

Anova mobilises rural health

26 March 2012

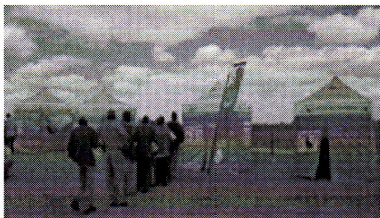
For the communities scattered across the Mopani district of South Africa's most rural province, accessing health care usually means going the extra mile – quite literally. Health services in this province are centralized and for the most part limited to the larger towns, demanding that people in villages travel long distances to access basic health care.



Siblings Rene and Ete Hartman unveil the new mobile health unit, funded by their organisations Stichting Opstap and Stichting Sala Kuchi Kuchi respectively, as well as Orange Babies, Netherlands.

This isolation can pose a serious threat to the success of HIV prevention and treatment efforts. The solution? Put a small clinic on wheels and bring basic health care to the people.

This innovative response is the brainchild of Anova's Family Free project, conceived after years of experience in delivering HIV care to the district.



47 people from the nearby villages used the launch as an opportunity to screen for HIV.

The mobile unit was made a reality this year with financial support from Dutch siblings Rene and Ete Hartman, of Stichting Opstap and Stichting Sala Kuchi Kuchi respectively, as well as Orange Babies, Netherlands and will be run in partnership with the Limpopo Department of Health.

The mobile health unit provides basic screening for a number of conditions, including STIs, HIV, TB, diabetes and cervical cancer. It also offers point of care CD4 count testing, enabling people living with HIV to easily keep track of their health.



The power of partnerships:
Together, the Regional
Department of Health, the Anova
Health Institute and their
generous donors, the Hartman's
and Orange Babies were able to
bring health care to the people.

Community support for the unit was made abundantly clear at the launch late in February. Local leaders, traditional dancers and residents from nearby villages turned out in their throngs to celebrate this valuable new asset to their health care services.

As final proof that the people of Mopani place high value on health, 47 people made use of the HCT service being offered at the launch to test for HIV.