

Education. Treatment. Hope.

## On the Ground in Cameroon

October 2009

### • Dr. Blaauw treats patients in Cameroon

CAAA's Medical Director, Dr. Bernie Blaauw, has been volunteering his time and expertise as an HIV/AIDS specialist since the start of our programs in 2006. The initial developer of our medical program, he spent a total of six months treating close to 700 patients at the Presbyterian Health Centre in Kumba in 2008. He returned to the Kumba clinic in 2009 to continue his work in the clinic.

### • Cameroon America AIDS Alliance Clinic is official

In October 2008, the Cameroon government recognized the CAAA clinic in Kumba as an official HIV/AIDS treatment center, enabling Dr. Blaauw to receive four state-provided HIV/AIDS medications needed for patients. Previously, Dr. Blaauw "bartered" his services at other clinics in exchange for these critical medications.



Dr. Bernie Blaauw treats children and adults at the CAAA clinic in Kumba, Cameroon.

### • CD4 machine measures treatment progress

The CAAA clinic in Kumba has an onsite CD4 machine that measures the progress of HIV in patients. By determining how well treatment is working, Dr. Blaauw can tailor future treatments and provide the best care possible.

### • Conference held for church leaders

CAAA sponsored a four-day educational conference in Kumba during 2008 for church pastors and women congregational leaders. As a result, they will teach their church members about HIV/AIDS and help to prevent the disease and alleviate the stigma associated with it. Highlights were broadcast throughout Cameroon.



Kumba residents at CAAA clinic in Cameroon

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### ABOUT US

**Cameroon America AIDS Alliance (CAAA)** is working with local partners in Cameroon, Africa, to help stem the spread of HIV/AIDS and alleviate the physical and psychological devastation of the disease.

Using bold, innovative programs, CAAA helps individuals and organizations better understand and respond to the AIDS epidemic through prevention, education, testing, treatment, counseling and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Seeking to be a beacon of light and hope, CAAA is committed to operating a highly effective programmatic model that, in time, will be replicated in other African nations in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

## On the Ground in Chicago

- **New 2009 Matching Grant of \$10,000 received**

An anonymous donor has given CAAA a \$10,000 matching grant donation. For every \$2 received from other donors, the grant will match it with \$1. With this new grant, CAAA has the potential to raise \$30,000 in 2009. Be sure to let potential donors know of this new fundraising program.

- **New CAAA Board Officers**

Marilynn Gason, a Fourth Church member, was elected President of the Cameroon America AIDS Alliance Board of Directors. She takes over that role from Chris Valentine. Chris, who helped to start up CAAA, will continue as Chairman of the Board.

- **CAAA fundraiser a success!**

CAAA held its first fundraising event close to a year ago. More than 110 people attended despite competition from the vice-presidential debate and a Cubs playoff game. Held at the lovely Ivy Room at the historic Tree Studios in Chicago, the event raised \$26,000, and an additional \$26,000 was received as part of a \$50,000 matching grant from Actelion Pharmaceuticals US. Many thanks to all members of the event committee for their efforts.

- **Major Donor**

A new member of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago recently donated \$10,000 to CAAA. This generous donation will help many HIV/AIDS patients and their caregivers in Cameroon to lead more productive lives.

- **Actelion Pharmaceuticals donated \$50,000 in 2008**

For the second year in a row, Actelion Pharmaceuticals US expressed its commitment for the work of CAAA with a \$50,000 donation. Thanks to Dr. Kelly Lewis and friends who helped to make this happen in 2007 and 2008.

- **Executive Service Corps leads strategic retreat for CAAA**

The CAAA Board of Directors and members of its Working Group met in an all-day retreat led by the Executive Service Corps. Among the accomplishments of that retreat were a revised mission statement and a comprehensive strategic plan for the organization.

### Northwestern Memorial Hospital Donation

#### Medical Equipment Arrives Safe and Sound

#### at Kumba Clinic

Medical equipment donated to CAAA by Northwestern Memorial Hospital safely arrived in Cameroon in 2008. It has been put to good use in our clinic and the PCC hospital where the clinic is located.



Dr. Francis Ntowe of CAAA, Dr. Christopher Neba, Medical Director, and Mr. Edward Chenui, Hospital Director, organize new medical equipment at Kumba Clinic.



