

Firelight Newsflash! 29 September 2009

Firelight Grantee-Partners Participate in Grassroots Women's International Academy on Home-based Care in Johannesburg

On 24-28 August 2009, over 60 home based caregivers and NGO partners from 21 organizations in 13 African countries organized in self-help groups, alliances and support groups, together with grassroots women living positively with HIV and AIDS and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) leaders congregated in Johannesburg, South Africa for a Grassroots Academy with the goal of collectively sharing experiences successes, challenges, best practices, and organizing strategies for their caregiving work.

Organized by the Huairou Commission and locally hosted by the Land Access Movement of South Africa, the Academy took place in the context of the action research initiative 'Compensation for Contributions' which aimed at documenting evidence of caregivers' significant contribution to the health and development agenda of their communities as well as best practices in effectively organizing themselves at national and sub-national levels.

During the Grassroots Academy, participants claimed and exchanged their strengths, successes, practices and organizing strategies, and analyzed their challenges. Highlights from participating Firelight grantee-partners included:

- *UCOBAC in Uganda* realized through the research that many caregivers do not value the care work they do at all - caregivers had to be pushed to say what time they spent in care; if they were on their way to the market, stopped in on a friend and provided an hour of care, they would just say that they went to the market.
- "We would like the contributions that are made by caregivers to be recognized and we will also like to see the caregivers' programs resourced by governments and other funders and donors who have an interest in our work".
- *Sizani Ngubane, Rural Women's Movement, South Africa*
- "From what we've shared here, we realize that grassroots women can be great leaders if given the opportunity." - *Shorai Chitongo, Ray of Hope, Zimbabwe*
- To read more from another participant, please see her blog at: <http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=21686>

Organizational Profile: Re~Cycle

Re~Cycle's mission is to collect secondhand bicycles in the UK and ship them to Africa. Their partners distribute bikes and teach riders the skills to repair and maintain them. Their bikes also help health/AIDS workers reach remote

villages. You can find a list of some bicycle re-use projects on the web site - all in the good cause of putting more good people on more good bikes, all over the world.

WANTED: New partners. Re~cycles states that they need more partners both in Africa and the UK to match up the stupendous levels of supply and demand.

Visit their website at: <http://www.re-cycle.org/>

Contact: Merlin.M@Re-Cycle.org

Online Project Management Course for Youth Leaders

Application deadline extended: 4 October 2009

Sprout is an e-course designed for aspiring young social innovators and environmental entrepreneurs who want to grow their project ideas and learn to create lasting changes in their communities. Sprout provides innovative young people (ages 16-30) all over the world with a unique way to learn, grow and connect with like-minded leaders in a supportive online environment that encourages your hard work to create a better world. The Sprout journey offers a chance to learn more about community-focused project management, apply your knowledge and skills, interact with an international learning community of youth and an opportunity to turn your idea into reality. Sprout also pairs participants with experienced e-mentors of all ages who provide inter-generational support, encouragement and insight through the Sprout journey.

Feel free to contact by email at sprout@takingitglobal.org. For more information please visit www.sproutecourse.org. Sprout e-course is a program of TakingITGlobal, the social network that connects you to the global issues that affect us all. Visit us at www.tigweb.org.

Africa Rural Connect - What's your best idea for Africa?

Deadline: 15 October 2009

You have the power to help solve rural Africa's greatest challenges – simply add your voice, your comments, your ideas. Join Africans, Peace Corps Volunteers, and anyone else with a connection to Sub-Saharan Africa in this global online collaboration.

Your idea could win up to \$3,000 each month. Round 3 has just begun and will be running until October 15th. So, bring your insight, experiences, and ideas to help build viable plans towards the development of rural Africa! In November, the

best action plan wins \$20,000 – plus opportunities to meet with leaders in the development community to discuss bringing those ideas to life!

To add your ideas, see: <http://www.AfricaRuralConnect.org>

Call for Nominations: Global South-South Development Expo 2009

Deadline for Nominations: 30 October 2009

The World Health Organization and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program are pleased to inform you that we are organizing the 2nd Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in conjunction with the 6th Annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, to be held on 15-17 December 2009 in Washington DC. The Expo will exhibit initiatives that have made significant contributions to human development in the global South and that have provided solutions to address Climate Change, Food Security and Global Health that could be replicated, scaled up or adapted across developing countries.

