



WAAF Newsletter



Profile: Dr. Naa Ashley Vanderpuye

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Dr Naa Ashley is the head of IHCC and a specialist in HIV/AIDS and the management of ARV's. She sees between 25 and 47 outpatients a day, and has special eyes for undiagnosed symptoms. Most of all, she's become an expert with the clinical history and complications of the disease.

Nash, as affectionately called by colleagues and clients, has taken it upon herself to do everything possible to give hope, care and support to PLWHAs.

33 years old, she was born and raised in Ghana by her father (Ghanaian) and Mother (Dutch). She spent 10 years of her life in Pong Tamale in the Northern region of Ghana.

Her Father passed away when she was 14. She went to Achimota Secondary School and later left for the Netherlands with her Mother and three sisters. However she always had a dream of coming back:

"All along, my wish was to one day be able to return back to do something for my people. I was determined to learn hard and build up lots of experience which I would share with my fellow countrymen one day. I had always been interested in medicine and I knew as a medical Doctor, I would gradually be able to do a lot for my people back in Ghana".

She completed medical school in 1998 and went on to specialize in tropical medicine.



She started working at WAAF and IHCC in 2002. She is married to Mr. Eddie Donton (CEO of WAAF) and has two boys: Dane, 2 years and Shaun 2 months of age.

Reflecting on her experiences at WAAF, this is what she had to say:

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Services at WAAF:

- Confidential Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV
- Hospice Care
- Medical care and support
- Support Groups
- HIV/AIDS Education
- Community Outreach
- Counseling

WAAF Visits Canada

The Canadian Crossroads International and the West Africa AIDS Foundation entered into an agreement after several visits by the regional director Elizabeth Dove and Mr. Craig Anderson. The director of West Africa AIDS Foundation and the

Chairman of International health Care Centre followed suit and took a trip to Canada and visited the Canadian Crossroads International, our main partner organization. Subsequent meetings were arranged with Ontario AIDS Network, the AIDS

Committee of Toronto (ACT), PWA, Casey House (Hospice Care), Fife House, Africans in Partnership Against AIDS, HARS, PASAN, ASAP and a few others located in Toronto. Day one met with the

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Barclays Africa Donates to WAAF & IHCC



Barclays makes a generous contribution to our work.

Barclays on the 11th of august 2004 presented a cheque of 573 million Cedis to WAAF and IHCC at a ceremony in Accra. This follows an appeal made by the organizations to enable them provide care, support and treatment for their increasing number of clients at an affordable rate. Barclays Africa as part of it's cooperate responsibilities decided to join WAAF and IHCC in the fight against HIV/AIDS by providing funds for their programmes

especially voluntary counseling and testing which has proven to be an effective tool in controlling the spread of the disease.

In a speech, Mr. Malcom Hewitt, Managing Director of Core Business, Barclays Africa said

It is in line with this gesture, our desire and wish to see the total elimination of this potentially debilitating scourge eradicated that we are making this donation. We were told that you intend to set up new centers in

four other regions in the country while taking care of your original patients whose population has now risen from the initial 200 to 604.

We of Barclays Africa have taken to heart our community support activities in which we give out lots of money every year to charitable causes with education, the disabled and disadvantaged, public health and HIV/AIDS as our main targets.

Thank you, Barclays, for your generous support!

Eddigrant: an AIDS Orphan Who Needs Your Help

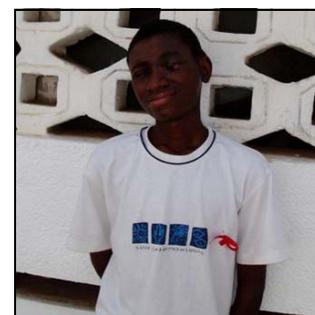
For Eddigrant, each day is a battle – against disease, against discrimination, against depression. His survival depends on strangers – people willing to fund his treatment.

Eddigrant Peprah is your typical 15-year old boy - his ideal day is spent bike riding, playing video games, and watching TV. But these simple activities are becoming increasingly difficult.

The TV screen comes in and out of focus, sometimes he misses the buttons on the game controller, and the doctors say he should no longer ride his bike down

Accra's winding dirt roads. Sometimes, he thinks he is going mad – there is a throbbing pain inside his head that will not go away.

Eddigrant has squamous cell carcinoma, the second most frequent type of skin cancer. The cancer has eaten away at his right eye, leaving only an exposed hole in the place of vision. The cancer is aggressive, but treatable-if



enough resources and willpower can be found.

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Cindy, a nutritionist volunteering at WAAF.

A Volunteer's Experience

Can you call it culture shock?

When we talk about culture shock, we think about foreigners' experiences when they come to Ghana for the first time. When they leave their advance country and loose their way at Makola Market, sit in the tro-tro through Nima or try to eat fufu

with their hands. But an "obruni" (white person) can also experience culture shock when she moves from Wa in the upper –west to Accra.

The upper-west is a region where many people are infected or affected by HIV, but where medical and social services are limited. Getting

basic medication, a doctor's advice or a shoulder to rely on is a struggle that the patients go through .The stigma and ignorance is so high, that working together with the persons who are positive is like watching the world with different eyes. Almost nobody knows what happening under

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Dr. Naa Profile (continued)

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"I have been working with WAAF/IHCC for two and a half years now. The work is not easy, I see clients and patients on a daily basis, not only with medical problems but with emotional, social etc and I have to make time or try as much as possible to help them. I do this as well as take care of my own family and at the end of every day, I get so exhausted. The work also gets me frustrated sometimes when you know you just don't have the means

to help a person out.

