



Annual Report 2009

Our American Experience



AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE

Our Mission:

African Services is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the African community. We provide health, housing, legal, educational, and social services to over 10,000 newcomers each year in New York City with a focus on HIV prevention, care and support. We also work on the frontlines of the global AIDS epidemic, operating HIV clinics in Ethiopia and through advocacy, policy work and technical assistance in the U.S. and abroad.



On the cover: Mercetaine Antilles.

“When I see this picture, I think, “Thank God I am alive.’ That day at Coney Island I spent with friends from African Services, who are like my brothers and sisters. I am truly lucky.”

Mercetaine Antilles, a client of African Services, originally from Haiti, came to the U.S. in 1991. Her legal quest for political asylum took more than ten years; during that time she was diagnosed with HIV. (Continued on page 19)

Cover Photo: Amanda Lugg



Dear Friends,

I've often thought what a miracle it was that my grandparents were able to make it from their small villages in Russia to this country. Fleeing pogroms at the turn of the last century, they traveled across Prussia to the North Sea, where they caught a boat that took them across the Atlantic. Arriving at Ellis Island, they settled in Harlem. They came to a country where they neither spoke the language nor had any relations, but—like immigrants before them and since—they were entrepreneurial and, with time, made a life for themselves and their family, allowing me to be born here.

This classic immigrant story is repeated every day in New York City and is central to the American narrative; and still I wonder at the journey—physical, emotional, spiritual—that people take to come here.

Welcoming immigrants fleeing crises in their home countries has been the mission of charitable organizations for generations, and African Services Committee is the contemporary successor to the groups my ancestors relied on to make a home for themselves here.

Established nearly 30 years ago by Ethiopian refugees, who wanted to give a helping hand to those arriving after them, African Services—like the newcomers it serves—has triumphed over many challenges to become the multi-service agency it is today. Always adapting to best serve its growing community, including newcomers from dozens of countries and diverse backgrounds, African Services has become a leader in HIV prevention and access to HIV treatment—one of our most pressing health issues. With the ESL classes, legal advocacy, housing support, and community that African Services provides, newcomers facing the health inequalities of our times are also able to plant seeds of their success, so that future generations may thrive.

Today, African Services has the strength and opportunity to return to its roots and contribute to the protection of human dignity where disparity remains, taking its work from Harlem—not far from where my grandmother lived—to provide much needed HIV prevention and treatment access through its three clinics in Ethiopia.

I can never know the emotions and experiences that my grandparents navigated to become part of the fabric of New York City, but I can honor them by supporting an organization that is helping our newest immigrants to settle and succeed. I hope you too will join me in supporting all that African Services is doing to renew the American experience with every new generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Elizabeth D. Greenstein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elizabeth D. Greenstein
Board Member

3,000 people
tested the importance of knowing
your HIV status
70 countries represented
from the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic

HIV Testing As a Gateway to Health Care

From the earliest days of the epidemic, African Services has offered HIV prevention outreach and testing. Despite early decreases in new HIV infections, progress has stalled over the past decade. Today, HIV is a primary concern for poor communities of color and the health problem with the greatest racial disparity. With barriers to basic health care growing, African Services' testing center is an essential resource and our most utilized program.

Through intensive community outreach, nearly 3,000 people from 70 countries learned their HIV status at African Services last year. With counselors offering multilingual HIV and STD education, risk assessment, referral to care, and family support, African Services provides culturally competent HIV care that is unparalleled in city hospital settings and critical to engaging those at most risk.

For immigrants, in particular, our hospital escort program is a gateway to care for those who have never had access to HIV testing in their country of origin. Weekly health care orientation sessions begin with comprehensive HIV prevention education. In this caring and confidential setting, most participants choose to take an HIV test before being escorted to a local partner hospital where they can enroll for other low-cost care.

Emphasizing the importance of knowing your HIV status, African Services puts the power of better health in the hands of new immigrants, helping make the African community safer and stronger and New York City a healthier place for everyone.

