

Jambo

NEW ZEALAND AIDS FOUNDATION AFRICAN COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER

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Jambo! Welcome to another exciting Jambo newsletter.

Jambo is the Swahili word for 'hello'. The Community Engagement African Communities team at the New Zealand AIDS Foundation (NZAF) is genuinely pleased to get in touch with you. For the sake of new readers, Jambo is the NZAF newsletter for people from African communities based in New Zealand. Jambo is designed and produced to keep in touch with key stakeholders, strategic partners, service providers and most importantly of course, everyone from the African communities in New Zealand.

Staff Corner

The NZAF African Communities team has four committed African staff members. Three of them; Marian Hussen (Somalia), Fungisai Foto (Zimbabwe), and Rumishael Masanga (Tanzania) work as NZAF Community Engagement Co-ordinators. Kudakwashe Tuwe (Zimbabwe) is the Programme Manager. We all miss our brother Mohamed Abdi (Somalia) who left the NZAF in August 2009. We wish him well for the future.

Over the festive season each team member had an opportunity to travel either on business or on holiday as follows:

Fungi visited the beautiful city of Melbourne, Australia for two weeks holiday.

Marian also went to Melbourne, on a business trip on behalf of her New Zealand-based Somali community.

Rumi visited his home country, Tanzania, for a month's holiday.

Tuwe travelled to South Africa where he presented a paper at the 5th SAHARA Conference. (SAHARA is an acronym for Social Aspect of HIV and AIDS Research Alliance.)

Tuwe's African Trip

Following his presentation at the SAHARA conference (which was very well received), Tuwe went to the Kingdom of Swaziland, for two days, where he had an opportunity to visit and evaluate the Manzini Youth Care

Project (MYC), which cares for a number of HIV orphans. The MYC is supported by the New Lynn Rotary Club in New Zealand. Tuwe is an active member of the club and while in Swaziland he was invited to be the guest speaker at the Manzini Rotary Club Christmas dinner. Tuwe's trip was sponsored by the NZ Council for International Development (CID), NZ Christian World Service (CWS) and the New Lynn Rotary Club. Tuwe and the team would like to sincerely thank all the sponsors who made this trip possible. Many thanks also to NZAF management who supported this trip.



Some of the memorable moments and highlights from Tuwe's trip to Africa, December 2009.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE **Baby for Sale**

Near new condition - interested buyers, please contact the NZAF.

A warm welcome to Asante Masanga (Rumi's daughter). Robyn Masanga and Rumi were blessed with their cute baby girl in March last year.





Marian (far right) and participants at the Christchurch Women's Sewing Project sponsored by the NZAF, and led by Community Educators.

Community Development

There are approximately 140 NZAF-trained Community Educators (CEs) throughout NZ. The CEs educate their own communities about HIV and AIDS. They are encouraged to use their own languages, pedagogic skills, and expressions to bring clarity and meaning to the sessions they lead.

Youth Workshops

The NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team delivers two Youth Workshops in four regions around New Zealand each year. The objective of the workshops is to help young people gain a deeper understanding of HIV and learn how to protect themselves and each other. The workshops are interactive and engaging and take place in a free and fun environment.

World AIDS Day

Every year the NZAF and community members raise awareness and funds on World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day is marked internationally on 1 December and is an opportunity to engage, empower and connect with the wider communities in NZ.



(L-R) Carl Greenwood and Fungi with posters for World AIDS Day 09 in Wellington.



World AIDS Day buckets ready for the street collection at the NZAF in Auckland.

Miss Africa Pageant

The Miss Africa pageant is one of the major events that happens within New Zealand's African communities. Regional competitions are held in Wellington and Auckland, and the finals are also held in Auckland. Each year the successful Miss Africa becomes an 'NZAF Ambassador' and has the opportunity to educate and inform community members about HIV. You can view photos of Miss Africa 2009 at www.missafrica.co.nz.

Soccer

Soccer is a great crowdpuller in Africa, and Africans have brought the joy and passion of the 'beautiful game' with them to New Zealand. The NZAF is proud to sponsor African soccer tournaments in New Zealand. During the Easter break (2-3 April 2010) the Zimbabwe Annual Soccer Tournament took place in Auckland. Approximately 600 people came from all across the country to a family day that included activities for children, a church choir, an awards ceremony, dinner and a disco.



Members of the victorious Avondale Football Club celebrate their win at the 2010 Zimbabwe Annual Soccer Tournament.



The Nigerian soccer team at a Soccer Tournament held in Christchurch in February 2010.

