

## **HOPE AND LIFE**

### **PROJECT ON NETWORK OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS**

This is an organization of people living with HIV virus. It was started with an initiative of some members of St Camillus M. Hospital in March 2003 in Karungu Division Migori District of Nyanza Province, Kenya where an estimated 5000 of the 20,000 populations were HIV positive.

The project is a beginning effort to capitalize on a perceived community readiness to address the AIDS crisis by establishing a network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

The purpose of the project is to create and sustain a network of people Living With HIV/AIDS in the great South Nyanza region, by fostering mutual aid. It is also to develop quality of life of those living with the virus by providing group or individual counselling and encouragement to promote HIV testing and the use of affordable antiretroviral drugs.

The project is to help people living with the virus by providing a venue for them so that they come together to openly discuss their situations, experiences, their understanding of life and how to live positively without infecting others as a sardonic expression against the society.

The target groups of the project include;

- People living with HIV/AIDS within the region.
- Orphans affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.
- Churches, clubs, women groups, and other associations in the region.
- People working in the factories, sugar plantations and fishing sectors.
- Affected families and other AIDS patients staying in their homes.
- Discriminated AIDS patients in general whose human rights are violated.
- Widows and widowers who are HIV positive.

To achieve these objectives, this body needs to work together with Prevention and Control team and the community groups to improve life quality of people in the region.