

# The ONE Summit

May 2009



*“An ancient African theologian, St. Augustine of Hippo, famously defined the essential moral and spiritual problem of all time as our tendency to let our interests curve in upon ourselves. The ONE summit, however, presents a refreshing and humanizing alternative. Bringing together dedicated young people from around the world to establish genuine international community is nothing less than laying the foundation for a just and humane world order. This is about hope and a new future. It is simply right.”* —William W. Rankin, Ph.D., M.P.P. President, Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to just over 10% of the world’s population –and 60% of all people living with HIV. In 2004, an estimated three million people in the region became newly infected and 2.2 million died—75% of the three million AIDS deaths globally that year<sup>1</sup>.

These shocking statistics reveal that nearly 50,000 people die of AIDS in Africa every week, many of whom are the parents of young children. By the end of 2003, there were an estimated 1.8 million orphans living in Nigeria, 650,000 in Kenya and 980,000 in Zimbabwe, and these numbers are expected to rise.<sup>2</sup> Sadly, AIDS-related stigma and discrimination often lead to social isolation both of those caring for orphans and of the vulnerable children themselves, leaving millions of young children—most of whom are not even afflicted by the AIDS virus—bereft of any form of psychosocial and economic support.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, “If you know a problem exists and you do nothing, you then become part of that problem.” The “Q” Fund has chosen to become part of the solution. We are seeking \$250,000 from corporations, private and public foundations and individuals to

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNAIDS Epidemic Update, 11/2004.

<sup>2</sup>Source: Avert.org

fund, promote and undertake the ONE Summit—a global initiative in support of sub-Saharan African children orphaned by disease. The objective of the **ONE Summit** is to harness and mobilize the tenacity and enthusiasm of tomorrow's promising new world leaders—our children—to construct a future for some amazing and courageous children in Africa. The ONE Summit will offer a group of pioneering individuals of diverse racial, religious, and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to reach for and summit Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro. As they journey to the top of the highest peak in Africa, these new leaders will not only symbolize the emergence of a new voice in the fight against the spread of the disease, poverty and illiteracy, they will reaffirm their commitment to becoming a generation of caretakers, through voice, action and deed for the overwhelming numbers of African children orphaned by neglect. One promising student from the region will be granted a scholarship to climb with us.

Beginning in summer 2009 and continuing for five years, the “Q” Fund will select youth (20 to 65 years young) from around the world to participate in the ONE Summit. During the climb, these leaders will learn how to collaborate with others from a variety of ethno-cultural, political, religious and social backgrounds and to view all people as members of one global community.

The first annual trek to the summit of Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro will take place in 2010 (date to be determined.) This inaugural trek will be open to a world-wide audience, as each embarks on their climb together, summiteers will be challenged to look beyond obvious differences in background, appearance, traditions and language, and foster a sense of trust, reliance upon, and respect for those with whom they mark their symbolic journey to the heights of their inner humanity.

## **The Q Fund**

The “Q” Fund is a 501(C)3 tax exempt global enterprise (Tax ID: 93.1323840) that began in 2000 when its founder, Chellie Kew, first witnessed the daily tragedies unnaturally imposed upon the lives of African children orphaned by disease. Her book, *African Journal: A Child's Continent* is a photojournalistic account of vulnerable children and their struggle for survival. As Kew's eyes were opened to the devastation of poverty and disease that threatens the very existence of the African continent, she drew tremendous inspiration from the courage, grace and spirit of the thousands of vulnerable children she met in squatters' camps, refugee villages and homeless shelters throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Many of the children have transcended their most basic survival needs to assume responsibility as the new “elders” of their communities. Ostracized and outcast by society, these children often care for a multitude of younger siblings while themselves coping with overwhelming loss and suffering.

In 2004, Kew received the prestigious Giraffe Award for her humanitarian efforts. Her book was widely acclaimed as an important contribution to bringing light to the dire situation faced by African orphans. Moreover, book sales provided an initial source of capital for the “Q” Fund.

In 2008 Kew was chosen out of 100 humanitarians worldwide to be part of the Public Broadcasting series with Hugh Downs in “Heroes of Hope”.

The Q Fund transforms worldviews and attitudes toward children orphaned by disease by empowering and fostering the growth of young leaders who will champion this cause and carry the “one humanity” vision into the future.

