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AFRICAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE

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Volume 3, Issue 4

June/July 2012

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ASC Heads to DC for International AIDS Conference



Early Tuesday morning, just as the sun was rising over the horizon, African Services clients filled the bus waiting in front of our offices. They were among the 1,000 people across the New York City area who filled buses

for the drive down from New York to Washington D.C. on July 24th. They were headed to Washington to join 7,000 other AIDS activists to participate in the "We Can End AIDS" mobilization, the largest HIV action in years.

The occasion was the historic 2012 International AIDS Conference, the first to be held on US soil since 1990—due to the egregious US HIV immigration and travel ban that was finally lifted in 2009. The conference offers an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of activists, scientists, and NGO's to convene and discuss the latest and greatest developments in the area of HIV treatment, prevention and care. It also provides a platform for activists to hear from high-level officials on what global plans to help the world realize an [AIDS Free Generation](#).

The march organizers, an international coalition of AIDS organizations and individuals demonstrating under the banner, "We Can End AIDS," set forth a list of twelve demands, which included: AIDS treatment access for 6 million by 2013 from PEPFAR and a global AIDS treatment plan for 15 million by 2015; African countries to invest 15% of their budgets into health—as promised; the end to discriminatory laws that limit access to prevention and care for affected communities, including people living with HIV, LGBT people, sex workers, post-incarcerated people, immigrants, and people who use drugs, including the



repeal of HIV criminalization statutes; and a .005% Financial Transaction Tax on the financial sector, also known as a Robin Hood Tax, to fund essential HIV/AIDS services at home and abroad.



ASC Co-Executive Director, Kim Nichols, takes part in the We Can End AIDS Rally

After an hour's march through the streets of the capital, a rally was held in Lafayette Park, opposite the White House, where representatives from around the world spoke to the various demands; Mama Africa, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, gave a short and rousing performance, with the whole event being co-emceed by African Services' Director of Advocacy, Amanda Lugg.



We Can End AIDS Rally (ASC's Amanda Lugg acts as Emcee!)

The event culminated in a pre-arranged civil disobedience where 13 AIDS activists were arrested for tying hundreds of red ribbons on the White House gates; a beautiful photo opportunity that the world's media transmitted around the globe.



Activists get arrested as they tie ribbons to the White House gate

With promises made last year by Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton of an "AIDS-free generation", the expectation is high for an increased push for those evidence-based models and prevention interventions that will lead to a decrease in HIV transmissions and treatment for all of those in need--- both here in the US and globally.

However, history has shown us that it is only the sustained activism and participation in the advocacy process of civil society to push the political rhetoric into tangible action that such well-intentioned declarations actually become a reality. African Services Committee will continue our role as a key player in this work, representing the needs of the Diaspora in the US, and the health and human rights of all around the world.

--Amanda Lugg

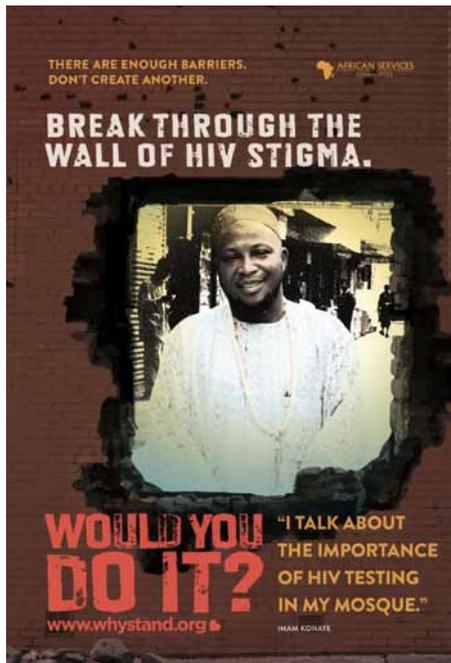
News and Activities

Why Stand Moves Into Third Year

2012 has marked game-changing strides in the arena of science and medicine in HIV prevention, treatment and care. From the approval of Truvada, an anti-retroviral treatment drug, for the prevention of HIV transmission, to advances made towards a vaccine and a cure, we are surely moving towards an AIDS-Free Generation.

