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'The House Is Small But the Welcome Is Big'

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KUSA - A new photo exhibit is about to debut in Denver that will break your heart, but also lift your spirit.

An unlikely group of amateur photographers is at the core of the exhibit which focuses on impoverished neighborhoods in South Africa that are being drastically affected by HIV & AIDS.

The images were captured by women who are HIV positive and children who were left orphaned because their parents died from complications of Aids and over the past two years the women and children documented what life is like for them.

Eighteen children from Maputo, Mozambique, orphaned by Aids and 15 HIV-positive women in Cape Town, South Africa were given professional cameras for the project and after some brief instruction; the groups were asked to tell the uncensored stories of their communities.

The name of the project: The House Is Small But the Welcome is Big has resulted in captivating, stunning and brutally realistic snapshot of what life is like for the women and children of South Africa.

Denver native and Emmy-nominated writer/executive producer of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit, Neal Baer, M.D., is co-founder of the project.

"These children, as young as 10 and no older than 18, have a lot to say through these images about living on their own and raising younger siblings by themselves," said Baer. "That's the harsh truth about AIDS in Africa. Millions of children are growing up along, a generation without the guidance or love of parents."

The exhibit, along with biographical panels about the photographers, opens at Gallery M in Cherry Creek North on June 14th and ends July 13th.

For more details please visit:

http://www.thehouseissmall.org/

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