



AAA NEWS BRIEF – OCTOBER 2008

AIDS RUN: BY A MEMBER OF AAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Please send a tax-exempt check
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AIDS' addresses below**

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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AIDS RUN: by a member of AAA Board of Directors

Suzanne Africa Engo, the runner is officially ranked one of the top 40 youth AIDS activists in the world as proclaimed by MTV Networks and the Kaiser Foundation who put her face on Time Square MTV jumbotron on a World AIDS Day. She co-founded AAA when she was 12 years old and later founded the New York AIDS Film Festival (NYAFF), the first film festival on HIV/AIDS in the world as proclaimed by the United Nations. She is the Representative of AAA at the UN.

Suzanne Africa will run 858 Miles from the United Nations Headquarters, New York, to Chicago (Harpo Studios). The reason of the RUN is to draw attention on the work needed to end AIDS in Africa, mostly among African women. On her way to Chicago, Suzanne Africa will stop in schools to speak about AIDS in Africa. It is Africa Engo's wish to mirror a 100 year old route that was run by YMCA boys in 1908 from New York to Chicago.

The RUN was launched on 15th September 2008, 10:00AM, at the United Nations in the presence of **H.E. Ambassador Tommo Monthe**, Permanent Representative of Cameroon at the UN. Speakers at the launch were: **Ken Podziba**, New York Commissioner of Sports who read a message from the Mayor of New York City; **Mr Bertil Lindblad**, UNAIDS Director in New York, who also launched the NYAFF 6 years ago; **Mr. Toby Tanser**, Head trainer of Africa Engo and founder of Shoe4 Africa (see pictures).

A Home Town Support group has been organized in Yaoundé and members will contribute 100FCFA per mile to encourage this activist. JOIN US!

In the name of African Action on AIDS, we salute the heroic effort of this young African woman. We hope that it will accelerate the awareness and contribute to the end of this PREVENTABLE PANDEMIC!

By
Ruth Bamela Engo
President of AAA

Bad Health is part of poverty! Happy International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - 17 October



Pictures of Suzanne Africa Engo during training and at the launch of her solo AIDS Run