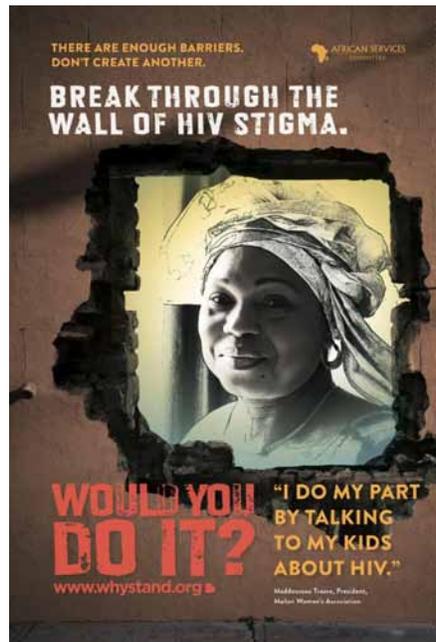
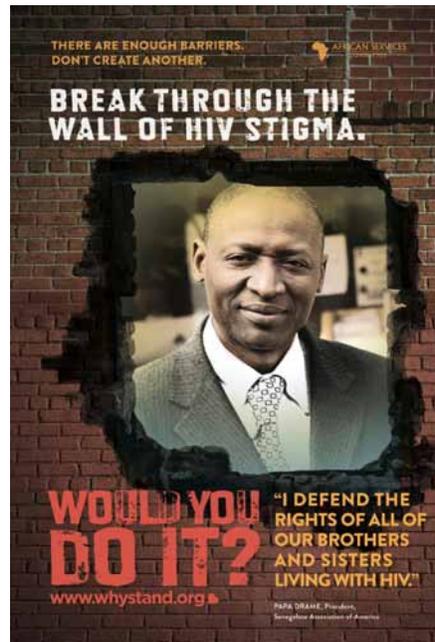
Unfortunately, we still face one of the greatest challenges of our time in the area of HIV prevention...HIV stigma. For over ten years African Services Committee has recognized the important role that HIV stigma plays, and we consider it one of the primary barriers to prevention, testing and treatment of HIV. In collaboration with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), we have been working to shine a light on this issue, and to educate the African and Caribbean immigrant community about the importance of accepting those diagnosed with HIV.

In 2010, African Services launched the "Why Stand" campaign. In partnership with local community leaders, we created a marketing campaign that included print and online advertisements, and street outreach in an effort to educate the community about the hazardous



effects that HIV stigma can have on the community, on themselves, and on HIV positive individuals.

In 2012, ASC proudly continues our collaboration with DOHMH, and in August will be launching our 3rd year of the campaign. 2012 will utilize print, online ([website](http://www.whystand.org)) and outdoor ad placements featuring local community leaders including Imam Souleymane Konate, Papa Drame and Madoussou Traore. These leaders have offered to use their image and influence in the community to help "Break Through the Wall of HIV Stigma."



Keep your eyes out this Summer as ASC—in collaboration with Columbia University and The Ne School—takes to the streets with promotional giveaways and informational materials. You just might snag yourself a t-shirt, bag or more.

Check out the Why Stand campaign at our website, www.whystand.org, and LIKE us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WhyStand

African Services Ethiopia Teams Up with Save the Children USA



A client holds a package of Plumpy'nut

In early July, ASC Ethiopia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Save the Children - USA. Under the terms of this memorandum, Save the Children - USA will provide "Plumpy'nut" to malnourished pediatric clients of African Services Committee. Initially, the product will be available at the Shola Market Addis Ababa and Mekele Clinics.

"This is a wonderful development for our Positive Kids Nutrition Support program," detailed Atsede Assefa, ASC Ethiopia Country Director, "the rising cost of key proteins like milk and eggs have limited what we can provide, so the procurement of Plumpy'nut will hold a key place in

our nutrition program."

The product is tasty and facilitates rapid weight gain, which for the HIV positive children in our program is essential in the uptake of ARV treatment. Furthermore, it promotes a healthy immune system, provides much needed protein for muscle development, and access to a natural source of Vitamin E. In addition, the fact that it needs no preparation makes it ideal with respect to ease of use and hygiene, no medical supervision is required to administer it, and the product is useable for up to two years.

Plumpy'nut--created in 1996 by the French company, Nutriset--is a peanut-based nutritional snack that is easily digested by malnourished infants and young children and is provided to them until they gain enough weight and become healthy enough to have other types of nutrition. The Plumpy'nut program is funded by USAID under their Food by Prescription Initiative.

Save the Children recently completed its assessment of our Shola Clinic and will be conducting on-site staff training in the coming days, with distribution starting in September. Following initial startup at the Shola and Mekele Clinics, the program will be expanded to ASC Ethiopia's Ziway and Kombolcha Clinics.

Becoming an American: The Naturalization Experience



ASC Staff Attorney, Olubunmi Segun, is all smiles as she poses

Immigrating to the United States is a dream of many. The process however can be a long, arduous and complicated one, particularly if you don't speak the language of your newly adopted country. African Services launched its legal services department in March 1998 due to a rising need in the community for reputable legal representation. Staff attorney, Olubunmi Segun, knows all too well the experiences of a newly arrived immigrant and the process of becoming an American citizen.

"There has never been a doubt that I'm African and Nigerian," shares Olubunmi, "Having lived here for eight years and referred to as an immigrant, though not a negative experience for me personally, I felt relief to have come 'full circle' and

with her certificate!

able to stop being an outsider in this place I have come to call home."