Food For Newcomers in Times of Economic Struggle

Last year's economic crisis and soaring food costs cut deep into the pockets of new immigrant families as well as emergency food programs across New York City, including African Services' food pantry, which serves nearly 5,000 people each year.

For many months, African Services' pantry shelves were thinly stocked and often bare. We were forced to turn away new clients, reduce the amount of food distributed and limit hours of service. This inevitably meant that individuals and families were skipping meals, underfeeding themselves and their children, and turning to inexpensive food of limited nutritional value.

While immigrants struggled to maintain a foothold in the low-wage workforce as the recession deepened, African Services' supporters helped turn our food pantry crisis around by year's end.

The Harlem Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program shared their bounty of locally-grown, organic produce with African Services, providing fresh, familiar produce for family meals. Individual supporters like Paule-Sylvie Yonke, originally from Cameroon, led food drives, collecting hundreds of pounds of high-quality donated food and restoring the range of nutritious options available at African Services.

In a city of such abundance, it is difficult to explain to a new immigrant that there is nothing to offer. Thanks to allies, who understood the impact the recession was having on the poorest New Yorkers, African Services was able to ensure that the most basic need—food—was met for those turning to us as a last resort.

Mapping Immigration Detention & Advocating for Those with HIV

Last fall, with the support of the Ford Foundation, African Services began a new advocacy initiative to investigate, document and address the negative impact of current U.S. immigration policies and practices on the health of HIV positive detainees.

With the dramatic expansion of immigration enforcement in cities, counties and states across the U.S., the population of immigrants detained in a makeshift system of jails across the country has exploded. On average, they are kept in detention for three months, though thousands have been held for six months or more—some, for years.

In this prison bureaucracy that has become a substitute for humane immigration reform, detention is a life or death situation for those living with HIV.

It's not currently known how many African immigrants are detained or face life threatening conditions like HIV. The decentralization of detention, lack of transparency and poor oversight of prison conditions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), however, is well documented, as is the number of ailing detainees who have died of neglect.

With a network of partners, African Services is now identifying HIV positive immigrant detainees in the Tri-State area; documenting the standard of care in detention facilities; and advocating that the Department of Homeland Security enforce existing detention standards and reform its health care approach, in line with international human rights standards.

Our advocacy efforts aim to provide immigration judges, Bureau of Homeland Security attorneys and ICE staff with detailed information about the availability of medical treatment in home countries before deportation occurs to ensure continuity of care for those detainees who are deported.

With the Obama Administration's promise of an overhaul of the country's detention system, the need for well-crafted and executed HIV medical protocols is paramount.

Now is a critical time for African Services to shape meaningful policy shifts and ensure a responsive and persuasive voice on behalf of the most vulnerable immigrants for whom health also remains a human right.

The Division of Immigrant Health Services reports three staff nurses available to conduct the reviews of the approximately 40,000 treatment authorization requests.

Since 2003, there have been 90 reported deaths in immigration detention facilities, the majority of which were caused by a lack of timely medical intervention. There is currently no protocol for detainees living with HIV/AIDS.

Detention Watch Network, Conditions in Immigration Detention, 2008



Love and Let Live: Combating HIV Stigma on the Streets of New York City

African Services brought its HIV public awareness campaign back to New York City streets last fall. The first African public service campaign of its kind, *Love and Let Live* targets English, French and Wolof speaking immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean, promoting the importance of knowing your HIV status and caring for those living with HIV.

While HIV/AIDS is increasingly seen as a manageable disease in the U.S., the supportive needs of people diagnosed with HIV are easily overlooked. Many immigrant New Yorkers don't receive the practical care they need to overcome a medical crisis and continue building the life they dreamed of when they arrived in the U.S.

The *Love and Let Live* campaign was developed to break the silence around HIV among new immigrants, show that everyone can give and receive support, and that people living with HIV are still valued members contributing to their growing community.

