



AAA e-NEWS BRIEF – SEPTEMBER 2011

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

*Dear Friends, AAA 20th Anniversary continues. All e-news briefs of this year will reveal an aspect of our wonderful journey. The present issue brings us back to the February 2011 e news brief that reminded us one of the basic ideas that led to the creation of AAA in 1991. That BIG IDEA was to set an example of civic engagement and volunteerism, which may encourage the youth we work with, not only to follow us, but to be challenged and grow taller. Three AAA's teenage boys have been making amazing strides in Cameroon and beyond. They are **Eteki Romuald, Tiat Ali Nakhjavani and Pondi Paul William.***

We met these great young men for the first time during the celebration of the Day of the African Child 2006. The oldest of them 3 was 12 years. Since 2006, they have all written letters addressed to their future children and painted a World without AIDS.

Romuald painted himself watching the last dead person from AIDS.

Ali wrote to his children and listed things he decided not to do to stay alive and HIV free. **Pondi** told his future children that his first decision was to learn more about AIDS – some of these letters to the future can be found in www.africanactiononaids.org.

Pondi, now a University student, created an Association called PRODIGES since 2009. They distribute food to street children in certain quarters of Yaoundé every Thursday. They also help these children to raise funds through car washing.

Ali completed a Junior Youth Empowerment Programme, and after obtaining his GCE-Advanced Level in 2011 with 5 papers, he decided to postpone his University education for 2 years, to go to Sierra Leone – West Africa, in order to help other children and contribute to the advancement/betterment of our Common Humanity.

Romuald who is in his last year of secondary education, organized a football match through internet with his friends to fundraise for an orphanage during his 2011 long school break.

All three great men tell me that their civic engagement is not to make them feel good, but rather to serve the interests of those in most need. **Finally, we would like to draw attention on the fact that volunteering youth develop social networks that act as a buffer against risky behaviors that may lead to HIV infection. THE AFRICA OF HOPE IS ON THE WAY!!!** AAA will support this trend.

Ruth Bamela Engo

After the football match organised by Eteki – gifts distributed to orphans.



Eteki and Ali during the Day of the African Child 2006.



Contacts:

USA	Europe	Hong-Kong	Cameroon
Laraine Lippe Secretary of the board African Action on AIDS 511 Avenue of the Americas #302 New York, NY 10011, USA E-Mail: ljlippe@aol.com	Herta P. Kaschitz AAA Representative in H-K in Vienna Schottenfeldgasse 20/9 1070 Vienna, Austria E-Mail: hpkaschitz@aol.com	Vivek Aranha AAA Representative in H-K Unit 103, 7 May Road, May Towers one, Mid-levels HONG-KONG v_aranha2000@yahoo.com	Ruth Bamela Engo President AAA B.P. 4340, Yaoundé Cameroon E-Mail: ruthengo@aol.com

www.africanactiononaids.org