

# Message from AHEAD's Chair

By: Charles Bitwayiki



Dear members, colleagues, and service users of AHEAD, Welcome to AHEAD'S annual report for the financial year 2003-2004. Like many other community and voluntary organisations, we have survived and thrived despite obstacles. The financial year started with a successful multi-agency event celebrating international women's day; and witnessed the launch of a new initiative, the African Access Project, which we are delivering in partnership with the Positive Place and ACIA, covering eleven South London Boroughs.

Working on the bid for that project and delivering the services has enabled AHEAD to work closer with partners, HIV specialist organisations and to link to South London HIV Partnership. We have also revised activities through community outreach and peer education programme.

One of our main challenges has been trying to secure suitable premises, and we are still looking for new premises. This challenge is faced by other voluntary organisations in this area. Another challenge is our quest to continue delivering key services, namely Welfare Rights Advise; despite a cut in statutory funding.

Lately we submitted a number of applications to various funding bodies and are awaiting response. We promise to continue to deliver excellent and accessible services to the community, and look forwards to continuing partnership and collaboration with both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Thank you

## **Staff, Volunteers and Board Members 2003-2004:**

### **Staff:**

Director: Dr. Nada Ali

Service Development Co-ordinator: Beatrice Humujuni-Smith

Advocacy and Welfare Rights Advisor: Stephen Lwerango

Health Promotion Worker (Outreach): Clay Ujanga.

Health promotion Worker (Client Support): Harriet Kyalimpa.

Refugee Development Co-ordinator: Ruth Renvoize.

Jambo Warehouse Manager: John Kalulanga.

Volunteers Coordinator: Paul Lam-Kilama.

Administrator and Finance Worker: Sharon Jamera.

### **Board of Trustees:**

Alben Munangi (Chair— until August 2004), Frederick Senyange (Treasurer), Judith Bigirwa (Secretary), Elizabeth Isanzu, Elizabeth Lubega, Sarah Nakalanzi, Justine Namutebi and Hazel Siringwani.

Volunteers: Proscovia Nankya, Edith Ntabyera, Constance Boti, Mary Kahara, Rose Amony, Kwangu Liwewe, Saumu Lwembe, Fred Mujaji, Bebe Ramazani, Fernance Amouna, Angeline Ble,

Clare Devlin—Placements from Goldsmith University; Mary Babiry—Placement Middlesex University, Abel Banda, Amanuel Hermon, Sattu Lansana—Placement University of Greenwich and Linet



## Direct Services @ AHEAD



### HEALTH PROMOTION/OUTREACH

The main purpose of the health promotion programme at AHEAD is to maximise awareness of HIV transmission, prevention and treatment among African communities in the local area, and to promote—in culturally relevant and accessible ways—behaviour and attitudes that protect and enhance the health and well being of individuals/families and communities

#### **Outreach**

This involved weekly outreach work at the Greenwich Community collage, University of Greenwich, Connexion in Bexley, Somali Youth Club in Woolwich, AHEAD's users Forum, Thamesmead Youth awareness Forum, GCRE and New Horizon at Ferrier Estate. The Events organized or attended during this period included Respect Festival; European year for Disable People, Multicultural Event, Carnival 365 and Black History Month.

We organised an 'away day' summer trip to Margate as one of the major annual events for the local community. This was an opportunity to reach out to a lot of people in the community to promote the work we do at AHEAD and awareness in the area of HIV/AIDS.

#### **World AIDS Day**

This event was held at the Town Hall in Woolwich, which was well attended by residents of Greenwich and Bexley Boroughs. The programme included a lecture by Dr. Sue Mitchell from the Trafalgar GUM Clinic at Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

### CLIENT SUPPORT:

Client Support at AHEAD mainly focuses on secondary prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS. The Client Support Worker offers various services including emotional support in times of crisis, practical support, hardship grants applications, referrals to other services, support for bereaved families, peer support and availing resources.

There has been an increase in the number of clients accessing the services at AHEAD. During the year under review, over fifty more families have been supported through this programme. This can be attributed mainly to the fact that recently there have been a relative increase in HIV testing (including antenatal testing), the service user forum and also great improvements in the referral system. However, we remain concerned about high incidents of late presentation within the African community; a concern that is shared by colleagues at the local GUM clinic.

