



The "Vision of a World Without AIDS Quilt" on display in Monterey, MA at the inaugural event.

Monterey Meets Africa: "Vision of a World Without AIDS Quilt"

by Kathie Frome

At a celebration on Saturday, August 20, 2008, CPC unveiled of the "Vision of the World Without AIDS Quilt" in Monterey, MA. There were inspiring speeches, a pot luck dinner, and African dancing.

Joan MacVicar and I did most of the stitching, with invaluable help from Laraine Lippe, and Myrna Rosen, a Monterey resident.

The project was born in the fall of 2007, when CPC invited Dr. Ruth Engo, founder and president of African Action on AIDS, and former Senior Economic Affairs Officer for Africa at the United Nations, to speak at a Monterey Community Supper.

Dr. Engo brought with her a stack of pictures that were painted by AIDS orphans during an African Action on AIDS workshop where the children learned about AIDS prevention, and encouraged to envision a world without AIDS. The children, many of whom had never painted before, had the chance to convey their visions through painting.

While in Monterey, Dr. Engo mentioned that she would someday like to make a quilt from these paintings, but she did not know how that would happen. That inspired the Vision of a World Without AIDS Quilt, and a collaborative effort between a group of African children AIDS orphans, and a group of Monterey women, was born. With a grant from the Monterey Cultural Council, the women designed and sewed the quilt.

Dr. Engo hopes this quilt will support the efforts of African Action on AIDS in "building a new generation of AIDS-free parents, who not only know how to prevent the disease, but also visualize a future they want to be a part of - leading to the desire and skills to draw a road map to that future". The Vision of A World Without

AIDS Quilt represents the hopes and dreams of African children for a better world, and the will of Monterey residents to help fulfill that dream.

When Dr. Engo returns to the United States and Monterey this fall, we will present the quilt to her. Several of the panels will stay in Monterey as a permanent exhibit, and the rest will go back to Cameroon, to inspire other children as well as local and national leaders in Cameroon. We hope that the quilt will also be the springboard for a lasting relationship between Monterey and a network of villages served by African Action

on AIDS, and a reminder of our inter-connectedness with the global human community.

A committee of CPC and other Monterey women will continue the larger "Monterey Meets Africa Project," including exploring the possibility of creating a sister cities (or sister villages) type of partnership between Monterey and a village, or network of villages, in Cameroon.



Quilters Joan MacVicar and Kathie Frome