

HISTORICAL REPORT

In the fall of 1997 Peter Ole-Sabay conceived the idea of having Eldoret and Minneapolis as a sister-city and met with the mayor of Minneapolis to discuss about the possibility. The mayor referred Peter to Hon. LaJune Lange of International Leadership Institute (ILI). Peter met with Judge Lange and shared his vision. Judge Lange welcomed Peter and supported the idea.

Following the discussion a delegation from ILI led by Judge LaJune Lange and Peter Ole-Sabay traveled to Kenya to share the vision with the leadership of Eldoret. During this visit they also paid a courtesy call to the former president of Kenya, President Daniel Arap Moi, at the state house in Nairobi who also endorsed the idea and wished the group well. Eldoret the delegation was welcomed by the Uasin Gishu District Commissioner and the then Mayor of Eldoret. Mr. Josiah Magut.

After this historic visit, the ILI presented the proposal to the city of Minneapolis requesting a sister city relationship with the city of Eldoret. In 2000 the proposal was finally accepted by the City of Minneapolis and shortly after, a delegation from Eldoret led by the Mayor visited Minneapolis and the two Mayors (Eldoret and Minneapolis) signed the agreement for the two cities to have a formal International Sister Cities relationship.

After the establishment of the Sister City, ILI made a proposal to Mount Olivet Careview Home in Minneapolis to promote a recruitment program for nurses from Eldoret. The proposal was supported by Tim Hokinson the Administrator of Mt. Olivet Careview Home and soon after, an ILI team led by Peter Ole-Sabay started to facilitate the process. The recruitment program was successful with training and preparation of nurses to participate in an NCLEX exam which Mt. Olivet Careview Home sponsored by financing the program. Unfortunately the INS did not approve the proposal for the nurse exchange program under the J-I Visas. Several attempts were made including supporting letters from a Minnesota senator to the INS but this program did not bare any fruits. This was a set back to a great initiative for the Eldoret - Minneapolis venture.

Since 2000 ILI has been advocating for a Fire Engine (truck) to be donated to the City of Eldoret from the City of Minneapolis. These efforts still continues to be an ILI desire to make this dream a reality. Discussions are currently underway regarding this request with the City of Minneapolis.

In 2002 Peter and Isabel Ole-Sabay founded a privately owned school, called Little Angels Academy (LAA), which they invested their time and resources to promote the opportunity for less fortunate children to access education. In 2001 during the building of LAA, the ILI team had paid a visit to the city of Eldoret and the ILI's International Youth Council participated in laying of the foundation stone at the LAA site. This was a hopeful trip for the youth's first visit to Kenya.

In 2004, the LAA was converted into the PICKS Medical Center (PMC) by its owners Peter and Isabel Ole-Sabay. PMC is registered under the Medical Practitioners and Dentist Act (CAP 253) of Kenya as a private entity and their mission is to promote and provide quality sustainable health care that is accessible and affordable for all. With the initiatives from PMC several partnerships and collaborations have successfully taken place in and around Eldoret Kenya. Below please find some of the success of these initiatives;

PMC Medical Outreach

2004 - PMC organized a three day medical outreach at the PICKS Medical Center in Eldoret which involved Medical Volunteers' from Minnesota. Community people received free medical services.

2005 - PMC with the help of a team of Medical Volunteers from Minnesota offered free medical services in Eldoret.

2006- PMC organized free medical services to the community of Eldoret.

2007 - PMC along with several Medical Volunteers from Minnesota, local Eldoret leaders and Purpose Driven Ministry-Kenya helped to reach into villages such as Kaptel, Jua Kali, Marakwet, Bayete and Kericho. Over 5,000 people received free medical services and attention.

April 2008 - PICKS Medical Center partnered with, Empty Vessels Ministry, Purpose Driven Ministry-Kenya and Red Cross to reach out to displaced people camping at Meteitei in Nandi, and over 200 people received free medical services and donations.

The ILI is currently working in collaboration with some Kenyan pastors in Minneapolis to find ways of helping the people of Eldoret. One crucial area identified by this group is the need of food in the community. As a result Hope for the City of Minnesota is partnering with ILI to make it a reality. PICKS Medical Center is consequently donating space in their container to be shipped to Kenya this summer to enable this to happen.

Other successful services achieved through help from Minnesotans are: a donation of a refrigerator to Huruma Health Center in Eldoret which was facilitated by Open Door Evangelistic World Ministries - Minneapolis. Several blankets, mattresses, food medicine and clothing have also been donated at orphanages such as ILULA, Eldoret Rescue Center, and Kipchoge Children's Home, among others.

These are achievements that are due to many sacrifices made by dedicated individuals. Many lives have been restored, changed and enhanced through these programs and volunteers.

"We are all making a difference one person one community at a time". Thank you all for your support.

Peter Ole-Sabay, ILI member and ILI Eldoret coordinator

Coventry Cowens, Sister City Minneapolis/Eldoret contact/ILI coordinator

Photographs: Kristi Sorenson, medical mission volunteer