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THIRD EDITION

NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZATION FOUNDED 1999

## World AIDS Day 2008

*“Leadership: Reducing Stigma and Discrimination”*

World AIDS Day presents an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This year the theme of the day was:

*“Leadership: Reducing Stigma and Discrimination”*

To mark the day WAAF organized a staff durbar for workers at Total Petroleum, and a VCT (Voluntary Counseling and Testing) for the staff of Newmont Ghana at Akyem in the Eastern Region. During this event, the staff was educated on the basics of the HIV and AIDS. To enhance awareness, educational material, posters, ribbons and condoms were distributed during the day.



### Other events that took place to commemorate the occasion were:

Presentations on topics pertaining to HIV/AIDS and VCT for Barclays Bank, Tema Lube Oil Company and Ghana Telecom.

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### Quick facts: World AIDS Day 2008

Condoms and IEC Materials distributed during World AIDS Day celebration:

Condoms distributed:	1000 pcs
HIV Red Ribbons:	2500 pcs
Posters and flyers:	1500 pcs



## HEPATITIS-B PROJECT

WAAF has undertaken a 7-month long Hepatitis B project with World Vision Ghana. The goal of the project is to educate the staff on the risks and prevention of Hepatitis B. Screening, vaccination and treatment/management of all staff and their dependents is being offered. The project is taking place in three phases and covers all WV staff throughout the country.

**Phase 1:** screening and 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination of those who tested negative during screening (oct. '08)

**Phase 2:** 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination (nov/dec 08)

**Phase 3:** 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination after (apr/may. '09)

## Message from the CEO

*It is my pleasure to honor our entire supporting group: friends, partners, donors and well wishers during our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Africa. Since our inception, we have come a long way contributing to the low HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Ghana as well as ensuring self sufficiency and solidarity among PLHIV by joining partners in other west African countries in strengthening advocacy, the rights of PLHIV and introducing micro credit (magic bullet) to support and strengthen income generating activities (micro finance) specifically geared at PLHIV.*

*Our international partners such as World Wide AIDS Coalition, Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, New York University, Canadian Crossroad International, AIDS Committee of London and Aid for AIDS Africa have over the years supported our programs in reaching out to schools and communities through community mobilization, rural development as well as workplace policy for SME's, marginalized and vulnerable groups.*

*Worthwhile mentioning is the successful ending of phase one of the Smart Track project, a pilot project in collaboration with the New York University using Cell-phone based system in improving HIV drug Tracking.*

*With much excitement we extend our invitation to all to join us in celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary later his year.*

**-Eddie Dane Donton**

## Peer Educator Training

On May 15 2008 WAAF organized a training session for peer educators who had been recruited from Mamobi and Nima communities. The goal was to educate these individuals about HIV/AIDS in order for them to become HIV/AIDS ambassadors in their communities.

The curriculum included information on prevention, modes of transmission and HIV management. Fifteen participants took part in the workshop.



## COMMUNITY SERVICES

WAAF, as part of its commitment to providing quality health care for especially those that need it most, organized a day of free medical services at Akrofuom in the Ashanti Region. The objective was to encourage people to place a high priority on their health in general but also to provide them with essential information about HIV/AIDS.

Madam Lucy Dompseh, the clinical nurse in charge of the project, emphasized the need for intensive education in rural communities in order to reduce infection and mortality rates. About 1 hundred people were screened, treated and given free medication through IHCC, the sister organization of WAAF.



## Smart Track Project

*Improving availability and use of ARV's*

The Smart Track Project is geared at using Cell Phone based tracking system to improve availability and use of ARVs. ARV's are at the moment life saving medications for persons infected with HIV. Unfortunately these medications are very scarce in Africa and as a result various drug programs are put in place. However due to poor drug tracking systems in many places there are a lot of barriers in the form of theft and counterfeit whereas if the drugs do get to the clients they also do not adhere to treatment in some cases.

Smart Track project tends to deal with both barriers by using a low cost cell phone based system to make it easier to gather important patient data as well as track the flow and consumption of ARV.

Support in the form of cash, hardware and software is coming from Microsoft Research and the project is in collaboration with computer science and Medical school of the New York University and WAAF.

## VCT at the Prison

*"Know your Status"*

WAAF recently organized a VCT for the entire prison service personnel in James Camp Prison, Prison Officers' Training School and Correctional Centre in Accra.

This VCT was offered as part of the "Know Your Status" initiative of the Ghana AIDS Commission and National AIDS Control Program to test 55,000 people by January 2009. WAAF has committed to testing 6,000 people in the Accra Region. 192 prison personnel tested. Prison inmates were also encouraged to participate in the VCT.