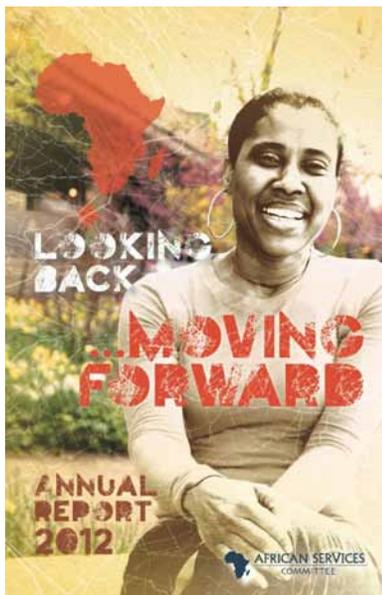
"Bunmi", as she is affectionately known, came to African Services Committee three years ago, having just received her work authorization, and completing the difficult task of passing the New York State BAR exam. As of 2011, Bunmi has headed up African Services' nominal fee legal clinic, offering immigration services to a broad range of clients. Since its inception in late 2011, Bunmi has assisted 62 clients in adjusting their immigration status.

Bunmi's naturalization experience is unique in that she now has experienced the joy that she so readily helps our clients achieve.

"I'm proud I can refer to myself as an American and partake of all entitlements that belong to an American," she says. "I was especially glad to have an African-American judge preside over the naturalization ceremony, have him speak to us about the uniqueness of the country we have adopted and to look around and see the people of different colors and tongues who all call America their country now. I could identify with him and realize that I have the freedom to be whoever I want to be in this land of my choosing. I treasure the journey and experiences I've had, and it's an invaluable resource when I assist my clients on their path to citizenship."

Congratulations to Bunmi on her US citizenship and thank you for your service to all that come through our doors.

30th Anniversary Annual Report Released



In 2011, African Services celebrated its 30th year of service to the immigrant community. With the publication of our 2011 annual report, you will have an opportunity to glance back at African Services' over 30 years of service—from our humble beginnings in a Bronx basement apartment in 1981, to a two-floor office in Harlem and four clinics in Ethiopia. It has been an amazing journey, and we look forward to another thirty years of service to the community.

Featured stories include service highlights from 2011, an in-depth look at our expanding legal services department, an advocacy update and more. Get a detailed look at the results of your donations and support.

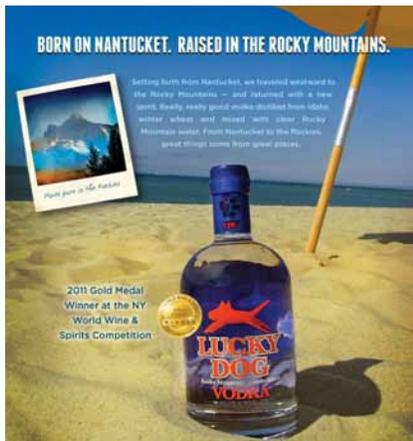
View a copy of the Annual Report [here!](#)

Thank you again for all of your help over these last amazing and inspiring 30 YEARS!

ASC Programs to Benefit from Nantucket Initiative

African Services Committee will benefit from an unusual Nantucket, Massachusetts initiative. Lucky Dog Vodka Inc., a new Nantucket based hand crafted vodka company, today announced that it will contribute one dollar for every "Like" on [Lucky Dog's Facebook page](#) up to 5,000. In addition, Lucky Dog Vodka will donate an ongoing portion of its sales proceeds to African Services Committee. To date, Lucky Dog has received over 500 Facebook "Likes" and our first \$500 check is on its way!

"Lucky Dog is not only a great vodka; we're also a good vodka company," said Greg Nichols, brother of Co-Executive Director, Kim Nichols, and Lucky Dog Vodka Founder and President. Nichols traveled to Ethiopia last year and observed the work of African Services Committee



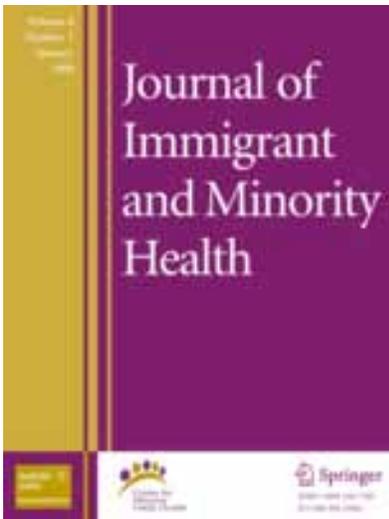
firsthand. "In a country where three quarters of the population survive on less than \$1 per day, our contribution to African Services Committee will provide nutritional support for children, and HIV tests and antiretroviral drugs to many."