Part of African Services' multi-year HIV Stigma Initiative, this project was funded by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and aims to improve health in the African immigrant community through outreach and communication that fosters dialogue, challenges stigma and promotes understanding and compassion in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



With the support of new funding from the UNFPA, African Services will dramatically expand our reproductive health services and capacity, providing individual counseling and family planning solutions at all three of our clinics in Ethiopia, including a range of free family planning options for HIV positive couples, as well as referral to care for HIV positive pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission.



Five Years of Service & Growing in Ethiopia

Last year, we paused briefly to look back on our growth, since establishing Africa Services' community-based HIV care programs in Ethiopia five years ago.

What began as a basic HIV prevention education intervention, initiated by founder Asfaha Hadera on his first return to Addis Ababa in 25 years, has grown into a comprehensive community-based HIV care program serving thousands of people each year. In just five years, African Services is proud to have replicated our successful model for exceptional HIV prevention and care for Africans, first pioneered in New York City.

Today, free, confidential, peer-led HIV care has expanded to African Services' clinics in three regions across Ethiopia, all of which are now providing HIV prevention education, rapid testing, access to ARV therapy and family case management. It is an approach unique in Ethiopia that provides intensive, ongoing, individual support helping marginalized individuals and the poorest families to regain their health.

Peer support, micro-lending, small business training and educational enrichment are all part of self-sufficiency programs built into our comprehensive care model, helping to quickly transition people living with HIV from patient to productive community member.

African Services' early success has been based on both a pragmatic response to the overwhelming demand for HIV care, as well as unprecedented support from a range of allies, who share the conviction that poor people also deserve access to lifesaving AIDS care and that partnership with community-based organizations is essential to strengthening and expanding Ethiopia's health system.

In collaboration with the National Ministry of Health and local health bureaus, African Services is playing an important role in helping Ethiopia meet its HIV treatment targets. Last summer, our mobile unit brought HIV testing and care to the most remote parts of rural Ethiopia, testing over 2,500 people over a three-week period.

At the same time, with the support of private-sector companies, like BGI Ethiopia, African Services is continuing workplace programs for individuals and their families, creating HIV awareness in critical sectors and increasing access to treatment.

The committed support of our diverse allies has enabled our vision for global access to HIV care to take shape, bringing lifesaving treatment to one person and child at a time.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT**FY2009****FY2008**

For the years ending May 31, 2008 and 2009.

SUPPORT & REVENUE**SUPPORT**

Grants and Contracts	2,466,328	2,310,569
Contributions	637,284	607,696
Total Support	3,103,612	2,918,265

REVENUE

Miscellaneous Income	8,870	33,138
Total Support and Revenue	3,112,482	2,951,403

EXPENSES (PROGRAM SERVICES)

Health Services	1,144,902	1,293,125
Housing Services	324,467	359,089
Legal Assistance	285,925	394,805
Social Services	347,208	83,638
International Program	190,548	239,250
Total Program Services	2,293,050	2,369,907

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	449,350	599,769
Total Expenses	2,742,400	2,969,676

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets (deficit)	370,082	(18,273)
Beginning of Period (as adjusted)	502,179	520,452
Net Assets at End of Year	872,261	502,179

May 1981Asfaha Hadera founds
the Committee to Aid Ethiopian
RefugeesWe open our first office
at the Community Church
of New York**Nov 1982**

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

June 2008-May 2009

"I have supported African Services for many years, out of a strong conviction that community-based organizations need champions who recognize and validate the lifesaving work they do, often without the attention others receive. African Services' dedicated leadership, passionate staff and commitment to finding new solutions to persistent health disparities, gender violence and ongoing HIV infection is an inspiration. The impact of their efforts is both real and direct." — **David Corkery, the Corkery Group**

GOVERNMENT

Federal

- Federal Emergency Management Agency

State and Local

- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (CDC, HRSA, HUD/HOPWA)
- New York State Department of Health; AIDS Institute
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
- New York City Bureau of Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health
- New York City Council
- New York State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA)

