



# Lending helping hands

PARTNERS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

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## Rotary International Partners with PIDE

Partners for International Development and Education (PIDE) will begin the implementation of its new project called the Adopt-A-High School (AAHS) global project in February 2006 as part of our youth intervention program in Nigeria. The AAHS global project will employ "real time" technology via videoconferencing and will involve secondary or high schools in the United States of America (USA) and Nigeria.

These two countries were chosen for the pioneer launching of the AAHS global project because PIDE is currently operational in them. Two schools have already been chosen to participate in the first phase of this program - Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio, Texas and Funtaj International School in Abuja, Nigeria.

The goal of the AAHS global project is to narrow the cultural divide in the global community, one to two countries at a time. The AAHS global project is specifically designed to engage youths in discussions that will foster an awareness of cultural diversities and similarities.

To this end, the AAHS global project is envisioned to provide cultural diversity awareness to youths in the USA and Nigeria. The project will also incorporate creative and time management skills, team work, communication and organizational skills, and development of friendships across the globe.

The project will also involve the use of music, dramatic skits, comedy, popular TV games shows (Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, What's My Line, etc.) as well as visual aides.

The vision of PIDE for this project is to contribute to the improvement of global relationships through development of global partnerships to foster better understanding. While several programs are underway to achieve these goals, one of the objectives of PIDE is to safe-



From left are Ms. Jackie Parsons, President of Stone Oak Rotary, Mr. Oluagba Omosowofa, Chairman and CEO of PIDE and Mr. Douglas Whinnery, Governor of Rotary District 5840.

guard the future generations of the global community. The youth of today are more technologically savvy than those of yesteryears, however, no more exposed to cultural diversity. The youth of today live in a more dangerous world from pandemics to natural disasters and terrorism.

The advent of a powerful media industry does little to promote the positive aspects of a diverse global environment. Therefore, fears of a diseased world, torn by chaos and mistrust, which is fostered by terrorists would be crippling if it were not for a focused effort to create a positive medium where awareness can be fostered and the appreciation and understanding of diversity can be nurtured.

## 2005 World AIDS Day - PIDE mobilizes communities in Delta State to make the promise

World AIDS Day (WAD) celebration dates back to 1998 after the AIDS virus was first discovered in the 80's. The day which was set aside by the United Nations to remind the world and measure the progress made and issues arising from the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December of every year. The theme of this year's WAD is "STOP AIDS: KEEP THE PROMISE".

As part of activities to celebrate the day in Delta State, PIDE, in collaboration with Society for Family Health (SFH) Benin Field Office, the Isoko North Local Action Committee on AIDS (LACA) and the Delta State Ministry of Health carried out strategic activities aimed at mobilizing the local Government councils, communities, youths, parents, clubs/unions, faith-based organizations to make the promise to stop the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The five day program started with visits and discussions with traditional rulers, community leaders, community development associations, clubs, schools and the faith based community.

A major activity during the course of the five days was the trail rally carried out in Isoko North and South Local Government Areas of Delta State on the 1<sup>st</sup>, December. The rally witnessed the active participation of over 100 persons drawn from different communities in the two LGAs of Isoko North and South, students of the Delta State Polytechnic, National Youth Service Corps members, Man 'O' War, the Boys Scouts and representatives of the

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**People  
Living With  
HIV/AIDS  
have a right  
to be cared  
for.**

### Rotary International Partners with PIDE Contd:



Members of the Interact Club, Ronald Reagan High School and the Rotary International District 5840.



Some of the students from Funtaj International that will be participating in the AAHS Project

Rotary International, a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian services and the Rotary Foundation partnered with PIDE to carry out a needs assessment in Nigeria and San Antonio Texas. The needs assessment which was chaired by Omosowofa Oluagba from the USA also identified schools and partners that would participate in the other phases of the project. Rotary International, which encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps to build goodwill and peace in the world, believes this project can be used to nurture the participants to be better world citizens and create a better future. The Stone Oak Rotary Club of San Antonio acted as the Host Rotary Club in this great collaboration. The AAHS project kicks off in February in Abuja and San Antonio, Texas. If you are interested in partnering with us in this project or you want more information about the AAHS project, please check our website or contact any of our offices.