#### **Service Users Forum**

The forum has been a major focus for client support work. A lot of progress has been made and the users have greatly benefited from group support. They have been able to share experiences and support each other in a safe environment while their children are looked after for the entire period of the support group. Clients also benefited from information provided regarding medication, healthy living, training, immigration and employment as well as health related activities including, complimentary therapy offered during the sessions. From the evaluation, 90% of the participants said the forum had been helpful in reducing isolation, adherence to medication, acquiring information and advice, emotional and peer support, healthier feeling, sharing experiences in a safe environment. Service users appreciate the fact that we provide this service and are very grateful for travel expenses reimbursement. We can now proudly say we run one of the most successful service user groups in London, where even African men who usually shy away from services feel comfortable to participate.

#### **Peer Support**

Peer support has been an important part of client support. All new clients are offered the option to talk to someone living with HIV. Majority take up the option; they reported that peer support helped them cope better with the diagnosis. Six volunteers have been involved in providing peer support to clients.

## ADVOCACY AND WELFARE RIGHTS

The Advocacy And Welfare Rights delivers a range of services to African communities affected and /or infected with HIV/AIDS.

### **SCHEME: ADVOCACY, ADVICE AND WELFARE RIGHTS**

Advice services are conducted to the requirements of the Community Legal Service Quality Mark Standard for General Help with Casework. We are still regulated and certified by the **Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)** to provide immigration advice up to Level 2 Casework. The number of clients is still on an upward trend

Services offered during the year included **Debt, Disability, Housing, Immigration Welfare Benefits and Health/Community Care**

#### **Casework at a glance:**

We had 650 inquiries in the year ending March 2004.

The number of nationalities seen at AHEAD now stands at 19 African, 2 Caribbean and 1 Asian country. Ugandans and Zimbabweans are the dominant users and this reflects the historical global picture of HIV/AIDS cases in sub Saharan Africa and the level of conflict and refugee influx. AHEAD continues to be a credible service organization that upholds the principles of service access around confidentiality, respect and trust for users of a highly stigmatized pandemic.

We also continue to examine other areas of need in the health field that greatly affect our communities and that are very often given low priority.

#### **Supporting Agencies:**

AHEAD would like to thank all the organisations and individuals who have supported our work during the year.

#### *Financial Support:*

Association of London Governments  
Big Lottery Fund  
Bexley Care Trust  
Greenwich PCT  
Greenwich Social Services  
South London HIV Partnership

#### *In Kind Support:*

AHEAD's Volunteers  
*Small grants givers to service users:*  
CWAC  
Crusaid Hardship Fund

#### **Expert Patient Programme:**

Fraderick Mujaji, a volunteer and Board member at AHEAD, trained to become a tutor for long-term health conditions. He initiated this programme at AHEAD in liaison with the Director and Client Support Worker. Each course runs for six consecutive weeks. The course is designed to help people with chronic conditions to manage their health conditions, boost their confidence and regain hope. From the evaluation, all participants found the course very helpful; they said they would recommend it to their friends and families. They also agreed that the course provided a learning environment within which they felt valued and supported. Therefore due to the needs of our community more courses are planned for the future. In the current year, Mujaji will develop and deliver three courses with funding from Greenwich Social Services.

Fraderick Mujaji was one of the winner of the award for outstanding contribution in terms of team working, best leadership and management in May 2005 from the Greenwich Primary Care Trust.

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## **Services Development @AHEAD**

### **Services Development 2003-2004**

The year 2003/2004 has been a successful year for the Services Development section and the team and for the collaborative work with the Direct Services team namely the health promotion, welfare rights, and African Access project. The period also marked the final stages of AHEAD's 1999 - 2003 Services Development Business Plan.

One of the key aims of the Services Development programme at AHEAD is to work towards the full integration of the diverse African communities in our catchment areas into the life of the organisation and secondly to include women reproductive health into the health promotion work and to build our capacity so as to provide alcohol and substance misuse services. This was successfully undertaken using the following methods during the year under review.

#### **Community Events**

The Services Development team in conjunction with the health promotion team, the refugee development coordinator and other external agencies organised various events during the year which attracted diverse communities and organisations that work with different refugee and asylum seekers communities, Africans in particular. These events were the Annual Refugee Week, the World AIDS Week, and the Black History month. These events acted as gateways for clients to access our services.

