



AFRICAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE

2 0 0 4 A N N U A L R E P O R T





- May 1981** — Asfaha Hadera founds 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 is changed to African Services Committee
- March 1998** — African Services starts its HIV legal services program
- March 1998** — HIV case management program is begun for immigrants and their families
- July 1998** — The U.N. 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 U.N. General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS
- April 2002** — African Services joins an NGO delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- June 2003** — UNAIDS appoints African Services to be the North American NGO representative to its Programme Coordinating Board
- July 2003** — African Services-Ethiopia launches in Addis Ababa

Dear Friends,

Every year, thousands of Africans arrive in New York City, many seeking to establish themselves and their families as citizens of this country. They bring skills, hard work and an incredible diversity of cultures and traditions. As every New Yorker knows, the first-generation immigrants from Africa and across the Diaspora who have chosen to live and work here have infused our neighborhoods with a wealth of languages, foods, music, and civic participation.

I settled in New York City in 1991, after living in many U.S. cities and in central Africa. As a non-native New Yorker, I feel continued gratitude to this city that has allowed so many newcomers, including me, to establish a life here. I have endless respect for others who have recently moved here, from places very far away, to establish their lives and realize their dreams.

The immigrant story is, of course, central to the identity of New York City and American culture. We are a nation of immigrants, all of whom have contributed in unique ways to the social, economic and cultural fabric of this country. Many of the City's leading institutions were established by immigrants, including hospitals and not-for-profit service organizations founded by Dutch, German and Jewish communities in the past, and healthcare organizations being developed by Chinese, Dominican, Haitian, and Russian communities today.

In this impressive immigrant self-help tradition, African Services Committee is an inspiring place. The offices on West 127th Street are a friendly and busy center, alive with people taking English classes, connecting with employment and housing, building social networks, securing critical health care and information, and being coached in the complexities of visa renewals and citizenship applications. Staff from over 13 countries fan out across the city to serve thousands of people in more than 20 languages, tackling tough issues of poverty, limited access to health care and vulnerability related to gender, sexuality and HIV.

And then African Services takes this experience to the international level, pressing advocacy issues through its many direct links with government programs and U.N. agencies, and operating its successful HIV testing center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A dynamic community of newcomers has taken shape at African Services Committee. Management, staff and clients alike show incredible personal commitment to success and generosity of spirit, together supporting others who are in greater need. As a result, the organization continues to grow and set ambitious goals, not least of which is *Deepening Our Roots*, a capital campaign underway to transform 5,200 square feet of new space on West 127th Street into an African community resource center for immigrants in need of employment, housing and legal services.

Through individual contributions, grants and contracts, and in-kind donations, African Services is now supported by more than 100 individuals and organizations that are helping build a new, healthy immigrant community in New York City. There is no greater privilege than to be a part of this effort. Please join us.

Sincerely,



Sam Avrett

Co-Chair, Board of Directors

2004 HIGHLIGHTS



Marie Lopy and Alpha Kassogue coordinate weekly multilingual HIV prevention sessions.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

African Services Committee continued to make HIV prevention a priority in 2004. To provide essential HIV information and personal risk assessment for newly-arrived African immigrants, we introduced group interventions through our hospital escort and medical interpretation programs. Among those seeking care, the majority also chose to test for HIV at African Services.

In recognition of African Services' leadership in community health, Kim Nichols, Co-Executive Director, was chosen to serve on the New York City Commission on HIV/AIDS, which aims to make New York City a national and global model for responding to the AIDS epidemic.



African Services Committee marching to the U.S. Capitol Building to call for election-year action on HIV/AIDS.

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

Activism in the African immigrant community took important steps forward in the election year. With the support of African Services, the Forum for African Immigrant Associations incorporated itself in 2004 as an umbrella organization bringing together leaders from more than ten different African immigrant groups. The Forum had its first community mobilization workshop in October to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York City and establish leadership priorities.

In addition to ongoing advocacy work at City Hall and in Albany, African Services joined the “Wake Up, Time’s Up!” protest in May in Washington, D.C., the largest AIDS demonstration in ten years. It was the first advocacy experience for many clients and a unique opportunity to join activists and demand that elected officials commit to comprehensive programs to prevent and treat HIV in the U.S. and around the world.



World AIDS Day 2004 in New York City: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Sinikithemba Choir of South Africa. (photos: Jake Price)

WOMEN AND GIRLS, HIV/AIDS

On December 1, 2004, African Services Committee and UNAIDS sponsored New York City's largest commemoration of World AIDS Day, focusing on the female face of the global AIDS epidemic. At the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, women from around the world spoke about the impact of HIV/AIDS on their lives. Keynote speaker U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, "The courage women have shown in this fight is matched only by the toll the disease has taken on them."

Women's vulnerability to HIV is magnified by the pressures of immigrant life, and in 2004, African Services began a leadership program, funded by the Ms. Foundation, for African women living with HIV in New York City.



