

Jambo

NEW ZEALAND AIDS FOUNDATION AFRICAN COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER

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Jambo!

A special Jambo (hello) to our friends and supporters. The African Communities team at the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) is delighted to have this opportunity to connect with the communities we serve. For our new friends and supporters, the NZAF African Communities team is dedicated to delivering HIV prevention and health promotion initiatives to the African communities in New Zealand.

The NZAF is responding to the HIV epidemic in New Zealand in a variety of ways that are culturally appropriate. Together, these HIV prevention initiatives address the needs of people from different cultures who live in New Zealand. The vision of the NZAF is a world without HIV and AIDS. To achieve this the NZAF is committed to its mission of preventing HIV and supporting people affected by HIV to maximise their health and wellbeing.

Jambo is the official newsletter that is produced so the African Communities staff can stay in touch with key stakeholders, strategic partners, service providers and most importantly, all the people from the African communities in New Zealand.

Staff Corner

The NZAF has enthusiastic and passionate African Communities team members within the HIV Prevention and Communications Group. They are Mohamed Abdi from Somali, Fungisai Foto from Zimbabwe, Marian Hussen from Somali and Rumishael Masanga from Tanzania. The Programme Manager is Kudakwashe Tuwe from Zimbabwe.

Advocacy

The NZAF provides HIV prevention and support services for people affected by HIV. In addition to these services the African Communities team also advocate for African people living in New Zealand. Assistance with employment and other issues enhances the NZAF's existing relationships with the African communities in New Zealand. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance please contact a member of the NZAF African Communities team.

Upcoming Events

Okapi du Condo Congoese Independence Day

Enjoy Congoese music, dance and food from the DR Congo at the 49th Independence Day Celebration.

Saturday, 11 July 2009

6.00pm - late

Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall

13 May Road

Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041

Please RSVP to Dr. Francois Kayembe by calling (09) 813 1284 / 021 254 091, or email congolesecomnz@yahoo.co.nz



Members of the Taste of Africa group performing in Auckland.

The Taste of Africa

The Taste of Africa, a traditional and vibrant Zulu dancing group stole the hearts of the audience when they performed at St Matthew-in-the-City, Auckland during the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. The memorial is a programme of the Global Health Council and was marked by more than 2000 communities services around the world on 17 May 2009, including six services in New Zealand. At the moving service in Auckland there were several live musical performances including the Taste of Africa which was a highlight for many of those who attended. The members of the Taste of Africa are all originally from South Africa and perform regularly at community events.

African Day Out 2009

Hundreds of people gathered at Grey Lynn Park in Auckland on Easter weekend, 11-13 April 2009 for the African Day Out. The African Day Out featured the annual African Soccer Tournament and also included other sports, dance performances, food and music. The top three soccer teams were from:

1. Somalia
2. Sudan
3. Somalia

Early next year the NZAF's African Communities team will partner with Oceania Football Confederation (OFC), a division FIFA (the world soccer governing board), to organise another annual soccer tournament in Auckland.



The winners of the African Soccer Tournament, all originally from Somalia, celebrate their victory at the African Day Out.



Third from left: Miss Africa New Zealand 2008 Fartuun Ali celebrates her win with friends

Miss Africa

The NZAF is delighted to report that it will be a key sponsor for Miss Africa New Zealand again in 2009. The title of Miss Africa is hotly contested each year and regional competitions are held in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Each year the winning Miss Africa becomes an 'NZAF Ambassador' and has the opportunity to educate and inform participants at community events about HIV. Please email admin@missafrica.co.nz for information about Miss Africa events in each region. Photos are available at www.missafrica.co.nz

African Leaders' Workshop

The NZAF has held three Christian Leaders' workshops in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and one Muslim Leaders' workshop in Hamilton. Two more workshops for Muslim leaders will be held in 2009 in Auckland and Wellington. The outcome of the workshops has been positive and the NZAF was assured of support from all the religious leaders.

African Educators' Workshop

The NZAF African Communities team has continued to hold successful Community Educators' workshops. Since 2006 the NZAF has trained more than 140 community educators. Community Educators receive the most up to date information and research about HIV prevention and the HIV epidemic so that they can educate others in their communities.

NZAF African Advisory Board

The African Advisory Board provides the NZAF with essential guidance and advice. The NZAF would like to sincerely thank the eight members of the African Advisory Board for their unwavering support and commitment to the vision and mission of the NZAF.

Christchurch Womens Project

The NZAF has held a series of sewing classes for African women in Christchurch with financial assistance from the Department of Ethnic Affairs. The class has been very successful with large numbers of women from countries across Africa enrolling.

Staff from the African Communities team are looking to increase the capacity of the class which both educates women about HIV and imparts new sewing skills. Phase two of the class will begin in the near future with extra teaching assistance and additional sewing machines.

Acknowledgements

The NZAF is deeply appreciative of the unwavering support of people from the African communities in New Zealand. Without this support the initiatives of the African Communities team would not have achieved the success and growth they have experienced so far.

The African Communities team would like to acknowledge the staff of the NZAF for their support and guidance.

For more information about the NZAF, African Communities team activities, or HIV prevention and support for people affected by HIV please contact staff from the African Communities team (contact details overleaf) or visit www.nzaf.org.nz