



STAFF PHOTOS BY RAUL ROA

MISSION OF HOPE: Dr. Kimberly Shriner with the supplies she will take to Tanzania, at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. The doctor and about 30 other professionals, children and teachers will visit Tanzania to provide medical treatment.

Children leave for Tanzania

By Robert S. Hong
Staff Writer

PASADENA — Six children are about to embark on a journey of epic proportions.

Today, the students from Creative Planet School of the Arts in Baldwin Park will join a team of doctors from Huntington Hospital in Pasadena on a trip to Tanzania.

Their goal is to spread health and cheer to Tanzania's impoverished population.

It's not your average field trip.

For the past eight years, the Phil Simon Clinic at Huntington Hospital has been part of an outreach program in northern Tanzania, sending supplies overseas and paying visits to it people.

"Every year we take a team of volunteers over there and spend two weeks working in the hospitals and the charitable clinics," said Dr. Kimberly Shriner, who heads up the team. "This year is special because we have children from the school coming."

For the past eight years she has spearheaded efforts to help adults and children in Tanzania, where many are suffering from HIV and AIDS.

Students at Creative Planet have held fundraisers to support the doctor's efforts. But this year, a few students will make the journey for themselves. The six students leaving today range in age from 10 to 17.

And while these youths have never been to Africa, it may be less of a culture shock than one might think.



TRAVEL PLANS: Julie Borba, M.D., of Monterey Park, left, and Kimberly Shriner of Pasadena, stand with a map of Africa on Thursday at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena. The doctors, from the nonprofit Phil Simon Clinic, will provide medical treatment for HIV and other illnesses.

For the past several years, the students have immersed themselves in Tanzanian culture, writing letters to the children there and even going as far as learning Swahili.

"We're hoping to teach our students that philanthropy is part of who we are," said Billy Rugh, Creative Planet founder, adding that the students will help by teaching children in Tanzania about the arts and assisting doctors as

translators.

"It's a beautiful experience," said Tom Warren, a nurse at Huntington, who has made the trip for the past five years. "We are starting to see a significant difference in the mentality of everything over there."

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