

MAPENDO

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A lifeline for forgotten refugees

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SASHA CHANOFF, FOUNDER OF MAPENDO INTERNATIONAL,
WILL DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCES LAUNCHING
RESCUE EFFORTS THAT HAVE
SAVED 5,000 LIVES SO FAR**

Wayland, MA, October 14, 2009 – On Sunday, November 8th, 2009, Sasha Chanoff, Executive Director of Mapendo International, will speak about his experiences launching rescue efforts that have saved over 5,000 lives in Africa. Chanoff has worked for over a decade in refugee rescue, relief, and resettlement, consulting with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and working with the International Organization for Migration. His presentation will begin at 4:00 pm at the Wayland Middle School Auditorium, 201 Main Street, Wayland, MA. Sponsored by the Wayland Library and the Gossels Fund for Human Dignity, the program is free and open to the public.

Leading funders in the field of social change have honored Chanoff as one of the “World’s 15 Best Emerging Social Entrepreneurs” (Echoing Green Foundation), and awarded him a fellowship for demonstrating “the capability to make a global impact” (Draper Richards Foundation). In June 2009, the front page of The Boston Globe told the story of Mapendo International’s life-saving assistance to refugees who had fallen through the net of international humanitarian assistance. Chanoff has appeared on “60 Minutes,” as well as in other national and international TV, radio, and print media outlets.

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The Gossels Fund for Human Dignity was started many years ago by Peter and Werner Gossels of Wayland - to honor their mother and aunts, who were victims of the Holocaust, as well as all other innocent victims of persecution. The Fund's mission is "to foster and augment programs and activities that will encourage people to respect, treasure, and protect the rights of all human beings to live in dignity, freedom, and peace." Sasha's work with Mapendo International promotes this mission.

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