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

- Abbott Fund
- American Jewish World Service
- Becton Dickinson
- BGI Ethiopia
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Fairway Market
- Konyeung's Corp.
- MAC AIDS Fund
- Penny Harvests of PS 161 & PS 79M
- Seeds of Change
- The Emanuel and Anna Weinstein Foundation
- The Izumi Foundation
- United Way of New York City
- Van Ameringen Foundation
- Champion Courier
- Ricky's Exceptional Treasures
- The Fourth Universalist Society

INDIVIDUAL DONORS BY GIVING LEVEL

\$10,000+

- Michael Smith

\$5,000+

- David Corkery

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Gary & Lori Cohen
- Nathalie Weeks
- Anonymous

\$500 - \$999

- Daniel & Marijke Salcedo
- Dana & Obi Ugwonal
- Rick Azar
- Karen Cassidy
- Judith Greenwald
- Asif Husain-Naviatti
- Leslie Mento
- Michael Robinson
- Jon Stout

July 1987

Our refugee resettlement program begins in New York City

We launch our HIV prevention outreach program for African immigrants

March 1991

"I am an immigrant myself with firsthand knowledge of what drives people to migrate and the difficulties they face in their new country of residence. I walked past African Services for many years, but never knew what it was about. In my job search, I came upon the website and couldn't believe I had missed out on this treasure right here in Harlem.

Having joined as a volunteer and then as a staff attorney, I get immense satisfaction from helping people who, without our intervention, stand to lose their homes, because they don't understand English or because of their immigration status, would rather not fight for their rights as they don't want the spotlight on themselves." — **Olubunmi Segun, Staff Attorney**

\$300 - \$499

- Jeannette, Gertrude & Therese Lepine
- H. Gregory Baker
- Pamela Brown-Peterside
- T. Richard Corcoran
- Min-Jung Key
- Lindsay LoBue
- Paula McDonald
- Neeraj Mistry
- Ray Nelson
- Samantha Scudder

\$200-\$299

- Monique Millane & Curtis A. ter Kuile
- Ilene Gusfield & Judith Dambowic
- Jimena Martinez & Michael Hirschhorn
- A. Sandra Abramson
- Foli Adadevoh
- Dolores An
- William Bernhard & Catherine Cahill
- Mathew & Terrie Fortgang
- Eduard Born
- Linda Borodkin
- Lucy Borodkin
- V. AnnDenise Brown

- Carmela Ciuraru
- Allan Clear
- Barbara Cohan
- Pamela Collins
- Phil Dolin
- Paula Gendel
- Elizabeth Greenstein
- Susan Greenwald
- Bruce Henry
- Mary-Beth Kelly
- Edmund Lee
- Shelley Levine
- Fredrick Levy
- Fausto Lima
- Marion Maher
- Scott Metzner
- Ann Nichols
- Greg Nichols
- Dan Peyton
- Ann Marie Quinn-Foley
- Raffaella Rinversi
- Stephanie Rogers
- Jill & Gil Sacher
- Catherine Shanahan
- Neil Shrier
- Timothy Thomas
- BarbaraTurk
- Joyce Zaitlin

\$100 - \$199

- Daniel John & Alice Kaltman Wiener
- Alan Berkman & Barbara Zeller
- Thomas & Catherine Moore
- David & Christine Nichols
- Brooke & Daniel Neidich
- Alvin & Deena Steinfeld
- Michael & Elizabeth Waldman
- Norma Barbacci & Glenn Boornazian
- Nancy & John Beranbaum
- Anya & Joshua Katz
- Brook & Judith Baker
- Jeffrey & Kathleen Baum
- Diana Lyne & Ken Aretsky
- Abner Taub & Liliane Sznycer
- David & Marilee Wood
- David C. & Maura Kehoe Collins
- Herman & Myrna Rosen
- Bill & Nancy Viola
- James & Paula Ohaus
- William S. & Peggy F. Greenwalt
- Ellen & Ralph Chase
- Carley Claghorn & Ronald Koss
- Eva Peterson & Thomas Hut
- Judi Abernathy
- Ishola Adeyemo
- Alessandra Almgren
- Sheila Balter

