

2006

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE  
AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK CITY



**AFRICAN SERVICES**  
COMMITTEE



- May 1981 ♦ Asfaha Hadera incorporates the Committee to Aid Ethiopian Refugees
- November 1982 ♦ Our first office is established at the Community Church of New York
- July 1985 ♦ Our first grant is made to benefit Ethiopian refugee programs in Sudan
- January 1986 ♦ Refugee resettlement program is started in New Jersey
- January 1987 ♦ Refugee resettlement program is started in New York City
- March 1991 ♦ We begin HIV prevention outreach for African immigrants
- December 1994 ♦ Our name changes to African Services Committee
- March 1998 ♦ African Services begins providing HIV legal services
- March 1998 ♦ HIV case management program is begun for immigrants and their families
- July 1998 ♦ The UN Economic and Social Council gives African Services special consultative status to the United Nations
- June 1999 ♦ Our HIV housing program begins
- April 2000 ♦ African Services Committee moves to West Harlem
- August 2000 ♦ We are accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals
- June 2001 ♦ African Services plays a key NGO role in the first UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS
- April 2002 ♦ African Services joins an NGO delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- January 2003 ♦ UNAIDS appoints African Services as the North American NGO representative to its Programme Coordinating Board
- July 2003 ♦ African Services Ethiopia launches in Addis Ababa
- September 2005 ♦ African Services Ethiopia marks an important milestone: 25,000 free HIV tests provided through our Shola, Mercato and Kombolcha centers
- May 2006 ♦ African Services celebrates its 25th anniversary



Asfaha and Kim with African Services staff and friends at AIDS WALK 1996.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

After 25 years of continuous service, African Services Committee's work has come to symbolize the core of the community response to HIV and other life-threatening diseases in New York City's African community.

In that time, our mission has evolved in parallel with the evolution of the African migration to the United States. Begun in 1981, in the early years of the African refugee Diaspora, African Services Committee was established to aid newly arrived refugees in their struggle to adjust to life in America. Thousands of people fleeing conflict in the Horn of Africa—as well as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Albania—found safe haven in the U.S. through our sponsorship.

As the demographic tide turned from refugees to an increasingly diverse spectrum of immigrants from across Africa, we broadened African Services' portfolio and embraced the needs of these newcomers by developing health, legal, housing, food and nutrition, and English as a Second Language programs. In turn, African immigrants began to create opportunities for others and they have brought a stunning array of cultural diversity to New York City.

Today, African Services Committee can count several hundred thousand newcomers among those we have assisted. Whether they hail from North, South, East, or West Africa, they have put down roots and developed communities. Immigrants from the Caribbean have also come through our doors in great numbers and found support in the community, as well. It is with great pride that we can recount the many successes they have gone on to achieve as professionals, entrepreneurs, artists, and community leaders. They are essential partners in our effort to enhance the quality of life in the Diaspora through the fight against HIV.

Just three short years after bringing our knowledge of HIV prevention back to the Continent, African Services has helped over 4,000 HIV positive people in Ethiopia learn their status and access care, treatment and support. We have enabled 40,000 more to learn that they are HIV negative and how to prevent infection.

The racial, ethnic, professional, linguistic, and cultural diversity of today's 77-member staff across two continents is one of our greatest assets. It brings a rich texture and capacity to our organization and invites people of diverse backgrounds to seek the assistance they need. We take pride in both the culture and the life-altering outcomes of our work.

It has been a long and challenging road, but African Services Committee has grown like a sturdy tree. We have been nourished by both hardship and success. We are a strong family, and with us the African community has advanced and is making its mark.

Sincerely,

Kim Nichols  
Co-Executive Director

Asfaha Hadera  
Co-Executive Director



ON THE COVER: Kondoh Adjara, a client of African Services, at the April 10 immigration rally. Originally from Togo, she came to the U.S. in 2001 and now lives in New York City with her son, daughter and grandchildren. "I have two children here and four at home. I want for us to be together."



African Services at the historic April 10th immigration rally in New York City.

*"I saw all these people... and I thought, Yes! We are America, we contribute with our blood, sweat and tears. We just want it to be official"*

— Ruth Mitchell,  
African Services client  
(Trinidad)

*"This struggle isn't only about immigrants; it is about people trying to protect their dignity."*

— Bakary Tandia,  
African Services staff  
(Mauritania)

## HIGHLIGHTS 2006

### Standing Up for Immigrants

Immigrants made history last year, coming out of the shadows in cities across the U.S. and setting in motion unprecedented support for humane immigration reform. African Services joined this historic mobilization, by making the voices of African and Caribbean immigrants heard from Albany to D.C.

