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UD BIOLOGY PROFESSOR HELPS VICTIMS OF AIDS AND AFRICAN SLEEPING SICKNESS WITH DEVELOPMENT OF FDA-APPROVED DRUG

Brother Bruce Giffin, S.M., an assistant professor of biology at the University of Dayton, is one member of a team of researchers that worked to investigate a cure for African Sleeping Sickness. Along the way, the team discovered that the new drug they were researching (DFMO) also cures Pneumocystis pneumonia, a parasitic infection usually fatal to most AIDS patients. FDA approval to use the drug for treatment of the pneumonia came about a year ago.

Prior to the final FDA approval, the drug was approved for "compassionate use" for AIDS victims who had gone through all other acceptable treatments. "It had real good results," Giffin said. "Now, with the FDA approval, it can be used before the infection has progressed to such an extreme stage."

Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals in Cincinnati is currently in full-scale production of the drug. The company, working through various government agencies and the World Health Organization, supplies the drug on request to physicians operating approved programs in Africa to combat the fatal African Sleeping Sickness in humans. "The drug has virtually no side effects," said Giffin. "Some of the African victims treated have gone several years without a relapse, so it looks good."

For media interviews, contact Brother Bruce Giffin at (513) 229-2508.

UD'S STRATEGIES FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ASSISTS NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS WITH COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING SERVICE

The days of keeping accounting records in an old shoe box may be over for several Dayton volunteer neighborhood associations.

Thanks to a computerized accounting system developed by Brother Ed Zamierowski, S.M., through a grant from the United Way, groups such as the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition, the Grow With Your Neighbor program and the Dayton View Community Development Corp. simply turn in their check stubs and deposit receipts each month to Zamierowski and a group of UD accounting majors, who generate monthly financial statements and develop cash-flow statements.

"It's more than just keeping books," Zamierowski said. "It's helping neighborhood groups work out sound fiscal plans."

Zamierowski is a program specialist in UD's Strategies for Responsible Development-Neighborhood Development Office. SRD sponsors training sessions, conferences and workshops that help neighborhood groups in their efforts to improve the quality of life in Dayton neighborhoods.

For media interviews, contact Brother Ed Zamierowski at (513) 229-4638.