



AFRICAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE

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Volume 1, Issue 5

November 2010

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ASC Food Pantry Gets into Thanksgiving Spirit



Long-time client, Diana, and her niece, Anaksunamun, pose for a picture with their prized turkey

The bright colors of fall have arrived and the air has turned crisp, Fall is in full bloom and the holidays are upon us. It is a time for family gatherings and celebration, and for African Services it is the busiest time for our Food Pantry program. Thanks to a partnership between African Services and Dominican Sisters Family Health Service, families

celebrated this holiday in style with over 70 families receiving turkeys and chickens for their Thanksgiving meal.

Leading this cause is Ndeye Gueye, African Services' Food Pantry Coordinator, who manages the food pantry, which serves over 6,500 individuals and families each year.

During the holiday season, the food pantry experiences its largest influx of clients, sometimes going through the weekly food supply in a little more than two days.

With help from local partnerships and individual donors, like you, we are able to fund this program, "Each year we look at the budget and determine what we can afford to give, and try to help as many families as we possibly can," Ndeye said.

This year, the food pantry also gave out side dishes along with the turkeys and chickens. The largely African and Caribbean clientele don't always eat the traditional American Thanksgiving side dishes, such as cranberry sauce and stuffing. However, Ndeye was able to give the clients extra oil, onions, and potatoes to supplement their meal and make it special.

"Sometimes clients call months in advance to reserve their turkey for the holiday season. It definitely gets everyone into the holiday

spirit," Ndeye said.

Each year the food pantry gives out fresh produce and non-perishable food items to over 6500 people. Normally, families will receive a one-week supply of fresh produce and non-perishable food items. We also provide organic fruits and vegetables through a partnership with the Harlem Community Supported Agriculture Program. The program doesn't stop there either. As an HIV services organization, ASC provides nutrition education programs to clients assisting them with making healthy meals and food choices.

-Lindsay Michaelson

It's Time for a Celebration!



It's Time to Celebrate!

Fête de fin d'année
African Services Committee
Annual Holiday Party
Friday, December 10th, 2010
6 - 10 PM
African food, music, drink, dancing
& good cheer

429 West 127th Street
(b/w Convent & Amsterdam Aves.)
For more information call - 212.222.3882

Feel free to bring a bottle of wine

The holidays are here and you know what that means...

It's time to celebrate the successes of 2010 and look forward to 2011.

The Annual African Services Holiday Party is here, and we invite you all to attend! Come drink, eat, dance and be merry with us!

Who: YOU!

When: Friday, December 10th, 6-10 pm

Where: African Services Committee, 429 West 127th Street (b/w Convent and Amsterdam Aves.)

Advocacy and Policy

AIDS 2010 - The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

GLOBAL
REPORT

UNAIDS REPORT ON THE
GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIC | 2010

The Good...

According to the "UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010" released this month, data from over 182 countries shows that new HIV infections have decreased by almost 20 percent in the past 10 years and AIDS-related deaths are down by nearly 20 percent in the last five years.

Encouraging news indeed, when we can say that the

global HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has claimed over 25 million lives and affected many millions more, looks to have begun its reverse trajectory.

The Bad...

- "Even though the number of new HIV infections is decreasing, there are two new HIV infections for every one person starting HIV treatment," UNAIDS said.
- Investments in HIV prevention programs as a whole have not been adequate or efficiently allocated. HIV prevention investments comprise about 22% of all AIDS-related spending in low-and middle-income countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region most affected by the epidemic, with 69 percent of all new HIV infections, according to UNAIDS.
- In seven countries, mostly in Eastern Europe and central Asia, new HIV infection rates have *increased* by 25 percent.
- UNAIDS said in the Asia-Pacific region, 90 percent of countries have laws that obstruct the rights of people living with HIV.
- Despite the lower numbers of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, UNAIDS said the demand for resources is surpassing the supply.

And the Downright Ugly!

The evidence shows that the reason that AIDS deaths are down and more people are living longer with HIV/AIDS is down to the expansion of AIDS treatment access----access that is currently under real and present danger due to donor countries reduction and in some cases, actual retraction of vital AIDS funding. As a result of the broken promises made by wealthy countries and African nations to fully fund the AIDS response, demand is outstripping supply.