On April 10th, African Services took part in New York City's massive immigration rally, demonstrating in support of basic civil rights, family reunification and a pathway to citizenship for immigrants.

At City Hall, we saw hundreds of thousands of people converged on lower Manhattan. Throughout the afternoon, as work shifts ended, immigrants flooded off the subway packing the streets. For many of us, it was something we never imagined we would see—it was the whole American family.

Bakary Tandia, an ASC staff member originally from Mauritania, addressed the crowd more than 300,000 strong, reminding leaders of the hardships newcomers endure in the U.S. and speaking out against the criminalization of undocumented immigrants and those who assist them.

*"It has been too long, but we have to have hope."*

— Rosie Perez,  
at the UN Special  
Session on AIDS  
protest rally



PHOTO: MARIO SOLICH

### Still Fighting for Leadership After 25 Years of AIDS

At the watershed UN General Assembly Special Session on AIDS in 2001, world leaders finally acknowledged the global threat of AIDS and pledged action against the epidemic. Since then there have been 15 million AIDS deaths and 25 million new HIV infections.

In May 2006, when world leaders again convened a high-level meeting at the UN to assess the state of the AIDS epidemic, African Services helped to mobilize a strong coalition of first responders, activists and people living with HIV from around the world to make the realities of global AIDS known and hold governments accountable for the failure to fulfill their commitments.

Inside the UN, we lobbied leaders intensively to set real and specific targets for universal access to AIDS treatment by 2010. The final declaration fell short, failing to include fully commitments to fund the fight or endorse science-based HIV prevention around the world.

Outside the UN, we staged the largest AIDS demonstration in five years to protest government inaction and sustain the public demand for a quicker response to the AIDS crisis at home and abroad.



PHOTO: ALFRED MAGESE

ASC staffer Bakary Tandia at the UN Special Session on AIDS. Demonstrators wore the famous "HIV Positive" t-shirts in solidarity with the 40 million other people living with HIV worldwide.

**Legal Advocacy for Immigrants and Support for Their Families**

For immigrant families coping with the impact of an HIV diagnosis, the law may be the last place they look for help. But throughout the last year, African Services helped dozens of immigrant families use the legal system to resolve issues traditionally addressed through the safety net of the community and extended family.

With newly-expanded legal services and family case management programs, we have successfully helped clients resolve custody issues; attain child support; qualify for public benefits; fight housing, employment and discrimination cases; and adjust immigration status for themselves and their children. A weekly women's support group has helped mothers meet and develop their own networks for mutual support.



Chitra Aiyar, Idella Cooper, Lauren Sachs, Getachew Fikremariam, Wudenesh Molla and Andrea Panjwani staff African Services' expanded legal and family case management programs.

Through these holistic programs, African Services social workers and attorneys work hand-in-hand to provide the continuous support new immigrants need to stabilize their families. The benefits are clear—immigrants are empowered to assert their rights, family life is enriched, opportunities for self-sufficiency are created, and newcomers are able to embark on the lives they imagined.



Celebrating the life and music of Fela Kuti.

**World AIDS Day 2006: Red, Hot + RIOT LIVE!**

On December 1, African Services and the Brooklyn Academy of Music commemorated World AIDS Day 2006 together with Red, Hot and RIOT LIVE!, an all-star tribute concert celebrating the life and music of Nigerian artist and activist Fela Kuti, whose life and struggle was cut short by AIDS.

The event raised critical funds for African Services' HIV/AIDS care and support programs in New York City and showed the importance of forging community partnerships across sectors to create a unified front against HIV/AIDS.

African Services is grateful to BAM and the Red Hot Organization, as well as the Howard Gilman Foundation and the many corporate sponsors, who recognized the importance of World AIDS Day in New York City and made this event possible.

*"The future is really bright. I believe we will control this HIV."*

—Alemseged Girmay, Program Director, African Services Ethiopia

**On Ethiopia's Frontlines**

Nearly 18,000 people learned their HIV status last year through African Services' three HIV testing and care centers in Ethiopia, proving the strides that can be made by small, local initiatives working at the grassroots to combat AIDS.

African Services also brought reproductive health counseling into our HIV testing and care programs in Ethiopia, with a grant from UNFPA, and continued to provide CD4 testing to help stage patients in urgent need of ARV therapy.

At the equivalent of US\$5 per test—half of the cost at local public hospitals—African Services has put reliable and affordable CD4 testing within reach. Contributions are accepted from patients who are able to pay, and ASC subsidizes testing for the many who are not. We are grateful to Becton Dickinson for the donation of essential equipment and supplies.



