



AFRICAN SERVICES

COMMITTEE

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Welcome to 2014!



Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2014. It's hard to believe that African Services is celebrating its 33rd year of service to the African and Caribbean immigrant community in New York City. It seems like yesterday that we were struggling to operate out of a couple of rooms in a tiny mid-town office. We now serve over 12,500 clients each year, and continue to

expand our services and reach within the community.

In 2014, we are excited to partner with New York State through the New York Rising Super Storm Sandy Recovery program. We will be sending staff into the hardest hit areas and offering legal, health and housing assistance to those displaced, who lost employment, or were otherwise upended by the storm.

Looking out my office window over a snow-covered Harlem, my mind also drifts across the Atlantic to our clinics in Ethiopia. We are now in our 11th year of operation, and thanks to our many strategic partners and donors, we have seen a year of solidification and expansion in our programs. We are now operating 5 clinics; two in the Southern region, one centrally located in Addis Ababa, and two located in the Northern region. All of our clinics now have fully outfitted laboratories, allowing us to not only test and counsel clients, but to connect them directly to the medical care and support that they need. This is a huge accomplishment for us, and we are proud to be one of the only NGOs offering these services at no cost to our clients.

It is with gratitude that I thank you, our supporters, for seeing us through to this point. Your support and generosity has allowed us not just to survive, but to thrive! The New Year is looking bright. Stay tuned, as always, to our newsletters for all the happenings, and come by and visit us anytime at our offices. We'd love to have you.

Best regards,

Kim Nichols
Co-Executive Director

News and Activities

Notes from the Field: Ethiopia in 2013

Happy holidays everyone! Things have been active at our five clinics, and with the end of the year, comes a little reflection on our accomplishments for 2013, our gratitude to all the partners that have made this year successful, and with always just a little bit of 'luck' involved.

What we are truly struck by this year is how much ASC has grown stronger through its partnerships. We are so fortunate to have amazing development partners that support the work we do here in Ethiopia. We would like to recognize a few of our partners for their unwavering support over this past year in our inaugural "Notes from the Field," as we look back on 2013:



BGI Ethiopia and Castel Wineries, one of our most long-standing and active partners, has been a supporter of our clinics including the Shola and Kombolcha clinics. They also were the primary benefactor in supporting the opening of our two clinics in the southern region of the country, Hawassa and Ziway. These clinics service almost 10,000 clients each year, and have given us a base in the South to expand our impact.

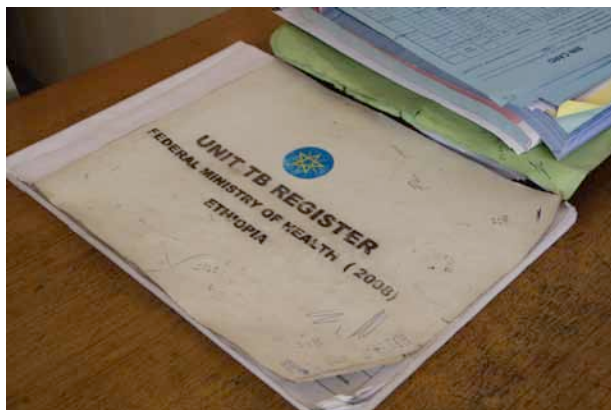


Ethiopian Health & Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) has been a strong supporter of our work, including assistance in maintaining our advanced lab equipment. Thanks to hard work and support from Ato Gunfan and Ato Teferi, laboratory professionals at EHNRI, ASC moved to the top of the list for repairs on our CD4 machines in Mekele. The total cost of repairs was estimated at around 120,000 birr (~\$6300), but with their help we were able to procure a new laser and the repair work for free. Our CD4 machine is back in working order, allowing us to monitor HIV+ clients and, if treatment-eligible, enroll them in our ART Treatment Program.

Notes from the Field: Ethiopia in 2013 (cont.)



Population Services International (PSI) and **DKT Ethiopia** have long assisted us with procurement of family planning and HIV prevention commodities. Every day, hundreds of men and women, including commercial sex workers, come to our clinics to obtain condoms and other methods of STD prevention and family planning. PSI recently extended their relationship with us and delivered over 400,000 condoms for distribution at our clinics, and DKT joined with them in giving an additional 50,000 condoms. Thanks to our partners, ASC has distributed over 4 Million condoms since our inception in 2003!



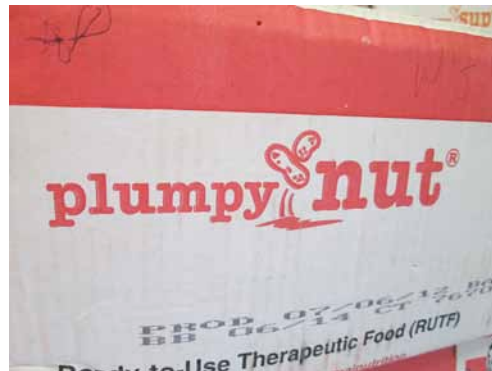
Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health and **Regional Bureau of Health of Tigray** are making it possible for us to move forward with additional testing programs at our site in Mekele. Tuberculosis (TB) is a major public health threat in Ethiopia, and thanks to our contacts at the health bureau, we were able to bypass a delay in access to TB medicines. We now have all the TB drugs we need and are moving forward with a widespread TB testing campaign in Mekele.



