

THE ROBERTO BAZZONI TAG RUGBY TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER, 2004
OLD BELVEDERE RUGBY CLUB
4, Anglesea Road
Dublin 4

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour being your host here tonight.

This is the fourth time we conclude a successful Tag Rugby Tournament in support of our Charity.

I would like to fill you in what we have done in the year from September last until now.

Our main project remains the HAART (highly active anti retroviral treatment) in Zimbabwe, started in 2002. In September last year we were treating 229 patients, which have now grown to 600, 130 of whom children. In addition to this, we have commenced the process for treating 200 mothers, for one year, through the PMTCT PLUS program (preventing transmission from mother to child, plus treating the mother). This program will be rolled out in four sites around the Country, which we visited in May this year.

Our hope is that we will be able to commit to treating a further 200 mothers, for one year. This will cost approximately € 130,000.00, a cost which we hope to fund with upcoming fundraising events between now and Christmas – today's event is a key part of this effort.

As usual, we are establishing clear and tangible objectives.

I also want to inform you about another initiative which we took in Africa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We decided to help some well known Italian nuns, who have been operating in the country since 1976, to complete their dispensary in the remote area of Yakamba by building and equipping an operating theatre, so that two local doctors, who studied thanks to the nuns, may provide medical care to their people. The nearest hospital is 80 kms away and not reachable during the rain season.

I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support of our initiative and hope you enjoyed the day and the friendship which is typical of rugby players.

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9 October 2004

(RBO-Tag Rugby 9 October 2004)
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