



AFRICAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE

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African Services Honored with Calderon City Health Award



Co-Executive Director Kim Nichols accepts the Calderon City Health Award. (L to R): Francesca Calderon-Steichen, Kim Nichols, Dr. Robert Fullilove, Dr. Linda Fried

African Services Committee was honored by the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health with the inaugural Drs. Frank and Mary Calderone City Health Award.

"I could not imagine a more appropriate organization that

embodies everything that my parents stood for," said Francesca Calderone-Steichen, daughter of Drs. Frank and Mary Calderone. It was Calderone-Steichen who fought to create an award to recognize the achievements of community-based grassroots organizations working in the field of public health, a cause near and dear to her parents' heart.

The City Health Award was created as a way to honor her parents' lifelong commitment to the health of the public and specifically the health of the New York City public. A professional partnership between Dr. Frank Calderone and Dr. Mary Steichen led to several successful community-based health initiatives, a long marriage, and a continuing commitment to both local and global public health issues. To honor that commitment, the City Health Award is given annually to a local New York City organization that has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to grassroots work in the field of public health.

African Services Committee is honored to be the first recipient of this award.

"We would like to thank the Calderone family and the Mailman School for Public Health," said Kim Nichols, African Services Committee Co-Executive Director, "especially for their foresight in granting such an award for the purpose of grassroots work in public health. We like to think that the grassroots is not only where African Services began but from where we will always continue to carry out our mission."

The Calderone City Health Award not only comes with citywide recognition, but also with a monetary award of \$15,000. African Services Committee looks forward to utilizing these funds to support client projects and activity costs.

News and Activities

Taking it to the High(er) Level: ASC at 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS



Thirty years into the AIDS epidemic, the world will come together at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS on June 8th - 10th in New York to review our progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response. Member States are expected to adopt a new Declaration that will reaffirm current commitments and commit to actions to guide and sustain the global AIDS response.

Global HIV/AIDS treatment advocacy has been a vital part of African Services' work since the landmark UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001. As a member of the civil society coalition urging the international community to prioritize public health over politics, African Services has been meeting with UN Ambassadors, providing input to their final draft paper, and working to ensure strong outcomes and bold commitments from member states.

It has been ten years since the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and its time-bound measurable goals and targets. It has been five years since the adoption of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and its goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programs, treatment, care and support by 2010; yet millions still die.

The stark reality is that 33.3 million people are currently living with HIV and at least 9.35 million people today are in urgent medical needs of AIDS medications but have no access, and in 2009, 2.2 million adults were newly infected with HIV. We stand at a watershed moment. At a

time of promising pipeline medications, breakthrough diagnostic tools and the opportunity of innovative financing mechanisms, in 2011, by adopting real and decisive measures to intensify national, regional and international efforts to reverse the HIV epidemic, the universal access we have been promised, stands within our grasp. The question is, will we grab it or let it slip from our hands?

The world is watching.

-Amanda Lugg, Director of Advocacy

African Services Committee Reaches Out to Assist Hispanic Clients



While the clients who come to African Services Committee are mostly of the African and Caribbean Diaspora, ASC is increasingly expanding to accommodate a Hispanic clientele. The French-speaking support group has helped clients work through the challenges of having HIV for years. Saviana Smith, a social work intern, noticed ASC was getting an increasing number of Spanish-speaking clients and saw a need for the same types of support that the French group provides, in Spanish. In February, Saviana began

facilitating a Spanish-language support group and has slowly seen the participation and support rise.

The Spanish-speaking support group offers the opportunity for participants to open up and talk about the hardships that come with having HIV. Many of the participants have not yet disclosed their HIV status to their families, so the support group spends time talking about disclosure, along with more general challenges of being HIV-positive.

The sessions emphasize meditation and encourage support group participants to take part in meditative exercises together. "There are statistics indicating that disclosure of status tends to happen less in Latino communities, so being HIV-positive puts a lot of stress on my clients," Saviana Smith explained. "We incorporate meditation into our meetings to help them relax and gain positive energy. The majority of our group had never heard of meditation and they really enjoyed it." In addition to meditating during meetings, the support group has also hosted meetings on stress-reduction and mental health, including the use of art therapy.

The support group has also hosted special sessions with guest speakers. In April, Aysha Maisonet, a community educator from Cornell University Cooperative Extension, came to discuss nutrition with the participants. Healthy eating is often emphasized in fighting off illness from HIV, so the session was especially relevant to their specific health needs. The facilitator discussed the relationship between stress and diet, explaining how healthy eating and exercise can reduce stress and help people feel happier and healthier.

