Steur on behalf of the MKI at Sandton IJssel Hotel Deventer and Sandton Resort Bad Boekelo
- ✓ **29 May:** Publication of Patricia Steur's book of photographs 'Dutch Beauty'. The theme of the book of photographs is MKI.



ALSO READ THE PRESIDENTIAL BLOG  
OF HAROLD ROBLES [WWW.INFOMKI.ORG](http://WWW.INFOMKI.ORG)

### Clover Mama Afrika and MKI greet one another with open arms, with the aid of Flexifeet

Clover Mama Afrika is a South African organization that devotes itself to the care of (orphan) children and the elderly in townships (31 centres!). Clover also trains women in all kinds of skills and provides them with tools and other means, with the object that the women will be able to acquire their own income. Because Clover considers knowledge and awareness of personal hygiene and health at least as important for the women's empowerment, Clover now cooperates with MKI. MKI helps to set up five Health Information Satellites. The South African company Flexifeet, member of Eqstra Corporation, supports this special project. The financial support of Flexifeet makes it possible to start up Health Information Satellites at many other Clover Mama Afrika centres in the near future.



### Contribute to their health education

Check the donation options on [www.infomki.org](http://www.infomki.org)  
In the US send your tax deductible donations to:  
MKI USA, 136 William Street, Springfield/MA, 01105

#### COLOPHON

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