Rapid testing for HIV at African Services-Ethiopia.

IN ETHIOPIA

In December, African Services marked an important milestone in Ethiopia, helping more than 10,000 people learn their HIV status since our testing center opened in 2003. Major demand for free and confidential HIV testing—despite the lack of local treatment options—led African Services-Ethiopia to quickly increase its capacity. With a local staff of 17 community health workers, African Services performed one-quarter of all HIV tests in Addis Ababa in 2004. Among those who test at African Services, 11 percent of men and 24 percent of women are HIV-positive.

Through partnerships with the Ministry of Health, the private sector, and church and youth groups, African Services is expanding testing to additional sites in Addis Ababa, Kombolcha and Mekelle and preparing to integrate CD4 testing and ARV treatment at the community level.

We appreciate the continued support of American Jewish World Service and the donation of essential supplies from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and Becton Dickinson.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Summary of financial statements for the years ending May 31, 2004 and 2003.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2004	2003
Support		
Grants and Contracts	2,296,111	2,336,164
Contributions	53,499	52,607
Total Support	2,349,610	2,388,771
Revenue		
Miscellaneous Income	38,280	10,032
Total Support and Revenue, Excluding Gifts In Kind	2,387,890	2,398,803
EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Health Services	1,398,505	1,200,336
Housing Services	593,211	600,966
Legal Assistance	69,001	54,092
Refugee Program	16,798	17,614
Social Services	81,459	49,801
Total Program Services	2,158,974	1,922,809
Supporting Services		
Management and General	254,123	243,267
Total Expenses Excluding Gifts In Kind	2,413,097	2,166,076
NET ASSETS		
Net Assets at Beginning of Period (as adjusted)	426,576	193,849
Change in Net Assets	(25,207)	232,727
Net Assets at End of Year	401,369	426,576

FUNDING AND SUPPORT

JUNE 2003 - MAY 2004

Government

Federal

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, CDC
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOPWA

State and Local

- Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
- New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- New York State Attorney General's Office
- New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute
- New York State Office of Minority Health
- State of New Jersey, Department of Youth and Family Services

Foundations, Organizations and Corporations

- Academy for Educational Development
- Altria Corporate Services
- Altria Employee Fund
- American Jewish World Service
- Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
- Bronx Lebanon Hospital
- Empire State AIDS Ride
- The Feinstein Foundation
- First Data Western Union Foundation
- GM Automotive
- GMHC AIDS Walk
- The J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation
- Lake Langan Co., Inc.
- National Minority AIDS Council
- New York City AIDS Fund
- New York Community Trust
- New York Mercantile Exchange Foundation
- Reebok Human Rights Foundation
- Sharing Fund
- United Nations 1% for Development Fund
- United Way of New York City: CMC, EFSP, HPNAP, SEFA

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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\$200 - \$499

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- Compu-Count
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- Sue Simon

\$100 - \$199

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- Nardos and Thomas Bekele
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- Sharon and Ryan Cote
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- Sandy Langley
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- Scott Metzner
- Girma Mulugetta
- Gaku Murakami
- Mildred Patterson
- Permanent Mission FDR of Ethiopia to the U.N.
- Carla Savoy
- Debritu Sisay-Gelete
- Viveka Teshome
- Barbara Turk
- Abiy Yeshitla
- Dr. Barbara Zeller

Many Thanks to the Following Supporters

- ACRIA
- Becton, Dickinson and Company
- The Brennan Center for Justice
- Bronx Lebanon Hospital
- Jessica Care More
- Central Harlem Community Supported Agriculture Program
- Community Resource Exchange
- Congressman Charles Rangel
- Continental Airlines
- Cornucopia
- Alan Cumming
- Ethiopian Airlines

- Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
- Harlem Hospital
- HealthCAP
- HIV Law Project
- Lawyers Alliance for New York
- Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine
- Joel Maxman
- New York Cares
- New York AIDS Coalition
- New York Immigration Coalition
- New York Voices
- Jane O'Connell
- Partners In Health
- Dr. Peter Piot and UNAIDS
- Jake Price
- Gloria Reuben
- Secretary-General of the United Nations Kofi Annan and his staff
- The Sinikithemba Choir of South Africa
- Luciana Souza
- Barbara Steele
- StoryCorps
- Mary Wilson
- Ken Wong

Volunteers, Interns and Instructors

- Jean Assamoa
- Annie Atkinson
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- Wendy Whitman
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- Kyle Young

NEW YORK CITY

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Founded in 1981, African Services Committee is a New York-based organization dedicated to improving the health and self-sufficiency of the city's African community. We provide critical health, housing, legal and social services to over 10,000 refugees, asylees and immigrants each year. African Services also works on the frontlines of the global AIDS epidemic through our HIV outreach, testing and support programs in Ethiopia, as well as advocacy, policy work and technical assistance in the U.S. and abroad.

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