Dec 1994

Our name changes to African Services Committee and our mission expands

We begins HIV legal services & case management for immigrants and their families

March 1998

- Jeanne Bergman
- Allen Boutelle
- Aaron Boyle
- Jason Bronstein
- Tom Burrows
- Hayrim Byun
- Robert C. Tuschman
- Melissa Carp
- Ingrid Caruso
- Erika Casriel
- Florine Clomegah
- Stephen Cohan
- Ramona Collier
- Lorenza Collins
- Sancia Dalley
- Claudia DeMegret
- Zoe Doctorow
- Demetric Duckett
- Hazel-Ann Dunbar
- Emmanuel Ejioju
- Elizabeth Fanning
- Charissa Fernandez
- Iris S. Fetterman
- Dinsiri Fikru
- Alyssa Fridgen
- Elyse Goldberg
- Barbara Grufferman
- Thomas Hall
- Laurie Harrison
- Steven Herz
- Mark Johnson
- Samuel Jones
- Lisa Khakee
- Bomsinae Kim
- Susan Klarreich

- Margaret Kneip
- Nidhi Kohli
- Lee Koonce
- Tamara S. Kramer
- Matthew Lee
- Michael Lee
- Steven Leibman
- Jennifer Leighton
- Lucy Liben
- Marian Lobred
- David Loewenthal
- Sonia Mangelsdorf
- Gregory Mann
- Eddie Martinez
- Joel Maxman
- Aliza Mazor
- Wendy Balsam McKenna
- Elizabeth McNamara
- Randy Meadoff
- Jerome Menifee
- Carol Miller
- Klancy Miller
- Lynn Murchison
- Margaret Musto
- Ana Nieto
- Brian O'Keefe
- Marie Osterman
- Lynn Preston
- Daniel Regan
- Joan Rich
- Barbara Rothberg
- Deborah Sack
- Roberta Samet
- Maria Beatriz Setti
- Ellen Shumsky

- Larry Siebert
- Khary Simon
- Tamar Snyder
- Jan Tatarsky
- Eranus Thomas
- Michelle A. Tomarkin
- Carol L. Tuschman
- Okeh Ugwonalı
- Marie Wallinger
- Jane Wessel
- Joshua Williams
- Shewit Woldegabrael

Up to \$100

- Roderick J. Bernard
- K. Kein & E.H. Baker
- Brian & Bernadette O'Neil
- Elaine & Bernard Shulman
- Darla Bjork
- Patricia Kean & Charles Zehren
- Claudia Zeldin & Daniel Katzner
- Karen Schlain & George Sweeting
- Patricia & John Saks
- Emily Tobey & Jonathan Kane
- Dominick & Lenae Guarna
- Jeffrey Hargreaves & Meg Levine
- Joyce & Peter Parcher
- Andrew & Rachel Altstein Bachman
- Donald A. & Sally Ann Brazil Bendernagel
- Robert J. & Sheila Young

"Vitamin Angels is pleased to support African Services Committee in Ethiopia with donations of children's multivitamins. They recognize the critical role of nutrition in the health and well-being of children affected by HIV/AIDS, and we are proud to partner with their excellent community-based care programs." — **Cami Allen, Program Manager, Vitamin Angels**

July 1998

The UN Economic and Social Council gives African Services special consultative status to the United Nations

Our HIV Housing Program begins

June 1999

“Health GAP (Global Access Project) owes much of our success as an advocacy organization to our long-standing collaboration with African Services, who has been fighting for access to lifesaving HIV treatment for over a decade, providing services to people living in the United States who are unable to access treatment in their home country.

