



How it all began...



- In an evaluation of attendees, it revealed that there had been many request to attend the conference from around the world.
- To our surprise, none of the African attendees had been approved to attend most likely due to VISA issues.
- Valley AIDS Council determined if they cannot get to us, why not go to them?

How it all began...



- In collaboration with partners from Texas, the planning began and Kenyan Partners were selected. In June 2005, VAC made its first visit to Kenya to evaluate need, but most of all to LEARN.

The next step...

2004-2006

The next step...



- Having secured a local donor, VAC returned in January 2006 to spend time with our Kenyan partners and to discuss how or even if there was a need to work together. It was requested that VAC provide a conference.



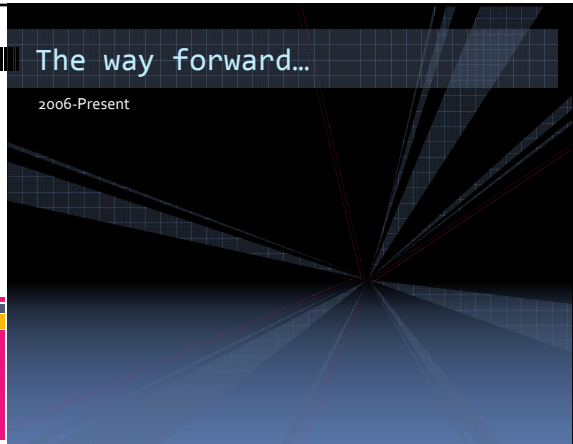
The next step...



Conference Years	Plans	Outcomes
2006	At least 25% of presenters to be African	Met
2007	At least 50% of presenters to be African	Met
2008	At least 75% of presenters to be African	Met
2008	Plan to turn the conference over to Kenyan partners.	Passed the baton of leadership to our Kenyan partners.

The way forward...

2006-Present



The way forward...



- It was critical to secure local approval to provide such an activity.
- Thanks to our local partners and Kenyan government organizations, we were able to facilitate the first conference of its type.
- Key support was provided by NASCOP, NACC, Dr. Robert Ayisi and our local partners.

The way forward...



In June 2006, VAC in collaboration with its new partners, held the

[1st Annual African HIV/AIDS Update and Leadership Development Conference](#)

(this title was way to long).

Left is a photo of most of the attendees.



The way forward...



- In addition to the conference, US partners were expected to spend 1 week in the bush providing a variety of services.

The way forward...



- The conference and the experience was a success and VAC was approved to proceed with a 2nd Annual... (You got the idea).



The way forward...



The 2nd Annual... was a success having drawn attendees from Africa, Europe, Australia, India and North America.

The intent of the conference was to empower local partners to take a leadership role and to sustain the conference if so desired.

Approval for the 3rd Annual... was received.



The way forward...



- The 3rd Annual... took a different twist as local providers realized that the people that needed to attend the conference could not afford the fees and for this event. The Kenyan partners provided 95% of the planning and funding.

The way forward...



A small organization
Global AIDS Response
Agency (GARA) was
formed and has taken
the lead in future
planning.

In addition, our US
partner the

IMAGINE Network
www.theimagenetwork.org

is leading the way to
include not only
conference ideas, but
actual on the ground
activities such as
community development
and care to orphans.



What's next?

How do you get involved?

What's next... ?



- 16th Annual HIV Update... (October 2008)
- 4th Annual HIV Update... and field experience (June 2009)
- Finalized Kenyan NGO Status
- Signed MOU with the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico
- Join us for these exciting events...



- Peter (a young man with a positive attitude).

Will you join us... ?



Sunset in Kenya.

For more information:

Charles Smith

www.valleyaids.org

Csmith.vac@tachc.org

1.800.840.3629