### 2005 World AIDS Day continued

faith-based community. Other participants were members of Isoko North LACA and staffs from the Primary Health Care Department. Officials of the Delta State Ministry of Health that participated in the rally were Mrs. Irobo, outgoing HIV/AIDS coordinator; Mrs. Okoro, HIV/AIDS coordinator; Dr. Majero, Director of Primary Health Care; Mrs. Nwado, M&E Officer; and Mrs. Okpoto, the State Nutritionist. The media was also not left out of the rally as Mr. Austin Ubido from Delta State Broadcasting Corporation and a correspondent from the Isoko Vanguard covered the occasion.

The trail rally started from Delta State Polytechnic campus, Ozoro where a bill board produced by PIDE with HIV/AIDS messages was unveiled. The trail passed through Owhegbo junction, a very busy spot in Ozoro, to Urude community and stopped at the Alla Square, the commercial center of Isoko North Local Government Area.

The rally continued to Oleh, the headquarters of Isoko South Local Government Area through NDC road in Ozoro. At Oleh, the trail rally passed through ICB junction to Nyanga market, a very busy area in Isoko South Local Government Area, to Kefas road in Oleh before returning to Ozoro. The trail rally was addressed by the representatives of the Local Government Chairman and some traditional and community leaders from the council secretariat in Oleh.

During the rally, IEC (Information Education and Communication) materials were distributed; students from the Ozoro polytechnic staged dance dramas at major stops to promote abstinence, faithfulness and correct and consistent condoms usage. The day came to an end with a message from the Chairman of Isoko North Local Government Council presented by the head of personnel Management in Ozoro.

The five day program also witnessed talks, discussions and seminars in Faith Based Organizations between Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December in the two Local Government areas. Twenty Faith Based Organizations made up of 18 churches and 2 mosques participated in this program. Some of these organizations also made donations towards the care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS in their communities.



Youths carrying posters and placards during the 2005 World AIDS Day Trail Rally organized by PIDE in Delta State. The trail rally covered two Local Government Areas.

## ICASA 2005 Ends in Abuja

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa tagged ICASA 2005 which ended in Abuja, Nigeria on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 with renewed commitments from participants to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa like never before. The conference which witnessed the participation of over 7000 delegates from all parts of Africa and the rest of the world also attracted great scientists and the donor community to the plenary sessions and satellite meetings during the six days of the conference.

The celebrated Scientist and co-discoverer of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Professor Robert Gallo was in Nigeria as guest of Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and as a participant at ICASA 2005.



A woman protesting for free treatment during the closing ceremony of ICASA 2005

The theme of the conference which was HIV/AIDS and the Family witnessed the active participation of youth groups and people living with HIV/AIDS. The youth are supposed to be a critical part of the fight against HIV/AIDS, but at the ICASA conference they complained loudly that they were being seen but not heard. While the youths were protesting non involve-

ment, people living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS activists from all over Africa demonstrated at the conference venue on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December and during the closing ceremony on Friday requesting for free treatment. Hundreds of positive men and women participated in the demonstration. The PLWHAs joined by AIDS activists circled the conference site carrying placards with messages which contained a list of demands. Some of the placards read "We want comprehensive treatment now!", "We want jobs so we can feed and send our children to school!", "Keep us alive, give us free treatment!" While others were shouting OBJ give us free drugs. Professor Femi Soyinka, the Chair, Conference Steering Committee in his reaction said free treatment is laudable, if resources were available. "It is not only the infected. Our people are generally poor and a lot needs to be done to improve standard of living; It is a priority to make drugs affordable" he added.

One of the successes of ICASA 2005 among other things is the launching of the Pan African Business coalition (PABC) aimed at mobilizing the private sector in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo who launched PABC on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 at the International Conference Center in Abuja said "This is a unique occasion and it demonstrates our new commitment to the peoples of Africa. Today also represents the rededication of governments and businesses to a new partnership: a partnership for life and progress". This is the time to build viable and serious networks, and this the time when, once again, the public and private sectors must join hands to fight against the pandemic that could destroy us all," he added. The coalition currently includes business networks from Gambia, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

**Help  
combat HIV/  
AIDS  
in Nigeria by  
contributing to  
PIDE. You can  
make your do-  
nations at any of  
our offices.  
All donations  
will be acknowl-  
edged**



**Members of the  
Delta State Poly-  
technic Tertiary  
Action Commit-  
tee on AIDS**

## PHOTO NEWS



PIDE Targets Faith Based Organizations to prevent HIV/AIDS and combat AIDS stigma in Delta.