Their stories provide a powerful backdrop to the statistics, which moves decision makers and mobilizes New Yorkers to do what’s right. African Services Committee leads our civil society peers in creating and implementing innovative policy solutions to complex problems, and Health GAP is proud to be support them, as they have supported us.” — **Asia Russell, Director of International Policy, Health GAP**

- Ryan Young
- Myron & Susan Peck
- Mimi & T.W. Towell
- Michael & Tanya Sparer
- Madeline & William Selden
- Jan Alexander
- Carol Amoruso
- Lara & Nick Birnback
- William & Phyllis Rosser
- Sara Back
- Momita Bagchi
- Dorothea Basile
- Francis Baxter
- Ana Maria Bosnjak
- Ashley Buechele
- Katie Bukofzer
- Jimmie Byrdsney
- Roberta Carswell
- Karina Casiano
- Selma Cooper
- Shalome Crawford
- Mackenzie Crone
- E.V. Day
- Dinah Day
- Inette Dishler
- Jill Eisenstadt
- Ann Eisenstein
- Judith Frisch
- Robert Gass
- Carol Goebel
- Nina Goldstein

- Donna Gould
- David Greeley
- Reuben Greenwald
- Sara Grunstein
- Frances Hamburg
- Melanie Havelin
- Claire Hertz
- Joey Horsford
- Carole Hughes
- Ephraim Isaac
- Roderick J. Bernard
- Olive Jarvis
- Courtney Johnson
- Marc Kaminsky
- Kevin Kauffunger
- Min-Jung Key
- Amy Kramer
- Tania Kravath
- Faith Lancereau
- Elizabeth Sturges Llerena
- Jean Marcovecchio
- Susan M. Martin
- Noemi Masliah
- Ilze Mengailis
- Bernice Mennis
- Laura Miller
- Nancy Munno
- Rajesh Nayak
- Robert Newman
- Ngwah-Mbo Nkweti
- Eri Noguchi

- Sue Ellen Novick
- Alisa Ochoa
- Mazi Ogbonna
- Ethel Peal
- Margaret Perkins
- Patricia Plotkin
- Linda Porter
- Ethel Raim
- William M. Saks
- Florence Shore
- Carol Singer
- Elizabeth Solway
- Arthur G. Solway
- Kathy Stillson
- Daniel Swartz
- Adam Taye
- Greg Trupiano
- Eric Weinberger
- Shelley Weinstock
- Robert Weisberg
- Amy Weiss
- Bruno Wizard
- Odette Young
- Stephen Zimmer

SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

- ACRIA
- Africa Action
- Blue Marble Ice Cream
- Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture Program

April 2000

African Services moves to Harlem

We play a key role in the first UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS

June 2001

- Cherry's Pharmacy
- City Council Member
Inez Dickens
- City Council Member
Robert Jackson
- May Cohan
- Pamela Collins
- Columbia University School
of Business
- Fordham University School
of Law
- Mackenzie Crone
- Ethiopia Federal Ministry
of Health
- The Fresh Air Fund
- Global Business Coalition on
AIDS, TB and Malaria
- GMHC
- Sue & Judy Greenwald
- Ruth Gruen
- Health GAP (Global Access
Project)
- HIV Law Project
- Rebekah Kebede
- MAC Cosmetics
- The Mayor's Office of
Immigrant Affairs
- The New School
- New York State and City
Departments of Health
- New York City Health and
Hospitals Corporation
- New York Cares
- New York Immigration
Coalition
- New York University
- The Pajama Program
- Public Health Solutions
- Jake Price
- Sarah Lawrence College
- SMART University
- State Senator Bill Perkins
- Dr. Michael Smith
- Sydney Dennison
- UNAIDS
- Theodora Diwouta
- Caroline Frank
- Sabine Gbetoho
- Diana Graizbord
- Mphambo Hansen
- Semra Hailu
- Shannon Irej
- Mohamed Jallow
- Uche Kanu
- Asher Kelly-Nacht
- Albert Lee
- Alex Lust
- Andrew Mahiga
- Emily Molfino
- Rehema Moshi
- Sandra Pellerano
- Zongo Regis
- Allison Russell
- Jade Tachie-Monson
- Claire Thomas
- Alicia Thompson
- Kelly Tieger
- Marcia Unger
- Evelien van Roemburg
- Yo Watanabe
- Annette Williams
- Wendy Whitman
- Nejdán Yildiz

VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS & INSTRUCTORS

- Roy Anderson
- Fernando Apaez
- Diya Basu-Sen
- Jessica Bloome
- Katharine Bodde
- Alex Bolterstein
- Denise Biderman
- Anthony Capalbo
- Lisa Chodorkoff

"We came to know African Services in 2008 when we hosted the first Positive Kids fundraiser to support their HIV program in Ethiopia. We were so impressed with how well the benefit was run and that all money raised went directly to program work, not for fancy drinks at the party.