*"I realized that tragedies are accompanied by hope, and pain and suffering on the African continent do not mete out wisdom, love or joy."*

—Alison Fairbrother, volunteer; Students of the World



A father with his son at African Services' HIV testing center in Shola Market, Addis Ababa.

**Deepening Our Roots: The Capital Campaign for African Services Committee**

After the launch of our first capital campaign two years ago, African Services has signed a 10-year lease at our offices on 127th Street in the heart of Harlem. Construction will



African Services expands into new space at 429 West 127th Street.

soon transform empty loft space into new work space and counseling rooms, an ESL classroom and computer lab. We are grateful to our supporters who have invested in the continued growth of African Services and the dynamic African community we serve in New York City.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2006	2005
<b>SUPPORT</b>		
Grants and Contracts	2,316,080	2,211,316
Contributions	110,047	111,927
Total Other Revenue	2,426,127	2,323,243
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Miscellaneous Income	19,786	39,206
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE EXCLUDING GIFTS IN KIND</b>	<b>2,445,913</b>	<b>2,362,449</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>		
Health Services	1,020,489	981,278
Housing Services	490,425	516,707
Legal Assistance	84,865	64,877
Refugee Program	5,377	8,931
Social Services	252,114	106,684
Total Program Services	1,856,683	1,678,477
<b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b>		
Management and General	378,130	569,582
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES EXCLUDING GIFTS IN KIND</b>	<b>2,234,813</b>	<b>2,248,059</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of Period (as adjusted)	455,748	341,358
Change in Net Assets	211,100	114,390
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>666,848</b>	<b>455,748</b>

Summary of financial statements for the years ending May 31, 2006 and 2005.

## FUNDING & SUPPORT June 2005 - May 2006

### GOVERNMENT

#### Federal

- US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC
- US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOPWA
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

#### State & Local

- City Council Member Robert Jackson
- City Council Member Bill Perkins
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- New York City Department of Youth & Community Development
- New York City Bureau of Maternal & Infant Health
- New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute
- State of New Jersey, Division of Youth & Family Services

### FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS & CORPORATIONS

- Altria Employee Fund
- American Jewish World Service
- Becton Dickinson
- BGI Ethiopia
- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
- Champion Courier
- Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Inc.
- The Corkery Group
- David Szerlip & Associates, Inc.
- Empire State AIDS Ride
- First Data Western Union Foundation
- GMHC AIDS Walk New York
- Henry Van Ameringen Foundation
- International Foundation
- Koonyeung's Corp.
- MAC AIDS Fund
- Ms. Foundation for Women
- New York City AIDS Fund
- New York Community Trust
- Permanent Mission of Angola to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN
- Permanent Mission of Lesotho to the UN
- United Way of NY, CMC & SEFA
- UNFPA

### INDIVIDUAL DONORS

- \$1,000 - \$4,999
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  - Addie Guttag
  - Matthew & Rebecca Leising
- \$500 - \$999
  - Mebrat Ambaye
- \$300 - \$499
  - Adriano DeCarvalho
  - Judith Greenwald
  - Greg Nichols
  - Grace Nkenke
- \$200 - \$299
  - Scott Metzner
- \$100 - \$499
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  - Bruce Walker
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  - Jane Wessel

### MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS:

- ACRIA
- ACT UP New York
- Asfaw Hailu
- Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM)

- Barlow House
- Becton, Dickinson and Company
- Bronx-Lebanon Hospital
- Bellevue Hospital
- Black + Write, Inc.
- Roberta Carswell
- Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture Program
- Citarella
- Community Resource Exchange
- The Clinton Foundation
- Creative Women
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Dr. Thomas Frieden
- Dr. Robert Fullilove
- Sue and Judith Greenwald
- Harlem Hospital
- Health GAP
- Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
- The HIV Law Project
- The Howard Gilman Foundation
- Kikkerland Design, Inc.
- Elahe Massumi
- NAPWA
- The New York Immigration Coalition
- NYC Big Events
- The Red Hot Organization
- Rosie Perez
- Dr. Peter Piot
- Re:Vision
- Neil Sachs & Kalyani McCullagh
- Eric Sawyer
- Students of the World
- Jack Vartoogian/FrontRowPhotos
- David Yurman

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- Hannah Gordon
- Stan Grier
- Ryan Douglas Health
- Irene Kanza
- Zoe Kelly-Nacht
- Blanche Manago
- Bryan Mochizuki
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- Claire Walsh
- Wendy Whitman
- Kyle Young

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