

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Date 12 December 2011  
Contact Media: Christina Hertig, Head of Corporate Communications, Galenica Group  
Subject Presentation of cheque by Amavita to Swiss Aids Care International

*((for public release on 12 December 2011))*

### **Children helping children campaign – Amavita supports Swiss Aids Care International**

**The foundation Swiss Aids Care International runs an outpatient HIV clinic and a training centre for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers in Zimbabwe. The facility is funded primarily through donations and over the past several years, Galenica has made significant contributions to the foundation. This support is now continuing through the "Children helping children" campaign. Amavita asked children in Switzerland to draw pictures for the children in the Zimbabwe clinic. Entire school and kindergarten classes supported the campaign and almost 3,000 drawings were donated. For every drawing, Amavita donated CHF 25 and is presenting a cheque for CHF 100,000 to Swiss Aids Care International at the Amavita pharmacy in the Airport Center at Zurich Airport today.**

Working under difficult conditions, Swiss physician Professor Ruedi Lüthy set up an outpatient HIV clinic and a training centre for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers in Zimbabwe in 2003. Almost one in 10 people in Zimbabwe is infected with HIV, the majority of them women and children. Today the Newlands Clinic cares for some 3,800 patients, one third of them children, who are particularly dependent on this support.

#### **Amavita and the fundraising idea**

In September 2011, Amavita asked children in Switzerland to draw pictures for the children in the Zimbabwe clinic. In return, the children at the Newlands Clinic in Zimbabwe made paintings for the children in Switzerland. The appeal was a resounding success -- entire school and kindergarten classes supported the campaign and submitted their artwork. Amavita pharmacies received almost 3,000 drawings from across the country. For each drawing, Amavita donated CHF 25, resulting in a total of more than CHF 70,000. Amavita rounded up this donation, and is pleased to be presenting a cheque for CHF 100,000 to Professor Ruedi Lüthy today, 12 December 2011. The presentation will take place at 11.00 a.m. at the Amavita pharmacy in the Airport Center at Zurich Airport and is being hosted by Kurt Aeschbacher, a member of the Patronage Committee of Swiss Aids Care International.

Professor Ruedi Lüthy of Swiss Aids Care International is delighted by the generous donation, for which he says an enormous thank you to Amavita and Galenica on behalf of all of his patients and staff. CHF 100,000 will provide comprehensive treatment and care for 170 patients at the Newlands Clinic for one year. This invaluable support is an important contribution to further improving the living conditions of the many HIV and Aids patients in Zimbabwe.

This campaign represents another major step in the long-standing collaboration between Galenica and the Swiss Aids Care International foundation. Galenica and Amavita extend their heartfelt thanks all the children who took part. Through their drawings, they are directly helping the young patients at the Newlands Aids Clinic in Zimbabwe.

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*For more information, please visit the company's website at [www.galenica.com](http://www.galenica.com).*

*With around 140 locations, the **Amavita pharmacies** form the largest pharmacy network in Switzerland. They are operated by GaleniCare, a company of the Galenica Group. Additional information on Amavita can be found at [www.amavita.ch](http://www.amavita.ch).*

*The **children's drawings** can be downloaded via the following link: [www.amavita.ch/kinder](http://www.amavita.ch/kinder)*

*Please note that these pictures may only be used in connection with the aforementioned Amavita campaign.*

*The Swiss Aids Care International foundation was founded in 2003 by Professor Ruedi Lüthy. It runs the Newlands Clinic in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, where HIV and Aids patients receive medical treatment and psychosocial care. The clinic also provides ongoing training for local nurses, healthcare workers and doctors. Zimbabwe is one of the poorest countries in Africa, and has at least 500,000 people who require treatment for HIV – including a large number of children. With the help of the clinic and mobile wards, Swiss Aids Care International is now treating 3,800 patients, and trains more than 200 professionals across the country every year. The offering is complemented by other services including food donations, private tutoring for children, physiotherapy and self-help groups. The foundation is largely financed by donations, as well as contributions from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), the World Food Programme (WFP) and many others.*

*For more information: [www.swissaidscare.ch](http://www.swissaidscare.ch)*

**Swiss Aids Care International foundation**

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