ICAP - Ethiopia is a new partner for African Services in 2013. ICAP (The International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs) is based out of Columbia University, a neighbor to our African Services' offices based in West Harlem. It is thanks to our newly formed partnership with ICAP that ASC was able to fully outfit our newest clinic, Ziway, with all the necessary laboratory equipment and supplies, and enabled us to start ART (Anti-Retroviral Treatment) services to HIV positive clients. These services include CD4 testing,

Notes from the Field: Ethiopia in 2013 (cont.)

sputum smear microscopy for TB, hematology and chemistry tests. Outside of the local hospitals, we are one of the only community-based organizations offering these tests at NO COST to our clients.



Save the Children is a new partner for ASC Ethiopia. We signed an agreement with them in 2012, and thanks to their supply of Plumpy'Nut and Plumpy'Sup, food substitutes and nutrition enrichment products for malnourished infants and children, we have seen dramatic improvement in the health of undernourished children at our clinics. We look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.



TOMS Shoes has been a valuable partner these past several years. In 2013 alone, we have distributed over 17,000 pairs of shoes to adolescents and children. It has been a gateway to get clients into the clinic and connect them to additional care, and has helped prevent parasitic infections in so many children, from going barefoot.



Vitamin Angels has been an amazing partner in Ethiopia for MANY years. With their support, ASC has been able to distribute hundreds of thousands of multivitamins to pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five. Without this help, these children would be unlikely to get the necessary vitamins and micronutrients from food intake alone, that they needed to foster healthy growth.

Notes from the Field: Ethiopia in 2013 (cont.)

We also want to thank **YOU**, our supporters, for all of your assistance over this past year. We heard so much about the New York City fundraiser in October, and hoped that you enjoyed the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of our beloved country. Please don't hesitate to come pay us a visit here in Addis, or in any of our clinics. We welcome you...and of course, there will always be "bunna" (coffee) waiting.

Thank you and god bless.

Best--

Hana W/Gebrial, Acting ASC Ethiopia Country Director

African Services Holiday Party Recap

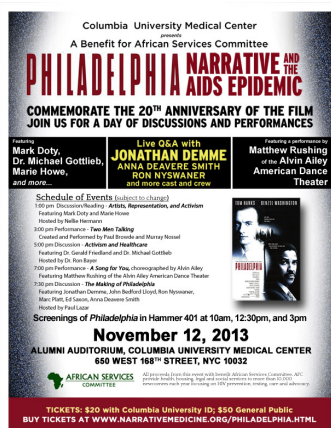
The African Services Holiday Party is the highlight of our year. It's a chance for us to give thanks to to our clients, staff, and supporters by joining together for a festive night of celebration, food, dancing and more. As the office fills to the brim with smiling faces, raucous laughter, and the sound of children as they run past, we can't help but smile to ourselves and be thankful for each and every person who is there to share in the festivities -- and reflective on those who couldn't be there in person.



We savored ethnic dishes from across the African and Caribbean Diaspora. We danced to the sounds of the Djembe players who entertain the crowd each year. We were also surprised and honored to have the attendance of Congressman Charles Rangel, who gave a rousing speech to the crowd.

Thank you to everyone who attended and for those who were there in spirit! It was a fantastic evening and we can't wait for December 2014 when we get to do it all over again!

Philadelphia 20 Years Later: Narrative and the Epidemic



In partnership with the Columbia School of Narrative Medicine, African Services was honored to be the beneficiary of their November event, "Philadelphia 20 Years Later: Narrative and the Epidemic." This event honored the historic and ground-breaking film, *Philadelphia*, starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington, and directed by Jonathan Demme.

This all day event featured panels by some of the leading doctors and activists of the Eighties, including a discussion and reading from Mark Doty and Marie Howe, a fantastic discussion on activism and clinical care

with Dr. Michael Gottlieb and Dr. Gerald Friedland, and an original dance performance by the Alvin Ailey American

Dance Theater. The highlight of the evening was the packed "Making of Philadelphia" panel, featuring the director, Jonathan Demme, the writer, Ron Nyswaner, and several producers of the film.

It was a fantastic event created to highlight a beautiful and heartbreaking film that survives in film activism archives as one of the most important shapers of public compassion for people with AIDS.

Thank you to the Columbia University Medical Center and the Narrative Medicine Program for choosing ASC as a beneficiary, and for allowing us to be a part of this amazing event.

Fun in the City

Asmahan Malow, ASC Communications Intern recommends...



Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution

From 1900 to 1960, Hollywood's greatest animators and biggest studios produced more than 600 cartoon shorts featuring black characters. These films reflected the racial stereotypes of the pre-Civil Rights Era, portraying blacks as less than human and as minstrel caricatures. It wasn't until the late 1960s and early 1970s that Saturday morning television cartoons featured black animated characters in a positive and realistic manner. Funky Turns 40, from the Museum of Uncut Funk, explores these black animated characters and the impact they had on a generation of young folk.

When: February 5th - June 14th, 2014

Where: Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard (at 135th Street)

For more information, visit their website [here](http://www.uncutfunk.com).

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