



# Celebrating a decade of hope

October 3, 2011

## HARVEST OF HOPE

On September 15, 2011 nearly 300 guests and volunteers gathered for the tenth annual Harvest of Hope (HoH) at Temple Emanuel in Denver to raise funds for the Church World Service (CWS) in Africa, and It Takes A Village (ITAV) in Aurora. This year's Harvest of Hope was a milestone: It was the tenth annual event. Preliminary results show a gross income of over \$80,000! Thank you!

Emcee **Bazi Kanani** of 9News guided the evening and also shared her personal connection to Africa. HoH Founders **Kathryn Roy, Pauline Miles, and Mary Ann McGeady** were recognized for their dedication and service through HOH. Every speaker stood in front of a backdrop of mementos from the 10 HoH events. Throughout the evening, photographs of speakers from previous Harvests were shown on the big screen providing memories of years past.

The evening began with attendees browsing the silent auction tables and African marketplace while listening to the drumbeats of the **Frederick Douglass Community Drum Circle**. After filling their plates at the excellent "Tour of Africa" buffet (thanks to Occasions by Sandy), guests enjoyed the beautiful dancers from the **Cleo Parker Robinson Trainin' Group** as they performed a traditional African welcoming dance "The Fanga."

This year the Harvest was focused on CWS's "Giving Hope" program. **Caroline Thuo-Reggie**, the keynote speaker and regional coordinator of "Giving Hope" in Nairobi, Kenya, shared how the program identifies youth who are the caregivers in their homes because they have lost their parents due to violent conflict and HIV-AIDS. Through "Giving Hope" more than 30,000 youth in seven African countries are transforming their own lives, the lives of their families, and their entire communities. Caroline emphasized that CWS has changed its approach to youth caregivers by no longer labeling them "orphans" or "vulnerable children." Because the goal of the program is to empower and strengthen the youth caregivers so that they can build futures for themselves and their families, the name is a



significant first step. For an electronic version of Caroline's speech at the Harvest of Hope, click on the link on the home page of [www.harvestofhopecolorado.org](http://www.harvestofhopecolorado.org).

**Rabbi Joe Black, Reverend Sheri Fry, and Hassan Abdal Latif** gave an inter-faith blessing to begin the program. Adding to the spiritual significance of the event, **Ron Blaum**, CWS Director of Gift and Estate Planning, led everyone to repeat the African saying, "God is good all the time...all the time God is good." **Imani Latif**, Founder and Executive Director of ITAV, spoke about how they are helping those with HIV-AIDS in the Denver Metro Area. Auctioneer and former State Representative **Debbie Stafford** encouraged many attendees to bid during the live auction, providing even more support for the CWS Giving Hope Program. Thank you for your attendance and support for this 2011 Harvest of Hope. Through you hope is harvested, dreams are born, and communities are transformed.

**If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to far, walk together.** *African Proverb*



- ← Keynote speaker **Caroline Thuo-Reggie** inspired attendees with stories of the "Giving Hope" program of Church World Service (photo by Dylan Clarke)
- **Imani Latif**, founder & executive director of It Takes A Village, expresses thanks fo HOH (photo by Blacktie)
- ↓ HOH founders **Kathryn Roy, MaryAnn McGeady & Pauline Miles** (photo by Dylan Clarke)





↑ Emcee and 9News anchor **Bazi Kanani** (center-right) with the **Frederick Douglass Community Drum Circle** (photo by Blacktie)



↑ It Takes A Village staff: **Crystal Noel**, substance abuse treatment advisor (left), with Executive Director **Imani Latif** (photo by Blacktie)

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\* special thanks to these Founding Sponsors who have sponsored every Harvest for ten years

Visit [www.blacktie-colorado.com](http://www.blacktie-colorado.com) for more photos from the 2011 Harvest of Hope or use this link <https://www.blacktie-colorado.com/photos/photoevent.cfm?>



**"Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts."**

*David O. McKay*

On behalf of our board, clients, staff and volunteers, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support and donations you've provided to It Takes a Village over the past eight Harvest of Hope events. It indeed does take a village to

address all of the health and social disparities that impact communities throughout the world, including right here in the Denver metro area, and we are so thankful to be a part of the global village with you, the Harvest of Hope committee, and the amazing Church World Service programs in Africa. Over the years, with your help, we reached over 300 African American women with HIV prevention, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse prevention and empowerment programs. We provided skills-building groups to 76 women of all races who had experienced trauma and violence in their lives. With your help, we were able to begin and sustain our program for HIV-positive African immigrants, reaching 43 individuals thus far. With your generosity 15 African-American girls, including 3 in foster care, 4 whose birth parents struggle with addiction, 1 who is a teenage mother, and 3 who have an incarcerated parent, learned how to empower themselves, treasure education, and envision a successful future. We are so grateful to you, the Harvest of Hope committee, and Church World Service for making us a part of your village and your family. Thank you so much and God bless you!

**Imani Latif, Executive Director, It Takes A Village**  
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↑ Keynote Speaker **Caroline Thuo-Reggy** enjoys some of the African art from the



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## A few ideas to... **CONTINUE THE HARVEST!**

- 1 Join your local CROP Hunger Walk in October. Visit [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org) to find the walk nearest you, or contact the CWS office at 303-455-5765.
- 2 Give a gift that changes lives, plus the shopping is easy and you don't have to wrap it. Check out CWS Best Gifts Catalog online at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or request a copy of the catalog by calling the CWS office at 303-455-5765.
- 3 Follow the work of CWS at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).
- 4 Volunteer at It Takes A Village. Contact Imani Latif at [ittakesavillage1@aol.com](mailto:ittakesavillage1@aol.com) or 303-367-4747.
- 5 Join the efforts for the 2012 Harvest of Hope. Contact Kathryn Roy at [kathryneroy@msn.com](mailto:kathryneroy@msn.com) or 303-979-0699.