



Kisumu Governor Jack Ranguma with Richard Brodsky and his wife Jodi at Jomo Kenyatta Sports Ground in Kisumu during last year's World Aids Day. [PHOTOS: PHILIP ORWA]



# RICHARD BRODSKY

## KISUMU'S HERO WHO MAKES EVERY WORLD AIDS DAY TICK

By PHILIP ORWA

Every year on December 1, the world marks the World Aids Day.

It was the first ever global health day and the premier one was held in 1988.

It is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for those living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died.

In Kisumu, the day is marked yearly with a marathon that is normally sponsored by the Kisumu World Aids marathon group and co-sponsored by Richard Brodsky, the president of Richard M. Brodsky foundation.

Richard Brodsky was diagnosed with HIV/Aids in 1997 and since then he has lived positively.

Interestingly, his wife Jodi Brodsky is HIV/Aids negative though they have been living together for the last 33 years.

Brodsky, an architect turned author, is also a brain cancer survivor. "There is no greater joy than raising and then giving away money to those in need. It's fun and rewarding," Brodsky told The Counties.

"For example, the Richard M Brodsky Foundation has sponsored 13 orphan dinner dance for over 4,350 Kenyan orphans since 2006, and since

2011 Dr Richard L. Sartori has accompanied Brodsky to Africa and he has examined and provided treatment to 136 Kenyan orphans," he added.

"I was gay, and in 1997 when I was diagnosed with HIV, I had to tell my wife Jodi that I had contacted the virus, and from another man," the President of Brodsky foundation said.

And although many women would have chosen to end their marriages and taken the kids with them, Jodi chose to stay.

Richard chronicled this moving experience in his 2002 book, *Jodi, The Greatest Love Story Ever Told*.

Later in 2002, Richard was diagnosed with brain cancer (not related to his HIV), for which he underwent radiation treatment.

To date, both his HIV and cancer treatments appear to have been successful, and his family, Jodi and their three daughters, are happily intact.

In 2011, during the sixth edition of the Kisumu World Aids marathon, a record of 2,450 people were involved in the races and the related events.

About 735 runners and walkers registered for the marathon, half marathon and relay races. Some 154 children participated in the children's walk, 500 volunteers served water, provided medical assistance, organized and served food, directed traf-

fic, registered participants and assisted with timings.

As the world marked World Aids Day last Month, in Kisumu the World Aids Day group was staging its eighth edition of the marathon.

The Marathon race and World HIV/Aids day ceremony was graced Kisumu by Governor Jack Ranguma, area MP Ken Obura, County Commissioner Lonah Odera, and Mama Sarah Obama among other leaders.

Ranguma led the leaders in taking an HIV/Aids test at the tents that were erected at the Kisumu's Kenyatta sports ground.

Ezekiel Oduol emerged the overall winner after clocking 2:26:22.

In the second position was Benjamin Kiplimo who clocked 2:26:35 while in the third position was David Kipkoech who timed 2:28:04.

The fourth position was taken by Geoffrey Momanyi who clocked 2:28:43 followed in the fifth position by Langat Kenneth who timed 2:30:28.

The ladies category was won by Helen Chemonges who clocked 3:01:03 followed by Naomi Maiyo who timed 3:11:16 ahead of Maximiliana Akinyi who did 3:28:59.

Frederic Eijkman, a Kisumu businessman who runs Pep Intermedius in Kisumu issued a Sh50, 000 cheque to the World Aids Day organisers for the



Safe Water and Aids Project County Director Alie Elevated issues presents to winners with disabilities after the 2013 World Aids Day Wheel Chair race.



Participants during Kisumu World Aids Day marathon



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cash prize.

In the 21-kilometre race Geoffrey Ngetich clocked 1:21:03 to emerge the overall winner followed in the second position by Kiprono Yegon who clocked 1:47:52 while in the third position going to Phanuel Mkungu with 1:53:27 timing.

Julius Koech Bitok came in fourth after clocking 1:53:29 followed in the fifth position by Julius Tenai who timed 1:54:98.

The 21-kilometer wheelchair race was won by Pascal Otieno who returned the time of 1:31:09 followed by Simon Otieno Odhiambo who timed 1:39:35 while in the third position was Ely Odero at 1:42:18.

The fourth position was taken by Michael Okumu who clocked 1:46:37 while Steven Oluoch returned 1:46:36 in a race that was dominated by the locals.

Richard Brodsky together with his wife Jodi took part in the race.

Richard Brodsky



**KAJIADO:** "Last year's tournament was hosted at Amboseli National Game Reserve at Kimana grounds and attracted more than 900 youths. It was sponsored by East African Portland Cement, KWS and Mada Hotels," - Coordinator Moses Kamalit.

### Moran soccer World Cup goes annual from this year



Kajiado County's Mwathi Pere presents a trophy during the championships. [PHOTO: BEN AHENDA]

By BEN AHENDA

The Moran World Cup, a soccer tournament meant to make the Maasai Community embrace and invest in sports, is set to become an annual tournament, its coordinator Moses Kamalit has said.

Kamalit said this year's edition would be bigger in magnitude and sponsorship compared to last year's hosted at Amboseli National Game Reserve at Kimana grounds that attracted over 900 youths. It was sponsored by East African Portland and Cement in conjunction with Kenya Wildlife Service and Mada Hotels.

Vapour emerged overall champions after whipping Liverpool Kimana 3-1 in the finals with Vincent Onyango scoring a double and Anthony Rupande netting once. Anthony Mungai replied for the losers.

Enroute to the finals, Vapour stopped Red Simba 5-4 on post match penalties and thereafter defeated Ngorai by a solitary goal in the semis.

On their part, Kimana first eliminated Millennium 2-1 in the quarters and later defeated Kenya Power of Loitokitok 1-0 in the semis in an event that attracted teams from the vast Kajiado County.

In other quarter-final matches, Kenya Power walloped Rambo Super Stars from Kajiado South 5-4 on post match penalties after a 3-3 deadlock at regulation time as Nkoroi of Kajiado North smashed Mashuru's Mutani of Kajiado East by a solitary goal.

It attracted 22 senior men teams, four women sides and four junior boys' sides from the five zones of Kajiado Central, Kajiado South, Kajiado East, Kajiado North and Kajiado West covering a total of 21,865 square kilometres.

Challengers lifted the women title after overcoming Rongai All Stars 3-0.

Rael Kamanda scored a brace and Constance Aju added the other goal for the winners.

In the semi finals, Challengers defeated Red Simba Girls 12-1 while Rongai All Stars hammered Kimana 7-0.

In the under 14 junior boys category, which had four teams in Rombo FC, Challengers, Rongai All Stars and Kimana, Rombo emerged the winners with a 5-3 post penalties victory over Rongai All Stars. In the semis, Rombo smashed Challengers 2-1 as Rongai All Stars defeated Kimana 5-3 on post match penalties.

Kamalik said the next edition will be held at African Nazarene University.