



HIV/AIDS PREVENTION: ORPHANS ARE NOT SECOND CLASS CHILDREN

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Learn About African Action on AIDS (AAA)

AAA is a tax exempt non-profit organization registered in the USA and operating under section 501(c) 3 of the IRS code. It is also registered in Cameroon (auth. No 00174/A/MINAT/DAP/SDLP/SAC). It has special consultative status with the United Nations ECOSOC and the UN Department of Information.

AAA Mission Statement

We believe that no one is alone. We succeed when the youth we serve become agents of their own change and use their knowledge to change their communities.

We reach the youth of sub-saharan Africa whose lives are affected by AIDS.

We affirm that tomorrow's responsible parents are the knowledgeable youth of today.

We educate youth with the knowledge they need to stay alive, and teach them to share that knowledge with their peers

We build extended family support networks in local villages and communities to deliver security, food, education and healthcare to children orphaned by AIDS

We create healthcare awareness by funding women and children's health.

ORPHANS ARE PART OF OUR COMMON FUTURE – THEY ARE NOT SECOND CLASS CHILDREN WE MUST FULLY TAKE CARE OF THEM

AAA's work is based on 3 programmes. One of them relates to Women's Economic Autonomy through a scholarship programme that allows teenage girls to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that leads to financial autonomy - greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through un-protected sexual abuse/ violence. The number of young women part of this scholarship constantly fluctuates between 21-25. For the last 4 years this programme has grown, thanks to steady and dedicated partners like the Batonga Foundation(USA), MTN Foundation Cameroon and Dr. Honorée Bayiha (Cameroon). Besides this general form of education, AAA ensures that each young woman is equipped with the kind of knowledge that strengthens personal responsibility –THE I FACTOR not only in the fight against AIDS but in all basic health matters. This is one way to create a new generation of informed parents who will be alive to take care of their own children.

Aissatou Issa is part of this new generation of parents. She is originally from North Cameroon, but grew up in Yaoundé. She has been on AAA scholarship for 4 years, always among the first five of her class at the technical school – College Larousse, Yaoundé (classe 1ère ESF). Aissatou is a happy, beautiful young Muslim and Peer Educator. She loves languages and wrote the following poem for AAA End of Year Event with all orphans in 2009. We invite you to share her poem and our pride!

Aissatou's poem was written in French and translated in English

SIDA,

Telle une rumeur tu apparais au monde
Ensuite tes ravages confirment to existence
Que d'hommes,
Que de femmes
Que d'enfants tu emportes dans ton sinistre voyage
Jamais de mémoire d'homme il n'eut de maladie si
[redoutable et meurtrière
Puisque sans prévention tu fais ton chemin
Sans traitement tu t'installes
Sans défense tu terrasses la race humaine.
Heureusement
Tu épargnes ceux qui recourent á l'abstinence,
Aux rapports sexuels protégés,
A une hygiène de vie exemplaire !

AIDS,

As a rumour you enter the world
Then your actions confirm your presence
How many men,
Women and children have you snatched away
During your sinister journey
No human recollection of a disease this deadly
Without prevention you run around
Without treatment you settle
Without defense you terrorize the human race.
But thank heavens
You spare those who adopt abstinence,
Those who practice safe sex
Those who adopt healthy life styles!

Compiled by AAA secretariat



Pictures of A AISSATOU at end of year event 2009

Contacts:

Table with 3 columns: USA, Europe, Cameroon. Lists contact names and addresses for Ruth Bamela Engo, Herta P. Kaschitz, and Theodore L. Tangie.