The appreciations I get from all clients is actually what keeps me going. Remarks like, God bless you, may your wishes come through all make me know that my efforts are appreciated and of course seeing patients getting better and feeling well is another motivation. If I had a chance to choose everything all over again in my life, this part I would definitely choose again".

Clearly this is not an easy path to walk but her unfettered

commitment and drive to turn some of our numerous problems into success stories have left a lasting impression on all those who have had the chance to meet her. This is truly a unique person who is living by the doctors oath of honour to serve mankind at all times. The optimization of goodness in humans is the closest one can come to describing her.



Staff & Volunteers in the field.

Voices Against AIDS

**December 3, 2004
Independence Square, Accra**

The World AIDS Week concert will be the culmination of a weeklong campaign throughout the country to mobilize the public to take a stand against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Various events such as meet the press, route match, fundraisers, educational programmes in schools, free VCT services in and around Accra targeting people within the ages of 17-49.

The concert will fuse action with activism, alternating popular local bands with short speeches from AIDS activists, government officials, and people living with HIV/AIDS. The time between the performances will also be utilized to honor those who have dedicated their lives to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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WAAF Visits Canada (continued)

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executive director of CCI and members of staff of OAN along with Craig Anderson and Elizabeth Dove the regional director.

The meeting focused on issues pertaining to partnership and exchange for the southern partner. A presentation by WAAF gave a broader view of our work in Ghana and a comparative analysis of prevalence rates in Ghana and West Africa.

Soon after the presentation we visited Casey house. There I had a chance to discuss policy and procedures and inpatient, community, and residential care.

Of particular note for me was the special room decorated with pictures and knitted messages to remember a patient who recently past away.

The CCI conference in Montreal reviewed a new CCI framework with input from its members. At the end of the conference a trip was taken to San Francisco to discuss a partnership with San Francisco AIDS Foundation, AID for AIDS Africa ACRC and to reconnect with friends and well wishers.

At the end of the 45 day trip, we debriefed our board on the conference and chose AIDS Committee Of London as a model partner and Your community AIDS Resource Network (PARN) as the second although it was a difficult decision.

We look forward for mutual relationship with our new partners.

by Eddie Dane Donton



"Of particular note for me was the special room decorated with pictures and knitted messages to remember a patient who recently past away."

-Eddie Donton

Eddigrant's Story *(continued)*

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Born in Coite d' Ivoire, Edigrant moved to Ghana with his mother when he was 3. She died shortly thereafter of AIDS. Edigrant has never met his father, and was raised instead by his grandmother and uncle in Accra. He doesn't remember too much about his mother, just that she worked at nights, so Edigrant stayed at friends' houses until she came home in the morning.

It was over a year ago that Edigrant began experiencing pains on the right side of his head, and that the cancer began manifesting itself physically. His family took him to Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, where he went through several stages of radiation, but was unable to complete the therapy because it was too expensive.

As a result, the cancer has entered a more aggressive

stage, making the need for treatment all the more urgent. And you can smell Edigrant's wound, the exposed flesh and facial tissues, the small sore on his cheek. The other day, a tro-tro driver refused to let Edmund board the bus because he said the smell of the cancer would disturb the other passengers.

Eddigrant wants to study law, medicine or science. But he recently had to drop out of school because he can no longer write. Each day is a battle – against disease, against discrimination, against depression. Survival for Eddigrant depends on strangers – people willing to fund his treatment.

For now, all he can do is wait.

To make a donation for Eddigrant, please contact us at (233) 21 761 294 or on our website, www.waafweb.org.

West Africa AIDS Foundation

14 Continental Road
Roman Ridge
Accra, Ghana

Phone: (233) 21 761 294
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www.waafweb.org



HIV/AIDS Education and Community Outreach

A Volunteer's Experience *(continued)*

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the surface.

Working at IHCC is the other way round. The multidisciplinary approach, the compassion, and attention for every patient, the provision of medication and the collaboration for ARV is something people in the northern region can only dream of.

And I hope that in future a system like this will come in time for people in the remote areas.

by Cindy

Voices Against AIDS Concert *(continued)*

(Continued from page 3)

The night will conclude with the symbolic lighting of a solitary candle on stage and then the lighting of 999 additional candles to demonstrate the swift spread of the pandemic.

In the stadium, WAAF will set-up a VCT booth, distribute information through pamphlets and flyers, and have condoms available. The concert itself will incorporate education not only through the diverse array of speakers, but also through a performance by Theater for change and the inter woven testimonials of

people living with HIV worldwide.

NGOs within Ghana and across West Africa will also be invited to attend/sponsor the concert.

This concert is a deep reflection of our commitment to fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the continuation of a mission that is directed towards the prevention and spread of the disease as well as the mitigation of its devastating impact on socioeconomic, political and cultural development of our dear nation and beyond

Popular Ghanain artists will include VIP, Tic Tac, Sidney,

Shasha Marlye, Abriwa Nana, Tinny, Soul Black, OKyeame Kwame, Obouk, Mobile Boys, and K.K. Fosu will all perform and support WAAF and HIV/AIDS education.

Concert Goals:

- Acquire a CD4 count machine for PLWHAs
- Translate public awareness about HIV/AIDS into behaviour change.
- Sensitize people about Stigma and discrimination against PLWHAs.
- Show a united front in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- Mobilize the artist community to target youth