#### **Volunteering:**

The section continued with its targeted recruitment and development of volunteers from as diverse communities as possible (see volunteers co-ordinator's report). increase uptake of our services

#### **Training and Development:**

The Services Development team organised various workshops/training and seminars some in collaboration with the local Primary Care Trust Drug and Education and the Drugs Action Team mainly to create awareness in the community about drugs and alcohol and to build the skills of the staff, volunteers and Board of trustees in this area.

#### **Health Promotion**

During the year under review the Services Development section worked along side the health promotion team to consolidate the services by creating more access points through identification of more outreach posts in Bexley and Greenwich boroughs especially the new refugee communities in the areas.

#### **Development of Links and Network**

The services development team linked up and set networks and joined forums with relevant organisations both statutory and independent providers to benefit AHEAD in terms of influencing policies, capacity building and organisational development and good practice, improving access and equity for our target groups, advocating and campaigning on behalf of our clients.



2003/2004 has been a busy and exciting if fulfilling year for volunteering at AHEAD. During the year under review we continued to build and consolidate on the successes and plug some of the gaps that were identified during the previous two years the project has been running. Of significance have been the remarkable contributions the volunteers have made to the project both qualitative and quantitative.

One of our volunteers took part in an Expert Patient Programme course. The course covers nutrition, relaxation, exercise, problem solving and action planning for people with chronic illnesses. He has progressed to become a tutor and started running the same course after taking the relevant training. Positive volunteers have been instrumental in running our successful bi monthly Users Forum. Other tasks conducted include administration, taking part in meetings, note taking, organising and wo/manning stalls, in addition to many other tasks.

With the launch of the African Access Project in November 2003, where a part time volunteers co-ordinator has been appointed to organise volunteering for the project within AHEAD, ACIA and Positive, Place, there has been an increase in joint work between the volunteer projects of the three organisations. During the year we held joint induction training for volunteers attached to African Information Access Project. We carried out joint recruitment and interview of new volunteers, conducted joint group supervision. I cannot over emphasise the importance of joint working in terms of sharing good practice.

A recent volunteer consultation carried out by AHEAD found that training and sense of belonging featured highly in responses from the volunteers among the benefits they have gained from AHEAD. We are grateful to the various training providers notably the NHS Health First, Queen Elisabeth Hospital Sexual Health/HIV Training and Education Department, Evelyn Oldfield Unit and Volunteers Greenwich for the quality training they provided to our volunteers during the year.

AHEAD continued to host students on job placements from Universities like University of London Goldsmith College, Middlesex University and we are proud to offer this service and also very grateful for input these students have provided to AHEAD in the course of their placements.

### **AFRICAN INFORMATION ACCESS PROJECT**

The project started in October 2003. It involves provision of information and support by carrying out face-to-face assessment of needs and emotional support. All outreach sessions are focused on Africans using GUM clinics and community settings; who are not accessing services available to those living with HIV/AIDS.

Settings for this service during the period under review include the Alexis GUM clinic at Lewisham Hospital and the Trafalgar GUM Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Greenwich. During this period, the worker also carried out intensive outreach to secure venues and settings within community organisations, CAB offices or other relevant institutions. The project continues to provide valuable services to the African community in South London.

## **REFUGEE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SOLAR C)**

Initially named The Southern Outer-London Action with Refugee Communities (SOLAR C), the refugee programme was set up as a consortium of refugee organisations and voluntary service councils across Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich Boroughs. It was funded by Association of London Government (ALG) and managed by AHEAD.

With the end of the project, the steering committee of SOLAR C invited three member refugee organisations to bid for the project to be one of its programmes. AHEAD was successful and as such SOLAR C became AHEAD's Refugee Development Programme. AHEAD was successfully awarded an ALG grant thus ensuring the continual development and support for refugee groups within Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich Boroughs.

### **Small Grants Scheme**

During this financial year, we ran a small summer grants scheme in which six groups received funding. Three groups from Greenwich, two from Bromley and one from Bexley received the grants. Through this funding children and young people were able to take part in various activities including holiday clubs, a football programme, visit to Godstone Children's farm, celebrating a cultural event with traditional dance, and providing community awareness on issues such as anti social behaviour, drug awareness and substance misuse. One of the groups provided events to help women know about health lifestyles. SOLAR C also funded Refugee Week Activities.