WAAF plans to offer VCT services in other prison sites in Accra.



## NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES:

### New Staff and Volunteers:

**Elizabeth Shelby**

*Education department*

**Leigh Ranck**

*Education department*

**Maurice Bloc**

*Hepatitis-B program*

**Emma Winter**

*OVC program*

**Ashley Tamlilio - Awed**

*Education department*

### Leaving Staff and Volunteers

*WAAF would like to  
thank all former  
employees / volunteers  
for their dedication to the  
organization.*

**Petrus Adams**

*Program manager*

**Emma Agyekum**

*Nursing administrator*

**Andrea Plummer**

*Master of Social work  
intern*

**Jennifer Colna**

*Counseling department*

**Graham Muzanechita**

*Counseling department*

**Jessica Scot**

*IGA*

**Anthony Cruz**

*Education department*

**Franceline Nguessan**

*IGA*

**Kristina Sowah**

*Education department*

## WAAF - IHCC TRAINING FOR COUNSELLORS

In keeping our counselors abreast with HIV/AIDS issues, the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF) and the International Health Care Centre (IHCC) organized a 2 days continue education for HIV counselors in pre and post test counseling. The training took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2008.



*Training for counselors*



*role-play*

The training was to equip all WAAF & IHCC's HIV counselors, both resident and supporting counselors with the requisite skills for effective counseling. At the training, participants were taken through the process and importance of pre and post test counseling, handling of referral cases and disclosure of positive result. The resource person Mr. Edem Hini emphasized the need for the counselors to exhibit professionalism in handling clients who walk in to be counseled for HIV test. He also advised the participants to use confidentiality as a yardstick in their profession. The participants were taken through role-play to demonstrate what they had learnt. Counselors from Barclays Bank, Tema Lube Oil Company, and Newmont Ghana were invited to the training.

## WORKSHOP FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

WAAF is committed to educating PLHIV's on their rights. With funding from the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) WAAF organized a two day workshop for women living with HIV/AIDS. The central theme of the workshop was "Inheritance and Child Protection".

The training was to equip women to cope with the challenges they encounter in their daily lives. The facilitator Madam Rose Mensah-Kutin from Abantu and the former program coordinator Mr. Petrus Adams from WAAF encouraged women to put their learning into practice and thereby improve their self-esteem. The women groups of PLW HIV/AIDS who participated in the workshop included the Foundation for Women and Children (FOWAC), Women United against AIDS in Ghana (WUAAG), The Almond Tree and the AIDS activists support group.



## Thanking our donors:



**Who:** Students of Beekdal Lyceum, the Netherlands  
**Donation:** 2,736 euro

Once again our big thanks go to the staff, parents and students of Beekdal Lyceum for their support. In December during the 2008 Christmas activities of the school an amount of € 1243 was collected from the sale of items like bead necklaces, bags and cards made by the almond Tree group and on April 3rd 2009 a charity fair was held in which the first year students sold things mostly made by themselves. An amount of € 1534, 85 was collected for IHCC.



**Who:** Stitching Empower, the Netherlands  
**Donation:** Sterilizing machine

Mrs. George Rullmann Schmidt of Stitching Empower in The Netherlands visited the clinic on the 7th of April and donated a sterilizing machine. The staff of IHCC thanks her very much for this wonderful and much needed gift.

**Who:** Mr. & Mrs Duncan Johnston  
**Donation:** BP apparatus

On the 29th of April a BP apparatus was donated to the clinic by Mr. & Mrs Duncan Johnston. We thank them very much.



**Who:** Zuiderpark School, the Netherlands  
**Donation:** 2,800 euro

2800 was raised during a fundraising organized by the schoolchildren of Zuiderpark School for the orphans taken care of by I.H.C.C. We are very grateful to staff and children of the school.

**Who:** Mr. and Mrs. Jansen, the Netherlands  
**Donation:** Walking Aid Rollator

Mr & Mrs Jansen from Veenendaal in the Netherlands donated a Walking Aid Rollator. We thank them very much for this gift.



**Who:** T. Mulderij, the Netherlands  
**Donation:** 300 euro

T. Mulderij donated 300 euros to support our OVC-project. The donation will be used for supporting the OVC for example in school supplies. Thank you very much for your support.

*Please contact us to support WAAF and IHCC by making a donation.*

## Current And Upcoming Events:

- World Vision Hepatitis Project
- Water Aid Hepatitis Project
- Counseling and testing for 6000 people in greater Accra
- 10 year anniversary WAAF/IHCC
- GAC, MSHAP project starts in July 2009

This newsletter is composed by WAAF's editorial team.

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