***The Q Fund envisions a world of children awakened to their inherent sense of value and purpose.***

***The Q Fund’s mission is to collaborate with communities in turmoil and build school-centered, self-sustaining environments that nurture, educate and empower vulnerable children by honoring diversity, cultivating creativity, and fostering respect for the earth.***

## **Current and past Q-Fund Initiatives**

*Supporting existing orphanages* including the Othandweni orphanage in the heart of Soweto, Johannesburg, RSA that cares for babies abandoned in the streets after parents have died from AIDS.

*Building and supporting community schools* including The “Q” Fund’s flagship school, Chimoza Community School in Ndola, Zambia which serves 500 students and their community we also partially funding the Ngererit School in the Rift Valley, Kenya, helping 4000 students and their community. The “Q” Fund encourages traditional and vocational studies that teach life skills to empower youth and women. These schools also provide education about HIV and AIDS in an effort to diminish superstition and stigma. In addition, the “Q” Fund supplied schools with books, desks, clothing, uniforms, shoes, sewing machines, gardening tools, seed and farm animals and free nutritious school lunches. Moreover, it pays teachers’ salaries and school fees for orphans who are barred from participating in government schools because they have no living relatives who can accept responsibility.

*Implementing food and water programs*, reaching 20000+ children and their communities in Mozambique, Malawi, the Congo, Kenya, Zimbabwe, including the program in Ndola, Zambia.

*Creating the **ONE Summit***, a program designed to empower young adults to effect worldwide change in beliefs and attitudes about children orphaned by poverty, disease and overpopulation in Africa.

*Creating the One March:* The One March Campaign is in its 4th year allowing youth within the U.S. school system and abroad to transform the lives of many thousands of vulnerable children around the world -- as they themselves are transformed and become energized to serve.

## **The Challenge**

Nowhere on earth are living conditions more dire than in AIDS-plagued Africa. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan describes the toll that HIV/AIDS pandemic has taken on the children of Africa as “a terrifying pattern.” The number of AIDS-affected orphans in sub-Saharan Africa is now roughly equal to the entire childhood population of the United Kingdom; the Zambian media report that nearly ten percent of the country’s 10 million citizens are orphaned children. Other staggering statistics paint an even more horrifying picture.

### ***Impact of AIDS on African Children***

*To date, an estimated 14 million children have been left behind by parents who have died from AIDS. By 2010 the number of orphans in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to rise to more than 18 million.*

*In South Africa, the number of orphans is expected to increase from 2.2 million (12% of all children) in 2003 to 3.1 million (18% of all children) by 2010.*

*In Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, without antiretroviral programs, the average life expectancy is predicted to drop to below 35 years.*

*Source: United Nations, 2004.*

In many African countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi most adults have died from disease, leaving no one to care for their children. As these children band together to care for one another, the eldest often resort to prostitution in a desperate attempt to earn money to buy food for their new “families.”

This problem is exacerbated by an enormous amount of misinformation about poverty, and diseases like HIV and AIDS among the African people. Of even greater concern is that extensive research shows that social stigmas prevent governments and communities from effectively responding to the orphan problem, hindering the emotional recovery of affected children themselves (Stein, 2003). Stigma and discrimination also intensify a serious violation of these children’s rights—in particular, their access to education, social services, and community and familial support. With AIDS is on the rise in Africa, we can only expect this problem to worsen. As an example: Imagine if you will 10 years out, who do you believe will be the individuals to kick up weapons against those how have much.

Medical treatment is prohibitively expensive and unavailable for the majority of the African population, leaving education as the only sustainable preventative treatment. Yet awareness about the importance of education in preventing the spread of disease is a

relatively new concept in Africa, since many of its countries initially considered the disease to be solely a medical problem.

## **ONE summit**

During a North American book tour, Kew addressed students around the nation. Time after time as she related her personal experience, she was struck by the compassion with which her comments were met. She saw within these young people a determination and a call to action as, in city after city, they asked the same questions: "*Why is this issue not on the front cover of every major newspaper across the country and the world?*" and "*What can we do to help?*" With earnestness and passion many students pooled together money that was later used to purchase school desks for the children of Chimoza. It then became clear to Kew that these students needed no mandate; they wanted to be actively involved. It is they who are the inspiration for the ONE Summit.

