

A word from Mama Steve

Dear GEMINI donor,

"You probably don't know me. I doubt that we will ever meet. But I know you. Actually I know you very well.

"You see, I tested HIV+ some time ago. In Kenya, this is a death sentence. A walk to the gallows. To the electric chair.

"Definite death....this is what being HIV+ sometimes means.

"I was isolated and mocked by my community, cajoled and rejected by my close relatives. Lost my job, my friends. Only my son, Steve, is what I have left...

"But when you clicked the button and donated to GEMINI, my life changed.

"I have regained my self-worth; have more self-confidence and has become a pillar of hope to other people affected by HIV in my small, rural community. With a \$10 donation, you can actually reverse the death sentence...

"I can confidently discuss about my status with my buddies. I train my peers on positive living. And three times a week, I walk around carrying my small bag with training materials, dishing out condoms...doing voluntary work. Because you donated to GEMINI...

"My son is crying...let me go and check him out...But I just want you to know that I can never stop thanking you. And I'm speaking on behalf of a whole community!

"Kindly accept our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you so much. Your donations, however, small, keep our hopes alive. We really appreciate you.

"In my native language, Swahili, we say *ASANTE SANA!* Thanks so much!!"

