



African Action on AIDS

## AAA NEWS BRIEF – NOVEMBER 2008

### INAUGURATION OF “A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS” QUILT

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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.

#### AAA’s work is based on 3 programmes:

##### “JUST KNOW” Campaign emphasizes

- Knowledge of one’s body
- Knowledge that leads to behaviour change
- Knowledge that helps to visualize a future without AIDS

##### “Health before Wealth” Concept promotes

- Safe potable water and sanitation (wells, latrines, hand washing stations in schools)
- Income generating activities (IGA) like treated mosquito bed nets and WaterGuard – a liquid that purifies water – to create a fund for women’s health in rural areas.

“Women’s economic autonomy” through our **Scholarships Programme**. This scholarship enables each teenage orphan girl to complete at least a secondary, general or technical education that will lead to her financial and economic autonomy, greatly reducing the risk of being infected with HIV through sexual abuse and violence.

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#### Inauguration of “A World Without AIDS” Quilt

“A WORLD WITHOUT AIDS” Quilt was inaugurated in Monterey on 31 August 2008. Quilt Panels were sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Center for Peace Through Culture, Monterey, MA. The panels were created by Joan MacVicar, Kathie Frome, Myra Rosen and Laraine Lippe, Secretary of African Action on AIDS’ Board of Directors.

The collaboration between women quilters of Monterey, the Center for Peace Through Culture of USA and Cameroon youth is a fine example of what is presently called “HOT SPOTS” or successful enthusiastic teams, with different people, different skills, scattered around the world, with the same vision and working together on the same project. This form of organization, that may become a model of collaboration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, was initiated in this case by African Action on AIDS.

The first workshop that started this process and that produced the first 100 paintings of “A World Without AIDS” was organized in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 19-21 December 2006. It was sponsored by UNICEF Cameroon. AAA did not conceive it as an individual endeavor of each artist – many of whom had never painted before - We wanted this activity to be the combined success of this generation of youth. It was to be viewed as a collective product, celebrating all artists, each with their individual views. The quilt, should therefore be seen as HARMONY WITH CONTRADICTION, because it includes different visions of past, present and future from boys, girls, orphans, non orphans, school goers or not. The quilt merges their collective yearning for “A World Without AIDS”. To support this perception, we did not concentrate on individual information on artists, but presented a list of same generation participants. Modern Africa has become individualistic. We wanted the younger generation to emphasize SUCCESS THAT CELEBRATES ALL ELEMENTS OF A TEAM.

As we struggled on this side of the world to ensure that the new generation of Africans do not die and is not denied the chance of visualizing, then changing the course of their history positively, women quilters of Monterey gave their TIME, SKILLS, AND LOVE to multiply our chances of success. We thank them for teaching us this form of giving. This exceptional quilt will be presented to the public when it comes home in December.

By

Ruth Bamela Engo  
President of AAA

Happy International Day for the Elimination of  
Violence Against Women – 25 November



Pictures of the  
Inauguration of  
“A World without  
AIDS” Quilt