The ONE Summit will enable participants to see a broader vision of our world while remembering we come from the same family tree that grows out of the very heart of Africa. The ascent of Kilimanjaro is not in itself the destination, but beginning of a life-long human journey in which the participants will develop a deeper understanding of their individual roles as global citizens.

## **The Logistics**

In summer 2009 we will begin to accept applications from men and women from around the world. Our inaugural summit will begin with 10 individuals and will run for the next five years.

Each applicant must submit an essay which details what she or he believes they will bring to the ONE Summit experience, and what she or he believes it means to "widen the aperture for a new global vision." Participants will be selected based on this essay, and letters of recommendation from community leaders that attest to his or her character and leadership qualities. Each participant will then be required to submit detailed plans for raising \$20,000— necessary to make this journey/program possible. The "Q" Fund will work with the individuals (if needed) to help raise this money. Some fund raising programs currently under consideration include: raffles, engraved bricks, potluck dinners, car washes, t-shirt sales, "International **One March** for the Children", talent shows, note-card sales, plant sales, money jars, dinner fund-raisers with a live or silent auction. 100% of matching corporate/foundation funds are to be used to build a better life for the extraordinary children in sub-Saharan Africa by building communities school based on a self sustaining enterprise.

In addition to fundraising strategies, each summiteer will be expected to organize on a local level a "One March" to bring awareness to the crisis affecting African children. Because of

the wide variety of geographical settings from which participants will be chosen, each climber may select the date of her march, with the stipulation that it must take place prior to a date, to be determined, in 2010. The “Q” Fund will provide support and “how-to” information for organizing these events. The cost to enter our “One March”© is \$1.00 per participant. The design is to open schools to their community at large, inviting entire families’ to walk together for one hour. The first 30 minutes will be in silence, imagining a world where the vast majority of its children do not have access to education, while after, 30 minutes in silence, imagining a world when every children receives a quality education, all the while raising awareness to the children of Africa as well as generating funds. Financial support to Africa has drastically dropped since January 2005.

For the 2010 ONE Summit, the “Q” Fund is seeking ten \$10,000 matching corporate grants, one for each participant who is currently a student. These funds will allow for a mixture of young climbers as well as seasoned individuals to come together in unity for a remarkable cause and an extraordinary event.

Each climber will sign a binding agreement with the “Q” Fund to formulate and submit a detailed post-Summit plan of action, which must be received and approved by the “Q” Fund Board of Directors no later than January 31, 2009. This plan will specifically detail how the participant plans to communicate her experience in a way that fosters within her community an awareness of and response to the African orphan crisis.

We believe these requirements will ensure that only those willing to wear the mantle of a true leader will accept the ONE Summit challenge. We feel it will also generate high visibility and positive publicity for the school in attendances as well the corporations willing to back ONE Summit climbers.

## **THE VISION – 2010 and beyond**

Beginning in 2010, we will sponsor an annual international conference for those who have participated in the Kilimanjaro climb. Our summit will be hosted by those countries who express a deep commitment to fostering the development of a global vision. The week-long meeting will provide a forum for team building exercises, and will also enable these young leaders to have face-to-face planning and strategy sessions with members of the international community who have demonstrated exceptional vision and implementation in their humanitarian efforts. The goal will be for each individual participant to begin to expand his or her vision of “One people, One voice, One humanity, One world” to the international community. By sharing what each has achieved on a local level, these young leaders will engage in brainstorming sessions to forge well-defined collaborative efforts that continue to “widen the aperture” for a new world vision.

*“ In one of the first reports from a global coalition to make 2005 a year of action against poverty, Oxfam International has called on rich countries to live up to their promises to provide resources and opportunities to achieve the "Millennium Development Goals" adopted unanimously by the United Nations in September 2000. Making this finance available is "both a moral obligation and a matter of justice."*

*—Oxfam International*

The needs of an entire generation of African children have never been greater. The ONE Summit is the conduit that will erase the distance between these orphans and those of us blessed by our country of birth. Now, more than ever, is the time for us to become one people, one voice, one humanity, one world.

---

This document may be downloaded from [www.qfund.org/docs/onesummit.pdf](http://www.qfund.org/docs/onesummit.pdf)

The Q fund – [www.qfund.org](http://www.qfund.org)

One Summit – [www.qfund.org/onesummit.html](http://www.qfund.org/onesummit.html)