

# It's a Wrap



BY JOY RAATZ

The “wrap” is the new and exciting International AIDS Ministries’ initiative unveiled at the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. This project replaces the AIDS home-based care kits that many PW groups, congregations and youth and mission groups have assembled in the last few years.

Home-based care coordinators from the three synods of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Malawi) designed the wrap. Every female home-based care volunteer in Malawi receives a wrap, and every male volunteer, fabric to make a shirt.

## Why a Wrap?

The wraps are the same style as ones that many African women traditionally wear. In addition to being an article of clothing, the wraps tell stories and share messages. These particular wraps tell the story of home-based care in Africa. The wrap also functions as a uniform, identifying the volunteers as people who minister to those who are chronically ill, specifically with AIDS.

People in the United States who donate \$200 or more to the AIDS Crisis Overseas Extra Commitment Opportunity (ECO) receive one of these wraps as a thank-you gift. The money funds awareness-raising campaigns about HIV/AIDS in Africa, as well as supporting home-based care and other AIDS-related activities throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Some women who have received wraps have loaned them to their PW for use as a cloth on the Communion table at special events. Other women are making skirts from the material, using patterns (such as Burda 3005 or Simplicity 5965) purchased from their local fabric stores.

More information about the wrap project (including a brochure with more information and a brochure that shows how to wear the wrap) is available on the International AIDS Ministries’ Web pages, [www.pcusa.org/aids-international](http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international). Information is also available from Joy Raatz, HIV/AIDS initiative facilitator, [jraatz@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:jraatz@ctr.pcusa.org) or 888/728-7228, ext. 5415.

## What Can I Do?

Many opportunities for supporting PC(USA)’s AIDS work are available.

- ❖ Pray for the home-based care volunteers who deliver hope and provide care through their ministry.

- ❖ Support home-based care by contributing \$200 or more to the AIDS Crisis Overseas ECO (#862706). Visit [www.pcusa.org/aids-international/giving](http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international/giving) or send a check made payable to PC(USA) to PC(USA), Church Remittance Processing, PO Box 643678, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3678; list the ECO number on the check. Allow four to six weeks for your wrap to arrive.

- ❖ Order the free “It’s a Matter of Faith” Congregational Packet to interpret PC(USA) International AIDS ministries and raise awareness about AIDS. It includes bulletin inserts, posters, a minute for mission and a resource booklet that can be used for worship, PW groups, mission committees, adult education classes and Sunday school classes. Order through Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612 or [www.pcusa.org/marketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/marketplace); item 7433005002.

- ❖ Organize a mission fair or alternative Christmas market, with proceeds going to International AIDS Ministries.

- ❖ Bookmark or regularly visit [www.pcusa.org/aids-international](http://www.pcusa.org/aids-international) to stay abreast of the issues and advocacy relating to HIV/AIDS.

Joy Raatz works in International Health Ministries as the HIV/AIDS initiative facilitator.



Photo courtesy of International Health Ministries