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AHC NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Harlem, NY – November 16th, 2009

Silence Is Not An Option!

A Thought Provoking Night Call for a Collective Action Towards the Impact Mitigation of HIV/AIDS in the Immigrant Community

On behalf of African Hope Committee, Inc. (AHC), The Executive Director, Mrs. Clarisse Mefotso Fall would like to personally thank all our well wishers for your hard work towards the success of **AHC 2009 Women and Children HIV/AIDS Health Summit and Fundraising Gala Reception**. Your contribution of time, effort and skills added value to this year's event. We could not have done it without you! **What an amazing night** on Monday, October 26th, 2009, at The Alhambra Ballroom. The feedback from Guests, Families, Volunteers, Interns, Staff and Board Members has been overwhelmingly positive.

Most of you have been with us from inception, five years ago when you helped put together our first summit. Since then, our organization has grown in immeasurable ways towards a common goal of serving African immigrant communities. At this year's Gala Reception, over 300 persons attended the event and shopped for a common cause at the serene location, The Alhambra Ballroom. There was increased awareness on HIV/AIDS issues as well as recognition of selfless service and achievements of individuals working in the community to improve the quality of life of African immigrants in the Diaspora. Professor Robert E. Fullilove of Columbia University's Sociomedical Sciences, Community & Minority Affairs Department gave a stunning Keynote Address on "*Global Impact of HIV/AIDS and its Effect on Minority Groups*". He further stressed the theme "*Silence is Not An Option*" calling everyone to collective action (Visit AHC website for his address). Our Fashion Show allowed Designers to showcase their work and Models of various ages, races and genders to display their talents.



The two designers present: DRC and Kirette Couture dazzled the audience with their amazing fashion pieces.

Our auction items that night included Fine African Arts and Crafts, Jewelries, Paintings, Baskets, Hand Bags and much more. 80% of these auction items were sold that night at prices ranging from \$25.00 to \$600.00. You can purchase a few of the remaining items at the AHC Hope Store via our website at www.afriquehope.org. ***We received donations from \$1.00 to \$2,500.00 towards increasing awareness on the impact of HIV/AIDS infecting and affecting Women, Young Girls and Children of African Descent.***

Our special awards ceremony honored the work of three community leaders in Public Health Education, Mr. Pierre Wafo, Mr. Amadou Diagne and Mr. Thierry Ekon. They have been vital members within the community and we thank them for all they have done. It has been a pleasure working with them in the community.

At the summit, The AHC Annual Report was presented by AHC's Vice Chair Terrylynn Smith. The report highlighted our Target population, Special Project Needs, Achievements/Accomplishments, Lessons Learned and Challenges. We are soliciting your valued support to assist AHC to continue creating a positive/enabling environment and being a voice for the African Immigrant community. We thank our Volunteers and Interns for their dedication, innovative ideas, inspirational work and selfless service to humanity. We appreciate the young people who volunteered their time as Models, Designers, Guest Singer and Host. They contributed to the success of this laudable event, demonstrating Leadership for Positive Change by encouraging other youth to get involved in our mission. We thank our supporters for this event: Gilead Sciences, New York Women Foundation, New York Foundation, Costco, Lord and Taylor, Khuraira Cosmetics, Mary Kay, Little Drops Photography, The Alhambra Ballroom, Keur Sokha Restaurant, Mr. Wafo Pierre, Ms. Terrylyn Smith, Afrikanspot and Logwood Entertainment. We thank our elected officials present that night, State Senator, Bill Perkins and Councilmember Robert Jackson, as well as other elected officials who have supported our cause for the last five years. We would like to express our gratitude to the Office of Mayor Bloomberg and the Office of Immigrant Affairs.

Due to the prevalent economic crisis, we were not able to achieve our milestone for Fundraising. However we are forging ahead in working towards meeting our goals, we encourage you to please make a donation to support our cause. Kindly look at the information below.

See You Next Year!

Bolatito A. Afolalu, MPH
Development Consultant

ABOUT AFRICAN HOPE COMMITTEE, INC.

African Hope Committee (AHC), Inc., is a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Community Based Organization in Harlem that provides direct assistance through Outreach, Education, Counseling and Referral Services to the African Immigrant population in the New York Metropolitan Area

Bringing Hope and Opportunity to all Immigrant communities.

AHC needs your support! Please donate generously to our cause by sending a check to:

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or shop for a cause by visiting our website: www.afriquehope.org