PIDE Participates in the orientation program for new students at the State Polytechnic, Ozoro.

**FIGHT  
AIDS  
NOT PEOPLE  
WITH  
AIDS**

## LET'S JOIN HANDS TOGETHER TO FIGHT HIV/AIDS AND REDUCE POVERTY IN AFRICA

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

### For More Information About Giving to PIDE

**F**or more information about giving to PIDE - an individual gift, a corporate or foundation grant, a community or school drive, workplace giving and more - please contact any of our offices or visit our website at [www.pidenigeria.org](http://www.pidenigeria.org)

## PLWHAs Forms Support Groups in Delta North

PIDE has established Support Groups (SG) for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) as part of its Care and Support programs in the northern part of Delta State. The initiative became necessary in the face of increasing cases of new infections in the communities, the high level of AIDS related stigma and discrimination, and the need to form a pressure group to fight for the rights and privileges of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the communities.

Due to the high level of AIDS related stigma in these communities, the support groups are witnessing low turn outs in their meetings. However, PIDE support staff working with health workers in private and government hospitals in Ozoro, Oleh and Ughelli are working together to recruit more people living with HIV/AIDS to become actively involved in the SG.

Currently two support groups have been initiated and are based in Ozoro and Ughelli respectively. The main purpose of these support groups is to bring together persons living with HIV/AIDS in the surrounding communities to provide support for one another.

The support groups will also act as tools to fight stigma and discrimination in these communities, provide treatment and adherence counseling, nutritional and general health advice to members, act as a mechanism for follow-ups and a means for economic empowerment of people living with HIV/AIDS in the communities. The support groups through PIDE will also set up a food bank that will meet the food needs of members when they are incapacitated.

Membership of the support groups includes, apart from PLWHAs, doctors, nurses, pastors and other volunteers that were recruited to play strategic roles in the groups. PIDE is also working with the groups to ensure maximum support from the traditional rulers and community leaders. The Faith Based organizations have shown good examples by providing assistance to the groups in the form of cash and food donations to the food bank.

PIDE has also begun discussions with the Society for Family Health, Benin Field Office, to provide antiretroviral treatment for those that need it. "This is a welcome development" said one of the SG member.

## WHO WE ARE

PIDE was founded to provide humanitarian services through community development in three principal areas - HIV/AIDS and general health, education and agriculture. From the agricultural perspective, PIDE focuses on the provision of veterinary services in disease prevention and procedures for livestock management agencies and local farmers.

PIDE has its headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, USA. It also has a central outreach office in Abuja, North Central, Nigeria and a field office in Ozoro, Delta State, Nigeria. PIDE is incorporated by the State of Texas, USA, and certified as a public foundation by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c) 3 organization and registered in Nigeria as an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) with the Corporate Affairs Commission. PIDE works with various international and local organizations in Nigeria to fulfill its goals and objectives.

PIDE is currently providing services in two states of Nigeria, PIDE has programs in over six communities. The programs are developed to improve the quality of life of the people in these communities, especially people living with HIV/AIDS.

**OUR VISION:** PIDE's work will empower countries, particularly in Africa, to develop themselves at the grassroots level, in the areas of health, agriculture and education.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:** PIDE works with community leaders to develop programs that promote community integration and capacity building with focus in African communities where human resources are

underemployed. Sub Saharan African alone is responsible for two third of the world's HIV/AIDS burden; over four million children do not have access to primary education in Nigeria while education generally still remains substandard and the agricultural sector is well underdeveloped.

PIDE's programs are committed to:

- Provide a comprehensive HIV/AIDS preventive education to communities that will dispel certain cultural beliefs, decrease stigmatization regarding HIV/AIDS, and change behavior through community and family involvement.
- Build community clinics' capacity through staff training, facility improvement and expansion, and provision of appropriate HIV/AIDS equipment and drugs for testing and treatment.
- Empower youths through skill development, business training and provision of initial startup capital that will enable the youths to become small business owners.
- Enhance youths' academic achievement by providing scholastic awards using enrichment activities and monetray scholastic awards. Children are the future leaders of their country. Their education is the key for improving their quality of life.
- Provide education in disease management procedures to livestock management agencies and provide drugs and equipment to improve the quality of services to communities. Serious disease in animals continues to be a threat to human health in some rural areas.