And African Services' "Milk Money" fundraising project selling children's art from Ethiopia was so touching in its simplicity and importance, when we told our daughter, May, that one \$60 painting provides a year's supply of milk for one child, she quickly realized that getting involved would make a meaningful project for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah. We all learned so much about the meaning of grassroots efforts from our experiences with African Services, and this has become a guiding principle for us in our charitable giving." — **The James Cohan Gallery & Family**

April 2002

African Services joins the NGO
Communities delegation to
the board of the Global Fund to
Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

UNAIDS appoints African
Services as the North American
representative to its Programme
Coordinating Board

Jan 2003

STAFF

New York City

Adama Traore

Outreach Worker

Ado Lemou

*Assistant Testing Center
Coordinator*

Aida Diallo-Diagne

HOPWA Housing Coordinator

Alice Clomegah

*Coordinator, Testing Center &
Early Intervention Services*

Alizata Traore

Family Case Manager

Alka Dev

*Director of Program &
Business Strategy*

Amadou Diao

*Coordinator, Infant Mortality
Reduction Initiative*

Amanda Lugg

*Director of Advocacy &
Mobilization*

Andrea Panjwani

Supervising Attorney

Asfaha Hadera

*Founder & Co-Executive
Director*

Bakary Tandia

*Case Manager &
Policy Advocate*

Chitra Aiyar

Staff Attorney

Claudette Francois

Senior Case Manager

Coumba Gueye

HOPWA Housing Assistant

Dale Haynes

Office Cleaner

Daouda Ndiaye

Outreach Worker

Getachew Fikremariam

Paralegal & Client Advocate

Irma Jimenez

HOPWA Housing Assistant

John Patterson

ESOL Instructor

Kim Nichols

Co-Executive Director

Lillian Agyei

Testing Center Assistant

Lola Taiwo

*Deputy Director, Health
Programs*

Mary Kay Jou

Family Social Worker

Mulusew Bekele

Director of Health Programs

Muna Hamouie

Administrator

Ndeye Gueye

Food Pantry Coordinator

Ndeye Diallo

Receptionist

Olubunmi Segun

Staff Attorney

Rokhaya Gueye

Testing Center Assistant

Sarah Park

Fiscal Manager

Sharon Makoriwa

Development Associate

Sonia N'diaye

Medical Interpreter

Stephanie Kaplan

Communications Director

Sumaiya Ahmed

Paralegal

Tembeni Fazo

Peer Counselor

Theodora Diwouta

Medical Interpreter

Willi Cochran

Family Case Manager

Yuliya Kalshteyn

ESOL Program Coordinator

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Alem Mekonnen

HIV Counselor

Ayele Asrat

Guard

Benyam Taddesse

Driver

Birtukan T/Silassie

Store Keeper

Buzuneh Arega

Guard

Desalew Adane

Director of Programs

Ejegayehu Taddese

Site Coordinator

Fisiha Molla

Guard

Genet Tsegaye

Janitor

Gulelat Kebede

HIV Counselor

Haben Abrha

Outreach Coordinator

Habtom Aboye

Outreach Worker

July 2003

African Services Ethiopia is established, launching our first testing center in Addis Ababa

Our second clinic in Ethiopia opens, a public-private partnership to serve employees of BGI and greater Wollo Province