They would like to invite you to nominate an initiative that has provided an effective solution to a public health problem by succeeding on the basis of leadership, innovation and partnership. The South Development Solution (SDS) could be a Southern-grown solution, a South-South partnership solution, a North-South-South triangular partnership solution, a South-South-multilateral organization solution, a public-private partnership solution and/or a combination of these. The SDS should also show its direct contribution, in concrete terms, to one or more of the Millennium Development Goals and should be supported by quantitative and/or qualitative data, along with audio-visual materials.

An independent committee will review all submissions to select the three South Development Solutions related to Global Health that will be exhibited at the GSSD Expo in the World Bank Main Complex and awarded during a special ceremony. To obtain the nomination criteria and submit the nomination form, see:

http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1787&Itemid=1570&lang=en

Youth for global change - Oxfam International Youth Partnership

Deadline: 31 December 2009

Are you a young person who cares about what is happening in your community? Are you committed to working with others to overcome injustices? Do you want to learn from other young people working with their communities all around the world? If you answered YES to these questions, would you consider applying to

be a member of the Oxfam International Youth Partnership? Oxfam International Youth Partnerships (OIYP) is an Oxfam International initiative, managed by Oxfam Australia since 2000. OIYP strengthens young people's ability to effect change in their community, and provides a base from which they can influence broader changes through engagement in a global network of over 1100 OIYP Action Partners. Through the next 3 year OIYP Program, OIYP 2010 - 2013, Oxfam Australia will provide opportunities and support for 300 new Action Partners so they may demonstrate leadership and expand the influence of youth for positive changes locally, nationally and globally. OIYP is open to all nationalities, Indigenous and ethnic groups. It is open to young people with any level of education and who live in rural or urban areas. We aim to recruit equal numbers of men and women. We have a strong focus on the participation of Indigenous young people and those marginalised in their communities.

Find out more at: <http://oiyp.oxfam.org/oiyp/aboutoiyp.html>

Publication: HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Advocacy Resource & Training Manual

Published by The AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), the manual is designed to:

- provide readers with a better understanding of the links between HIV/AIDS and human rights;
- set out ways in which law and policy can and should promote an effective human rights-based response to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa;
- give examples of how Southern African countries have used rights-based law and policy to respond to HIV/AIDS; and
- provide readers with ideas on how to strengthen a rights-based response to HIV/AIDS in their own countries and in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

This manual is divided into two parts: Part A is an advocacy and resource manual that is designed to give readers information about HIV/ AIDS and human rights in southern Africa as well as ways of strengthening a human rights-based response to HIV/ AIDS in the region. Part B is a training manual that has been developed for use in conjunction with Part A. It provides trainers with practical exercises to train participants on the way in which laws and policies can protect and promote human rights and how the laws and policies in SADC have met this challenge.

To view and download the publication, see:
http://arasa.info/old/files/pub_arasa_res_man.pdf

In the News

1) HIV Activist Says HIV Fight Needs Local Funding, Times of Zambia
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200909140063.html>

2) SOUTHERN AFRICA: HIV-positive children living longer

JOHANNESBURG, 18 September (IRIN) - The number of HIV-infected children in southern Africa who survive into adolescence without treatment is greater than previously thought, and will keep increasing for years to come...

<Http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=86215>

3) In Africa, Courts Shape Views on AIDS, Washington Post

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/11/AR2009091104000.html>

4) Child deaths fall, but "grossly insufficient": U.N., Reuters

<http://in.reuters.com/article/health/idINTRE5892OX20090910?sp=true>

5) KENYA: Doting dads can lower their children's HIV risk

<Http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=85616>

CALL FOR EXAMPLES: Child participation in government

UNICEF is currently conducting research in order to identify examples of children and adolescents interacting directly with parliamentarians. The research will ultimately inform a guidebook on child and adolescent participation within parliamentary processes that will be presented to parliamentarians and other stakeholders across the globe in efforts to enhance participation within these processes.

If you have any examples of children interacting directly with parliamentarians, please send them to David Ponet – dponet@UNICEF.org – who is compiling the data for the guidebook. Examples (a few sentences is all that is needed) could include children's parliaments, child participation within parliamentary or congressional hearings, informal consultations between children and parliamentarians at the national or district level, or other instances where interaction has had an impact on budgets, lawmaking, or the direction of policy and planning.

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Monitoring, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (META) Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>