### **Strengthening And Encouraging Refugee Groups**

The Refugee Development Co-ordinator supported refugee groups within Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich Boroughs through visits and phone support. This work included providing funding information, support with fundraising, preparing budgets and monitoring and evaluation systems, support management committees of the groups and also included practical help in developing adverts, annual reports, and networking groups together.

### **SOLAR C News**

Seven information sheets of SOLAR News were produced. This clear and readable news sheet provided information relating to relevant funding opportunities and training courses as well as other practical information. These were sent to about fifty groups and organisations and were well received by the groups.

### **Networking And Influencing Policy**

The Refugee Development Co-ordinator was re-elected to be the chair representative for the Greenwich Refugee Community Network. Through this work she has worked with refugee groups in Greenwich to consider Employment and Education needs providing information to the council and service providers through the Greenwich Partnership.

The Refugee Development Coordinator also attended various meetings. They included: Bromley Refugee Partnership, GLABB, Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich Councils for Racial Equality, Bexley Voluntary Service Forum, Bromley Ethnic Minority Community Network, Bromley Health Development Service, Bromley Refugee Partnership, Children's Fund steering group meeting for refugees and asylum seekers, Greenwich Black History Month, Greenwich Community College, Greenwich Voluntary Action Council, Greenwich Multi Agency Social Inclusion and Justice Forum, Metropolitan Police Community Relations meeting, LGA Think London Conference, LDA refugees and asylum seekers network conference and University of East London Refugee Council launch and conference and Refugee Integration conference.

The Refugee Development Co-ordinator took part some of the planning activities for Refugee Week 2003 and co-organised a consultation on behalf of Greenwich Social Inclusion and Justice Division. A day event was organised, marking the transition of the project.

## TREASURER'S REPORT *for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004*

By Frederick Senyange

AHEAD had a reduction in our funding base from two funders for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. We realized a gross income of £316,178 which is approximately 13.5% down on year 2003 .

Our major Funders have been the Greenwich & Bexley PCT, Greenwich Council Social Services, The Big Lottery Fund, The South London HIV Partnership and The Association of London Governments.

Direct Charitable expenditure plus Management & Administration of the Charity totalled £333,747 of which £165,500 was un-restricted and £168,247 restricted. This overspent against our gross income of £316,178 left us with a deficit of £17,569 on current year.

We managed to finance this deficit through our reserves balance of £112,382 brought forward from year 2003 to a reduced amount of £94,813 of which £76,090 is restricted and £18,723 held to our Contingency fund.

Due to a reduction in our funding, we have had to use a lot of our Contingency fund hence a balance of £18,723 being un-restricted. We are looking into various channels to increase our resources and to diversify our funding sources.

### 2003 - 2004 Summary Financial Statements:

Year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March	2004		2003	
	General	£	Restricted	£
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Grants	148,795	155,730	174,250	175,659
Hardship awards (Crusaid) 0		10,043	0	7,850
Minor Awards	500		0	5,750
Bank Deposit Interest	1,110		0	2,251
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>150,405</b>		<b>165,773</b>	<b>182,251</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>				
Direct Charitable	121,829	129,416	72,793	154,838
Management & Admin.	43,671		38,831	109,343
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>165,500</b>		<b>168,247</b>	<b>182,136</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(15,095)</b>		<b>(2,474)</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	<b>18,723</b>		<b>76,090</b>	
<b>Financed by:</b>				
<b>Opening Reserves</b>	<b>33,818</b>		<b>78,564</b>	
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for year</b>	<b>(15,095)</b>	<b>(2,474)</b>		

The above Financial Information has been extracted from AHEAD's full Report and Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004. The summarised accounts have been agreed by our Auditors , D Stocker & Co, as being consistent with the full financial statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003. These were prepared in accordance with SORP2000 – "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Companies Act 1985 and received an unqualified opinion.

The summarised accounts may not contain all the information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of AHEAD. For further information, the full Financial Statements & Independent Auditors' Report should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from AHEAD's office.

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