



## AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – OCTOBER 2011

### WANGARI MAATHAI and HIV/AIDS PREVENTION

**Your contributions keep us going!**  
Please send a tax-exempt check payable to one of African Action on 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's work is based on 3 programmes:

##### "JUST KNOW" Campaign emphasizes:

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

##### "Health before Wealth" Concept promotes:

- Testing for HIV
- Clean hands ( hand washing stations)
- Clean water (drinking stations)
- Dignified toilets
- Fighting against Malaria (treated mosquito bed nets)
- Vaccination
- Anti worms medicine

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



#### WANGARI MAATHAI and HIV/AIDS in AFRICA

*Dear Friends, AAA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary continues. All e-news briefs of this year will reveal an aspect of our wonderful journey. The present issue allows us to celebrate yet another great spirit that did influence AAA during the last 20 years – WANGARI MAATHAI OF KENYA, the Founder of the Green Belt Movement; The indefatigable fighter for Peace and equality; The Member of the Club of Rome; The Nobel Peace Prize Winner and a great friend for African Action on AIDS from the start. Wangari just left us.*

In 2004, the same year of her Nobel Peace Prize, Wangari wrote an article on "The Challenge of AIDS in Africa" where the following thoughts are found: "...Girls are disproportionately affected by AIDS. Unable to access education, medical care and property rights, they are increasingly victims of violence, rape and prostitution. Yet they are expected to be care givers when people fall sick. Their predicament gives me particular pain as I watch their future slip away... I am particularly concerned about the many poor girls who see no other option to earn living, but selling sex as their survival strategy. This makes them increasingly at risk of being infected."

Then she concluded: "...What became of moral values and responsibility of the adults to protect children and the vulnerable in society? How about justice and equity? What other options are there? Is anyone listening? Anyone caring?"

AAA has been trying for 20 years to answer this call with partners like the Batonga Foundation, MTN Foundation, The Center for Peace through Culture, Hope S. Miller and Dr. Honoree Bayiha.

We definitely hope that many more will join to allow Wangari, one of Africa's greatest daughters to now Rest in Peace. But listen Wangari, beyond sending girls to school, we really want you to KEEP SMILING wherever you are, knowing that we also encourage children to plant local trees in their school on the Day of the African Child!

Ruth Bamela Engo



Wangari Maathai  
1940 - 2011



Day of African Child  
2009 – Rural Cameroon.



From left: Ngo Biog, Bayemi and Azange. These girls do not only read well, they also play music!

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