

## Outstanding Regional Social Entrepreneurs – Africa 2009 Winners

**Mitchell Besser, Founder & Medical Director, and Gene Falk, Co-Founder & Managing Director, mothers2mothers, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia**



mothers2mothers (m2m) provides education, mentoring and support to HIV-positive pregnant women and mothers. It focuses on preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child and teaching women to improve their health, the likelihood of their survival and the health of their babies. Its Mentor Mothers programme hires and trains new mothers living with HIV to inspire, mentor and counsel pregnant women newly diagnosed with the HIV virus. In only seven years, mothers2mothers has grown from a small grassroots organization to a multinational operation in over 500 locations in seven African countries, serving more than 150,000 women per month.

**David Kuria, Chief Executive Officer, Ecotact Kenya**



After years of serving as a city planner and with non-profit organizations delivering basic services to the people of Kibera, the largest informal settlement in Africa, Kuria has created Ecotact as a social enterprise spearheading community service and environmental interventions with a business perspective. Ecotact has built “Ikotoilet” malls in places where municipalities cannot keep up with the rapid pace of urbanization, while their high-profile social marketing campaigns raise awareness of hygiene and water conservation. The malls have become popular meeting places that provide ecologically sensitive sanitation together with other small business services. With 14 functioning facilities that already serve 30,000 daily users, Ecotact is currently constructing another 20 malls in eight different municipalities across Kenya.

**Patrick Schofield, Chief Executive Officer, Streetwires Artists Collective South Africa**



Patrick Schofield has revolutionized and formalized the informal wire and bead market, not only growing the social business of Streetwires and its craftsmen and women, but also lifting the status of the craft into an art form – thus providing true aesthetic and economic value. With innovative systems of craft development, cooperative manufacturing and distribution to local and international markets, Streetwires ensures the producers a fair price for their art, making it the first fair trade craft organization in South Africa. With government-certified training programmes, its wire artists and students who are trained in outreach projects empower individuals with the qualifications and skills to create their own enterprises in the industry.