African Advisory Board

The NZAF has been very fortunate to have ongoing support from the African Advisory Board for several years. The Board has eight members from African communities throughout New Zealand and meets approximately three times each year. The African Advisory Board provides leadership and to advice to the NZAF on issues related to African communities based in New Zealand. Without this knowledgeable and vibrant group, the progress and achievements of the NZAF would have been limited. Many thanks to Asad Abdullahi (Chairperson) and the energetic executive for their unwavering support from everyone at the NZAF.

Community Events

The NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team has developed relationships with social networks in African communities across New Zealand, particularly networks for young Africans. Participation in community events and private social functions provides an opportunity for the team to distribute resources, including condoms, in a culturally appropriate way.



(Clockwise from top left) Rumi and Billy Sato at a party in Auckland. One of the Palmerston North-based Congolese C4 Boys performing the Kwasa-Kwasa at a Miss Africa event in Wellington. DJ KCee (R) and a former Miss Africa at a party in Auckland. Miss Africa 2009 winner Christelle Atawe (centre) from Burundi with the 1st and 2nd Princesses (L and R) in Auckland.

Community Empowerment

The NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team is regularly invited to give keynote speeches, to act as MCs and to attend formal functions like graduation ceremonies. Participation in these events develops strong and professional relationships which complement the social networking undertaken among New Zealand-based African communities.

Tertiary education institutes, health providers and community organisations all work with members of New Zealand's African communities as well. The NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team connects with many of these groups regularly to advocate for, and enable them to deliver appropriate services to Africans in New Zealand.

Religious Leaders' and Faith-based Engagement

Politics and religion go hand in hand for many Africans, and the NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team actively participates in events at community mosques and churches.

Every year the team receives comprehensive feedback and advice on HIV prevention initiatives from religious leaders at community workshops. In 2010, there have been three workshops; two Moslem and one Christian and there are plans underway for others.

In addition to the Religious Leaders' workshops the NZAF also sponsors events like the special service for Zimbabwe held in Auckland where community members prayed for peace, prosperity and tranquility for Zimbabwe.



(Clockwise from top left) Fungi and Tuwe with community leaders at the Christian Leader's workshop in Wellington. African community members at a special service for Zimbabwe in Auckland. (L-R) Tuwe, Lecturer Adesayo and Social Work students at Manukau Institute of Technology. Academic leaders of the African community in Auckland at a graduation ceremony (L-R) Dr Chris Chimwayange, Farai Mbira MCom (IT), Tuwe MBA, Tinos Masaka BSc (Mech Eng).

Bon Voyage...

to Japhet Ncube seen here, with Tuwe, enjoying New Zealand meat at his farewell party in Auckland. Japhet has departed New Zealand for Australia and will be greatly missed by the Zimbabwean community for whom he frequently acted as MC at events.



Wider NZAF Family



The NZAF has many teams that work closely together like a family in order to achieve the desired organisational outcomes. The NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team is one of the teams within the NZAF HIV Prevention and Communications group. In March 2010, the NZAF held its annual staff hui (conference) in Auckland. On the final day the NZAF HIV Prevention and Communications group (pictured above) came together for a team-building session after which the team was divided into three groups and each group prepared a dish for a collective meal - a great way to connect and relate to each other.

(Above) The NZAF HIV Prevention and Communications group. (Top right, L-R) Maihi Makiha, Hamish Milne, Nathan Brown and Fungi prepare dessert. (Right L-R) Jordon Harris and Marian Hussen prepare a salad together.



A Call to Action - Get It On!

The NZAF launched a vibrant HIV prevention initiative in 2009 called *Get it On!*. *Get it On!* is a call to action to everyone in New Zealand to get behind the safe sex movement and support each other to protect themselves and their partners from HIV. TV commercials aired on primetime TV and fleets of smart cars in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch accompanied the launch.



Tuwe with *Get it On!* clothing and a smart car in Auckland.



Tuwe with the old African Health Promotion Programme sign and a new *Get it On!* sign.

Gratitude and Appreciation

The African communities in New Zealand are the heart and soul of the NZAF Community Engagement African Communities team. A big thank you goes to each person and every family from our New Zealand-based African communities. The NZAF truly values your support as we move forward together in a new land.

Thanks also go to the NZAF management, in particular Rachael Le Mesurier, NZAF Executive Director and Simon Harger-Forde, NZAF Director HIV Prevention and Communications, and to all the staff members who play a pivotal role in supporting our work.

Last but not the least, a big thank you to key stakeholders, supportive service providers and all our well-wishers.

God bless Africa!