March 2005

Hailu Aregaw
Guard

Hanna Abebe Worku
*Administrator & Financial
Manager*

Haregewoyn Asrat
Lab Technician

Helen Tadiwos
Janitor

Mekonen Tadesse
Guard

Netsanet Haile Mariam, Lab
Technician

Negussie Gonche
Pharmacy Technician

Seblewongel Berhanu
HIV Counselor

Seblewongel Tamiru
DOC

Selamawit Tesema
Office Assistant

Sewhareg Tadesse
Outreach Worker

Shikur Kelifa
Guard

Sintayehu Merete
Cleaner

Tsegereda Getachew
Outreach Worker

Yokabel Abdo
Accountant

Zaid Gidey
Outreach Worker

Zewdinesh Ademe
Data Encoder

Mekele

Abeba Gebru
Office Assistant

Amare Hiluf
Guard

Aberaham Gebre Hiwot
Site Coordinator

Alemtsehay Kalayu
Outreach Worker

Aselefech Halefom
Lab Technician

Atsibaha Kidane
Guard

Benyam Belay
Outreach Coordinator

Emenet Haddis
Junior Accountant

Goha Abera Mekibib
Shoe Project Clerk

Kebedech Seyoum
HIV Counselor

Mehari Hargot
Guard

Mulugeta Abay
Outreach Worker

Rahel Mulu
Janitor

Tirhas Hagose
Outreach Worker

Tirhas Haile
Lab Technician

Tsegaye Mekoya
Outreach Worker

Wudnesh Girmay
Pharmacist

Yordanos Asmarom
Data Encoder

Kombolcha

Ahmed Mohammed
HIV Counselor

Ayele Argaw
Outreach Worker

Emebet Demse
Janitor

Kidest Tesfaye
Outreach Coordinator

Mekdes Befkadu
Accountant

Misku Mohammed
Pediatric Case Manager

Moges Dessalegn
Lab Technician

Mulu Teshager
Receptionist & Data Encoder

Sofiya Mohammed
Outreach Worker

Tigist Kifle
Janitor

Yirgalem Mulu
Outreach Worker

Yohannes Amede
Site Coordinator

Sept 2005

African Services Ethiopia
marks an important milestone—
25,000 HIV tests provided

We celebrate our 25th
anniversary in New York City

May 2006

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June 2007

Doors open our at our third
clinic in Mekele, Northern Ethiopia

Pediatric HIV care is begun at
all three clinics in Ethiopia

May 2008

Mercetaine's American Experience (continued from inside front cover)

With her immigration status in limbo, Mercetaine didn't think any options were available to her when she was diagnosed with HIV, until she met with an African Services case worker, also from Haiti. Mercetaine began ARV therapy and started attending our weekly support group for immigrants living with HIV. She says she could not have sustained treatment without the support of other French-speaking women, who helped her manage the side-effects. "I saw a better life is possible."

"People are welcoming, they embrace you. I am like everyone else here. The only time I know I have HIV is when I take my pills. In Haiti, because of discrimination, I would have been abandoned." After regaining her health, Mercetaine became increasingly involved at African Services, taking ESL classes and making legislative visits to Albany and Washington, D.C., where she testified in front of elected officials about issues impacting immigrants in the U.S.

Through her spirit of committed involvement, Mercetaine has helped build a strong supportive network among African and Caribbean newcomers alike at African Services. "You have to be good to the people that are good to you," she says. She now prepares a daily luncheon for clients dropping by African Services, administers a small savings cooperative and coordinates home and hospital visits to those in need.

After the recent earthquake in Port au Prince, it took Mercetaine three days to make contact with her son and learn that he and her grandchildren are all well. "They rely on me, I don't think about going home. I am able to help by sending food and money; I can provide advice that makes a difference in the lives of my family."

Last year, 16 years after arriving in the U.S., Mercetaine was granted asylum and permanent residency in the U.S. "Everything is different now," she says. "Never, never, never say you can't do it. I learned that at African Services."

To support other newcomers like Mercetaine, go to www.africanservices.org and click DONATE, to help make a difference today.

May 2009

African Services Co-Executive Director joins UNITAID as NGO alternate board member

Love & Let Live, the first African-language HIV awareness campaign launches in New York City.

June 2009

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AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE