

# Imani Speaks

Vol. 4 | 2012



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## Dear Friends,

Let me begin this note by wishing that all of those who lost loved ones or property in the storm be comforted, warm and secure this Thanksgiving season. IMANI HOUSE staff, members and volunteers are there as always to share support, information, counseling, and referrals where needed. We congratulate those of you who have given time, money or prayers to alleviate the suffering caused by this event.

This year IMANI HOUSE Celebrates our 4th Giving Thanks, Giving Back Virtual Fundraiser with hopes that you and your family will join us in supporting the excellent youth and family enhancement programs that we are known for.

We hope that you will find it in your heart to share of your plate from whatever little you may have during this Celebration of Thanks and Giving. We will be happy to receive your gift before, on or after the holiday.

We Thank You for considering the value of a world where everyone has a fair chance to succeed.

Warmest wishes,  
Bisi Ideraabdullah, *Executive Director*

***Happy Holidays – Thanks for Giving and Sharing***

*Note: All donations will be acknowledged and are one hundred percent tax deductible.*

## IMANI HOUSE hosts the Fourth Annual *Giving Thanks, Giving Back* A Virtual Fundraiser

Thursday, November 22 | Thanksgiving Day



# LIBERIA In Focus



## Donations to the Rescue

Individual donors, AJWS, Friends of Liberia, and Proliteracy Support  
IMANI HOUSE Liberia



In times of war or peace the fact remains that Liberia is a developing country. A country where 58% of its women are unable to read. During 13 years of civil war, it lost 95% of its medical infrastructure. Now there is approximately one doctor for every 100,000 people and a life expectancy of only 57 years.

Now nine years after the end of the war the root causes of these statistics, some of which predate the war, hinder the countries development leaving most Liberians in dire need of targeted assistance in health and education.

Thanks to donations from people like you IMANI HOUSE has been on the frontlines of this assistance for over 22 years - from relief shipments, to housing for homeless children, health care facilities and adult literacy programs. This year we succeeded in offering unlimited health care services to over 17,000 women and children at our Clinic; provided adult literacy classes at three locations to 200 women, and trained teen peer health educators in three junior high schools who tutored over 200 students in HIV and pregnancy prevention techniques.

We would like to thank and applaud all of you who give unselfishly, Reverend Rowena Silvera for layettes to new Liberian mothers, and our donor agencies; AJWS for operational support and upgrading of the Clinic, Proliteracy for books and support, and Friends of Liberia for support to our new Sewing classes.

While funds received fall far short of what is needed, IMANI HOUSE is grateful to be able to continue to do this work, employ 29 staff in Liberia and contribute to a positive future for its people.

IMANI HOUSE Collaborates with The Liberian Marketing Association – In 2011 IHI created a new partnership in the Market places for our adult literacy program, so that women who want to learn to read would have easier access. Classes have begun and we are in the process of setting up tailoring classes to teach skills that will help the women increase their incomes.

## Volunteers That Make A Difference

Ross Miranti recently joined the staff of IHI Liberia as a Volunteer Project Manager. Mr. Miranti departed NYC on October 23 and arrived in Liberia safely.



For the next 6 months he will be helping our Liberian staff. He has a wealth of experience and holds a MA from the New School in International Affairs and Development.

In addition we received assistance in our New York office from Ying Li, and Samantha Wolf, whom served as International Summer Interns. Ying hails from China and is working towards her Masters in Public and International Affairs and Samantha graduated from the University of Vermont with a BA in Community and International Development.

Our Staff, volunteers and management sends thanks to these unselfish individuals who now and into the future will serve as the fabric that wraps itself around the goals and successes of IMANI HOUSE.

## Looking Towards Tomorrow

IMANI HOUSE would like to

- Expand Health Service delivery in rural areas through an IHI Mobile Health Vehicle
- Expand the IHI Adult Literacy Model for women to additional Markets throughout Liberia
- Increase IHI networks and donor bases through greater visibility and the promotion of proactive development projects by skilled indigenous people



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Liberia was never colonized by Europeans, it was settled in 1822, by African people freed from slavery in the U.S.
- The capital city Monrovia is named after U.S. President James Monroe (1817-1825)
- Liberia proclaimed itself a sovereign republic in 1847
- The first President of Liberia, Joseph J. Roberts, was born into slavery in Norfolk, Va.
- The settler's descendants are called "Americo-Liberians" they ruled for 133 years
- Liberia was the richest Black Nation in the world in the 1950's
- Liberia was a member of the League of Nations in 1920 - in 1946 the League changed to the United Nations
- Liberia elected the first Black women leader, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- Liberia is only the size of Tennessee

## Teen Peer Educator's HIV/Pregnancy Prevention Training

*A Student's Voice*

My name is Jechebah Dahn, I am 16 years old and I live in Bassa Town.



In the (IHI) program I have learned many good things that I can always share with my friends... I have learned how to prevent pregnancy, what to do when boys or men touch my body in a wrong way and how to prevent sicknesses like HIV/AIDs... Also Imani House is teaching us how it is important to concentrate on our school lesson and not to get involve in sex... until our bodies can get mature. And we also learned the importance and use of condoms...

...I am happy about these people (IHI) because from what I learned from them I can go... and talk to my friends.... They listened to me well and they want to be like me.... I am learning to become a better citizen.

Jechebah Dahn is a student of the Sean Deveraux Junior High School where the IMANI HOUSE nurses run this program

# NEW YORK In Focus



## Imani House Partners with DYCD, Con Edison and New York City Council on the Arts!

The Imani House Afterschool Program was fortunate enough to receive funding under Department of Youth & Community Development's (DYCD) recent Request for Proposals for Out of School Time (OST). We first received OST funding in 2005 and because of our afterschool program's excellence, we selected again. This grant, which is for a five year period, will allow us to continue this very important program for our children.

Unlike past DYCD funding which enabled us to offer the program only during the school year; this new round of funds will offer participants services year round (including the summer months). As usual we are expecting a high level of parent involvement and that our children will have a great time in activities that assist them academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

This program is housed in P.S./M.S. 282 and will continue to offer the children performing arts, dance, academic enrichment, athletics, leadership and a special science

and technology club (STEM).

Con Edison and NYSCA, also long time supporters of Imani House, recently awarded grants to our programs as well.

Con Edison's grant will go towards the Afterschool Program's STEM Project. The STEM project will work with our students to build a love and understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics. Historically, these subjects have been thought of as too hard among our children, and through this project we hope to demystify them and remedy the stigma that inner city children are not as inclined in these areas.

NYSCA funded Imani House's Women of Color Writing Workshop and the arts and culture portions of our Afterschool Program. The Women of Color Writing Workshop offers a safe, creatively stimulating environment where women cultivate the skills needed to develop the craft of writing, and uses the renowned Amherst Writers as Artists (AWA) method to inspire the highest levels of creativity. Funding for the arts portion of the Afterschool Program will go towards performing arts, creative writing, African & Step dance and more.

Thank you DYCD, Con Edison & NYSCA!!

## Oral History & Intergenerational Project for Afterschool Participants

This year, we are especially proud of our Afterschool Program's Oral History and Intergenerational Project, which is being held in collaboration with the Cobble Hill Health Center, a senior home.



This is the first year we are offering this to the children and it was created with the vision of bridging the gap between generations, allowing each to learn from the other.

Another aspect of the project is that children will learn videography and document each step of the process from planning, to interactions with the seniors.

If all goes well, look forward to our children's production on Brooklyn Community Access TV in the very near future!

## Imani House Adult Literacy Program Still Going Strong!

The Imani House Adult Literacy Program is still creating results and successes with minimal resources. Over the past year 117 students were served in the areas of Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, GED and Pre-GED.

This program utilizes community volunteers and has a single paid staff, the Coordinator, Ms. Jackie Lowe. She has done a phenomenal job coordinating the program,



developing curriculum, training and organizing volunteers and so much more.

Sixty-five volunteers tutored our students last year and this year thirty-seven are actively assisting fellow community mem-

bers achieve their goals through education. Students this year are from all over the world, including Africa, Bangladesh, China, Haiti and Mexico.

We are very proud this year of the fact that:

- Nearly 20 students with little or no formal education began by learning the alphabet. These students, turned down by or disenchanted with other programs, have finally found the help they need. Most have progressed two or three grade levels, and continue to improve.
- 6 of our students have successfully passed the GED test since July of 2011
- Of the students that passed the GED one began college this September at NYC Technical College, and another was able to get hired by Brooklyn Hospital after years of volunteering and not being able to work officially because of the lack of high school diploma.
- 20 new Tutors earned their 50 hour Tutor Certification and an additional 7 Tutors received their 25 Hour Tutor Certification

planning stages we are highly optimistic that our hard work will be successful.

To make this dream a reality, Imani House is applying for funding under the NYS Education Department's 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative.

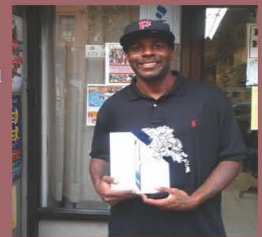
Your help is necessary too! Visit our website to make a donation. [www.imanihouse.org](http://www.imanihouse.org). *Wish us luck!*

## Moving Forward

The Imani House Afterschool Program is in the early stages of expansion. Our model has proven successful since 1998 and we have decided it is time to branch out. Recently, we built a collaboration with P.S. 270 in Cobble Hill and they are eager for us to provide our services to their students. While this initiative is in the early

## Raffle Draw a Success!

Thanks so much to all those who purchased, sold or otherwise participated in this year's Raffle Draw. Our Grand Prize Winner, Mr. Robert Dior, won the much-coveted iPad 3! Other top prizes included a Nook Color and a Nikon Digital Camera. We look forward to your participation next year!



## Imani House Walk-to-Live Slated for Summer 2013

Stay tuned in early 2013 for information on the Imani House Walk-to-Live. This event is to be held in Prospect Park, and will be a parent/child and family walkathon aimed at promoting the value of walking as a family exercise, and bringing attention to ending childhood and adult obesity, diabetes, and heart disease in communities of color. Contact us for more information or to become involved. Sponsors, volunteers and other assistance is welcome.

# The Imani House Inc.

## Mission & Vision

“To assist marginalized youth, families and immigrants to create vibrant neighborhoods, where residents are decision makers who take responsibility for the improvement of their lives and surroundings.”

IMANI HOUSE believes that everyone can succeed if they are motivated and have access to appropriate skills, information and opportunities.

For over 25 years IHI has worked proactively in grass-roots communities in Brooklyn, and Liberia, W. Africa to foster this process. We provide services to over 20,000 people a year.

## IMANI HOUSE PROGRAMS

### Brooklyn, New York

- P.S./M.S 282 Elem. Afterschool Program
- Adult Education Program
- Employment Assistance
- Information & Referral Services

### Liberia, West Africa

- IHI Maternal and Child Health Clinic
- Adult Literacy Program —3 Locations
- Teen Peer Education Project (Reproductive Health, Pregnancy & HIV Prevention)

## TO MAKE YOUR ONLINE CONTRIBUTION

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

or donate by check made to:

IMANI HOUSE, Inc.

## No Contribution is Too Small THANK YOU!

*All donations will be acknowledged and are 100% Tax Deductible*



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*United Way*

*Con Edison*

*Friends of Liberia*

*Astoria Federal Savings*

*Mr. & Mrs. Ideraabdullah*

*Individual Donors,*

*Volunteers and Others*

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