Lucky Dog Vodka is a new hand crafted vodka, "Born on Nantucket and raised in the Rocky Mountains" that launched in New England in May, 2012. Lucky Dog is distilled from locally grown Idaho winter wheat and mixed with Rocky Mountain meltwater from the Snake River aquifer. Lucky Dog Vodka achieved international recognition prelaunch as Gold Medal Winner of the 2011 New York World Wine & Spirits Competition. Additional information about Lucky Dog Vodka can be accessed via www.luckydogvodka.com, and its Facebook

page via www.facebook.com/luckydogvodka.

Look for Lucky Dog Vodka at your local bar or store and if you haven't hopped on their site and "Liked" their page...do it now! Click [here](#) to visit their Facebook page. Also, did you miss Ralph Gardner's [Wall Street Journal](#) article about the African Services and Lucky Dog partnership, [The City's African Heart](#)? Click [here](#) to read it!

Doris Duke Fellow Publishes ASC Findings



Demetri's article was published in the July issue of the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health.

In 2011, African Services Committee was fortunate to be selected to work with Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Clinical Fellow, Demetri Blanas.

During his time with us, Demetri chose to focus on the issue of HIV prevalence and testing amongst African-born immigrants living in the United States. One of the key issues he targeted was the data collection methods used to track HIV prevalence rates. In the United States, government demographic data collection forms only allow the option for "Black/African American" and do not differentiate between African Americans and African-born immigrants. Thus, it makes it difficult to track the true impact of HIV in the black immigrant community.

"Without necessary information regarding the true HIV prevalence rate among African immigrants, funding for our work is based on anecdotal evidence," said Co-Executive Director Kim Nichols. "I believe that if funders were fully aware of actual HIV prevalence and impact of HIV on the immigrant population, more money and resources would be allocated to target the most highly-

affected immigrant communities

Demetri's research revealed that few rigorous studies on epidemiology of HIV among African-born immigrants to the US have been conducted. However, it is clear that African-born immigrants in the US, especially women, bear the heavy burden of HIV with a prevalence rate six times higher than the general US population. He also notes the significant barriers to testing and treatment that exist among the African immigrant population, including undocumented status, language barriers, HIV stigma, lack of education and information, and misperception of risk factors and treatment.

African Services Committee was proud to collaborate with Demetri on his paper, and even more proud when it was accepted into the July edition of the prestigious Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. We hope that others will review Demetri's paper and conclusions, and choose to move forward with increased research and public health programming to address

this issue.

To read Demetri's paper in its entirety, [click here](#).

Fun in the City

Kim Nichols, Co-Executive Director recommends...



DOGGAPALOOZA
A Concert to Benefit Africa
Aug 25th, 2012

An evening of blues, rock, and traditional African music to benefit African Services Committee and its work combating malnutrition, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Presented by Lucky Dog Vodka in conjunction with the Lucky Dog Music Hall of Worcester, MA. The Lucky Dog was made famous by a surprise, blistering 1981 concert by the Rolling Stones. For tickets and times stay tuned to the Lucky Dog at www.luckydogmusic.com.

Like Lucky Dog Vodka and Like Africa!
For every new Facebook 'like' (up to 5,000) Lucky Dog will donate \$1 to www.africanservices.org for their clinical work in Africa. We will also commit an ongoing portion of our sales proceeds to the cause. So just visit and like us at www.facebook.com/luckydogvodka. Get your friends on board and let's do some good!
luckydogvodka.com

Doggapalooza! **A Concert to Benefit African Services Committee**

An evening of blues, rock and traditional African music to benefit African Services Committee and its work combatting malnutrition, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Presented by Lucky Dog Vodka in conjunction with the Lucky Dog Music Hall in Worcester, MA. The Lucky Dog was made famous by a surprise blistering 1981 concert by the Rolling Stones.

Date: Saturday, August 25, 2012

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Lucky Dog Music Hall, 89 Green Street, Worcester, MA 01604

Admission: \$10 Donation

For more information, visit: www.facebook.com/LuckyDogVodka or www.luckydogmusic.com

Stephanie Kaplan, Communications Director recommends...



Uptown Fridays! at the Studio Museum of Harlem

Every Friday in August, explore current exhibitions with free guided tours and dance to great music at the Studio Museum.

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Studio Museum - 144 W. 125th Street

Admission: Free

For more information, visit: www.studiomuseum.org.

ASC Ethiopia Volunteers Report from the Field



In early 2012, ASC Ethiopia welcomed Peter and Hinda Schnurman to Ethiopia as volunteers.

They have been blogging about their adventures with ASC and in Ethiopia - ["Somewhere in the World With Hinda and Peter Schnurman"](#)

Check out their blog and follow them as they live and work in Ethiopia!

<http://www.peterandhindas.blogspot.com/>

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