Over 10 million people worldwide are in need of immediate treatment, and are still waiting to receive that treatment. There are over 3000 people on the ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) waiting lists in the United States!

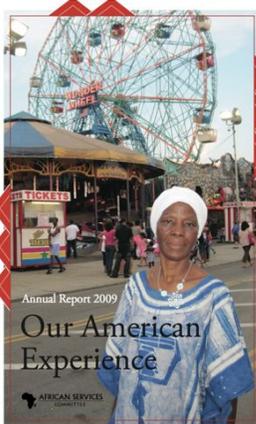
As the report states; "UNAIDS estimates that a total of US\$ 15.9 billion was available for the AIDS response in 2009, US\$ 10 billion short of what is needed in 2010, and funding from international sources appears to be reducing. Donor governments' disbursements for the AIDS response in 2009 stood at US\$ 7.6 billion, lower than the US\$ 7.7 billion available in 2008. Declines in international investments will affect low-income countries the most, with nearly 90% relying on international funding for their AIDS programs."

In the fight against this deadly disease, now is not the time to retreat. In the words of UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe, "We are breaking the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic with bold actions and smart choices. Investments in the AIDS response are paying off, but gains are fragile-the challenge now is how we can all work to accelerate progress."

The full UNAIDS Global Report can be viewed at www.unaids.org/globalreport

News and Activities

A Look Back at 2009



With the publication of the 2009 African Services' Annual Report we are giving you an opportunity to glance back at some of our accomplishments.

Through economic turmoil and instability African Services has not only withstood these hard economic times, but thrived despite them. From growing our Ethiopia projects to our expanded HIV Anti-Stigma campaign, we are broadening the reach and scope of our services.

View a copy of the Annual Report [here](#) and stay informed.

Happy Holidays!

New Additions to the ASC Family

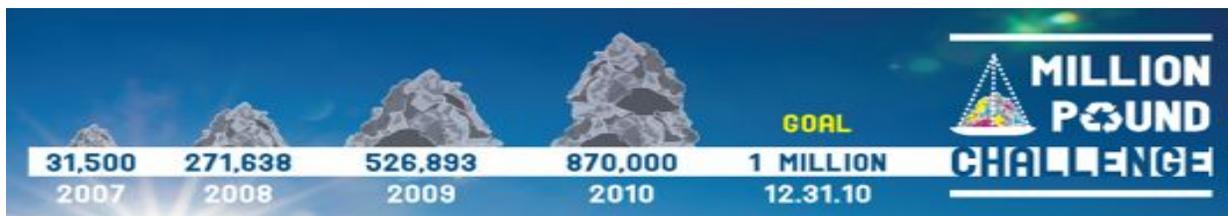


Savi Smith is a social work intern in the Family Case Management program. She escorts clients to hospitals and clinics, helps clients navigate the systems, and provides them with individual and family counseling. She mainly works with Hispanic clients and serves as their interpreter, as well. Savi grew up in Charleston, SC. After receiving her BA in Spanish from the University of South Carolina, she moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina to spend a year teaching English. She is now a candidate for her Masters of Social Work at Columbia University. Savi speaks Spanish.

Fun in the City

Staff Recommendations

Olobunmi Segun, Staff Attorney recommends...



GrowNYC Million Pound Challenge

<http://www.growNYC.org/clothing>

The average New Yorker tosses 46 pounds of clothing and textiles in the trash each year, totaling 6% of our entire residential waste stream. But with your help, landfills are going on a diet.

GrowNYC's **Million Pound Challenge** is calling on all New Yorkers to clean out closets and empty drawers of unwanted clothing, linens, paired shoes, bags and more.

Collection locations all over the city will accept clean clothing, paired shoes, bedding, linens, hats,

handbags, belts and other textiles. Best of all...it's TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Click [here](#) for a list of donation locations, or [here](#) to download a brochure with all the information.

Clean out your closets for a good cause!

[Forward email](#)

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