

Dear Past and a few present volunteers & interns, individual and group visitors of WAAF, colleagues, friends, family members and well wishers,

World AIDS Day, December 1st, is a day to celebrate progress on matters pertaining to HIV. It is a day to raise awareness of the continued issue of HIV around the world as well as a day to remember those who lost their lives to AIDS and last but not least to fight hard against HIV related stigma and discrimination. So was the 2010 World AIDS Day that just went by 2 days ago, a day that I am sure would have reminded many of you of WAAF.

The West Africa AIDS Organization, popularly known as WAAF is an NGO in Ghana dedicated to contributing to Ghana's national response to HIV & AIDS. WAAF has been in existence for 12 years and has a wide network of smaller community based organizations and peer educators all working to achieve lasting change for those who are disadvantaged by HIV & AIDS but also to prevent the spread of HIV.

WAAF has over the years been very fortunate to have very dedicated volunteers and interns, individuals as well as groups visiting the organizations who have all contributed in so many various ways to WAAF so that the organization has been able to continue with its service delivery. For this WAAF will forever be grateful. As I write, there are others still working with us, working for us, organizing fund raising for various projects of the organization and we continue to thank everyone generously.

WAAF has through this support from all of you and others been able to continue to provide services to its clients and various communities. We continue to serve marginalized persons in society and reach out to many who would otherwise never have access to any form of prevention or treatment whatsoever.

However, for the first time, I am holding a fundraiser to try and raise funds for equipment that are necessary for the organization itself so as to strengthen its health systems.

The plan I have come up with is to contact as many past volunteers & interns of WAAF, individual and group visitors, friends, relatives, as you all have firsthand experience with WAAF. Each of you, will get as many persons you can who will be able to donate something to WAAF to enable us come up with a substantial amount to acquire the so much needed equipment. (for example if each person is able to get 10 to 20 people to donate between 5 to 10 dollars each (more is welcome) will help us go a long way)

You, as direct contacts of WAAF will act as your team heads and keep the funds till you think it is enough or you have exhausted all your group members/friends.

To make it easier for you, I have attached a letter that you can use in approaching your team members. You just have to say something short about your intern/volunteering and/or visit to WAAF in the attached letter and then send to them.

At the end of your fundraising, you can do one of the following:

- Either pay the money using the PayPal account on the WAAF website (if using credit card)
- Deposit cash raised into your account and then send to one of WAAF's foreign currency account here in Ghana (Euro or US Dollar for which details are on the WAAF website)

For more information on this fundraising, visit the WAAF website: www.waafweb.org

Also always remember that someone, your employer, a company, well wisher might support your fundraising efforts by 'matching your funds' which means that whatever you have raised for your group will be doubled, so the more people you mention this to the better.

I want to thank you all very much for the continuous support you give to WAAF which makes it possible for us to also reach out to many others who so dearly need our services.

Yours sincerely

Naa Ashiley Vanderpuye
Medical Advisor (WAAF)