**“CAAA is planning for the future with a new long-term strategic plan.”**

#### New Biochemistry machine put to use

The Presbyterian Church of Cameroon purchased a new Biochemistry machine and all of its reagents in 2008, for use by Dr. Blaauw and colleagues in the Kumba clinic. The church is committed to making our work in Cameroon sustainable.

**“To ensure that donations of equipment and other valuable items reach their intended destination in Africa, you need close coordination in country,” said Dr. Francis Ntowe, CAAA Executive Director.**

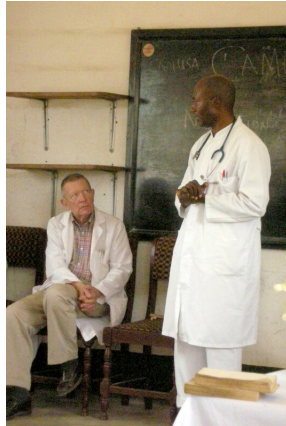
## Dr. Blaauw Trains Local Staff at Kumba Clinic



Dr. Blaauw (left) reviews CD4 machine details with dedicated lab technicians at the CAAA Kumba Clinic.

Dr. Bernie Blaauw's role as medical director of the CAAA clinic in Kumba includes ongoing training of the local staff.

He also gives lectures and attends regional meetings in Cameroon focused on both treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS.



Dr. Blaauw and Dr. Anthony lecture at the PCC clinic in Manyemen.

## Planning for New Medical Center

Working Group member and architect Jennifer Pierce produced a space plan for the medical center CAAA plans to build in the future.

While in Cameroon last year, Jennifer gathered site measurements and interviewed medical personnel regarding their space needs. She traveled to Cameroon with CAAA Executive Director Francis Ntowe along with other Fourth Church members on a mission trip.

## Medical Books Donated by Rush College of Nursing

More than 700 pounds of medical books, donated to the Kumba Clinic by the Rush College of Nursing in Chicago, will be used by health care workers at our clinic.

## CAAA Plans for 2009-2010

Future plans for Cameroon America AIDS Alliance include:

### • Educational Conferences

Sponsoring educational conferences for pastors, women congregational leaders and health care professionals to help prevent HIV/AIDS and reduce the stigma caused by the disease.

### • Cameroonian Physician

Continuing our efforts to hire a full-time Cameroonian physician who will train and work with Dr. Blaauw at the Kumba clinic.

### • Trips to Cameroon

Coordinating and leading trips to Cameroon for people interested in CAAA, to see first-hand the work we are doing and meet the wonderful people of this country.

### • Site Plan

Continuing to develop the site plan for a new medical center through the work of our building committee.

### • Fundraising

Establishing a strong fundraising team for our continuing work in Cameroon.

Join CAAA and  
Help us achieve  
our goals.

Be a part of our future!

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## Cameroon America

### AIDS Alliance

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Dr. Francis Ntowe  
Executive Director



**CAMEROON  
AMERICA  
AIDS ALLIANCE**

Education. Treatment. Hope.

[www.preventaidsafrica.org](http://www.preventaidsafrica.org)

## CAAA Board of Directors

Constance M. Benrud

Andrew Buchanan

Marilynn J. Cason

Dr. Nyambi Ebie

Carol Gates

Kelly Lewis

Jan Lohs

Dr. Francis Ntowe

Linda O'Brien

Patrick O'Brien

Christopher Valentine

### Communications

Amy Bacon Volpe

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## Ways You Can Help

### Donate

Be part of our new \$10,000 matching grant by donating in 2009-2010. For every \$2 you donate, an additional \$1 will be received from our donor.

CAAA needs your help to continue our programs – you can donate by sending a check to our address or making an online donation at our web site:

[www.preventaidsafrica.org](http://www.preventaidsafrica.org)

Any donation is appreciated and will be used to fund treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

### Volunteer

You can get involved NOW in one of the following ways:

- Help plan 2009 fundraising events and activities
- Submit the names of potential new board and/or working group members
- Join our marketing and communications committee
- Pitch stories to news media about Dr. Bernie Blaauw's work in Cameroon, how Dr. Francis Ntowe founded CAAA and the work of other volunteers at our clinic in Cameroon.

## CAAA Mission

To control the spread of AIDS by establishing a sustainable program of education, prevention and treatment in partnership with the people of Cameroon.