Although Saviana will be leaving us to complete her Social Work degree, Bronx-based organization, Dominican Sisters, has offered to continue facilitating Spanish-speaking group meetings in the coming months. With their help, clients will continue to enjoy the use of African Services' space and have a comfortable environment in which to talk about the challenges of

being HIV-positive. Smith hopes that ASC will continue to expand its resources to be able to assist Spanish-speaking clients; she explains, "There are many people in the local Hispanic community who would benefit from the services that ASC has to offer."

--Chloe Noonan

African Services Joins Forces with the New York Red Bulls and Bouna Coundoul



ASC is excited to be partnering with Bouna Coundoul in the next stage of the "Why Stand?" campaign. Coundoul, a Senegalese soccer player who currently plays for the New York Red Bulls, will be featured in "Why Stand?" posters and advertisements throughout Harlem to promote the fight against HIV stigma. Many ASC clients are familiar with his successes as a footballer in Senegal and the United States, and they are enthusiastic about his upcoming contributions to the campaign. "He seems nice and honest," one client said. "We would want to hear what he has to say about HIV."

HIV Anti-Stigma Film Honored at Social Issues Media Festival



"Living in the Shadow of Stigma," a short film produced by ASC in 2009, recently had the honor of being screened at the Second Annual Social Issues Media Festival. The film includes interviews with several HIV-positive clients who live in New York. During the powerful three-minute video, interviewees talk about what HIV stigma means to them and how it has impacted their lives. The organization responsible for the screening, Social Issue Media Festival (SIMF), hosts these annual screenings to provide a platform for the

community to explore and engage with social issues at the local and global levels through short media pieces. In addition to the screening, ASC received the "Make the Familiar Strange Award" for the "Why Stand?" film.

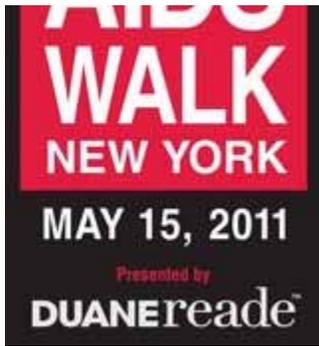
Congratulations to Director and Editor, Jake Price and Producer, Catharine Bufalino.

To view the film, click [here](#).

ASC to Participate in AIDS Walk NY 2011



It's that time of year again. The sun is out, the weather is warm, and the flowers are dotting the landscape. With Spring comes one of the most important events of the year, the 2011 AIDS Walk New York. On Sunday, May 15, African Services Committee, along with thousands



of other teams, will walk together in support of this cause.

For over 24 years, New Yorkers have been participating in AIDS Walk New York. Since 1986, over \$116 million has been raised for HIV programs and services in the tri-state area alone. So far this year, over \$1.5 million has been raised--\$13,720 of that by African Services--and still counting!

Along with the money being raised, AIDS Walk also serves as a reminder to the New York City community by bringing awareness about HIV and AIDS.

This year, as a designated Community Partner Organization, we are walking in support of our African Services Pediatric HIV Program in Ethiopia. According to ETHARC, in 2010, there were about 79,871 children living with HIV, and 3,537 children dying, due to AIDS, in Ethiopia. 100% of the money we raise will be going directly towards giving food and vital nutrition to HIV positive children who are currently receiving medical treatment in our HIV clinics in Ethiopia.

\$25 alone can purchase food and medical support for a child for ONE MONTH! That's only four Starbucks coffees, or two lunches, or one nice dinner!

Donate on our page, tell your friends, and come walk with us in solidarity, as we show our support for communities, families, and friends affected by AIDS.

Click [here](#) to make a donation or to join the team--we will be accepting donations until June 10, 2011. For more information on the event contact Sharon Makoriwa, sharonm@africanservices.org.

Fun in the City

Staff Recommendations

Sharon Makoriwa, Development Associate recommends...



AIDS Walk New York

Where: Central Park (New York, NY)

When: Sunday, May 15th at 10:00 am

Why: African Services' will be participating as a community partner in the upcoming AIDS Walk New York. All funds raised by African Services' AIDS Walk Team will be used to provide food and essential nutrition to HIV positive children receiving medical

treatment in our HIV clinics in Ethiopia.

Support the team by joining us on Sunday to walk in solidarity with almost 45,000 other New Yorkers. Can't make it to the event? Fear not, we are accepting donations online [here](#).

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