

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FECH SUPPORTS YOUTH-ORIENTED HIV/AIDS TESTING AND COUNSELING PROJECT IN YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 2008 - The Foundation for Education Culture and Health (FECH) has provided a \$7,000 grant to the Youth Development Foundation-Cameroon in support of its “Youth-Friendly HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Project”.

The Youth Development Foundation-Cameroon (YDF) was founded in 1994 to address a growing need for information about reproductive health issues among the youth of Cameroon. As an organization that is run by youths for youths, YDF has trained over 250 peer educators to provide information, counseling and other services to adolescents in schools and in their respective communities.

Through its “Youth-Friendly HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Project”, YDF is conducting a year-long pilot program tailored to the needs of youths aged 10-24 with the aim of increasing access to testing and counseling services for this important, yet often overlooked, demographic group.

FECH’s support of YDF’s project was made possible by a grant from the United Nations Staff 1% for Development Fund. Michael F. Cassandra, Convenor of the UN 1% Fund, issued the following statement on behalf of the Fund: “The General membership is pleased to be able to support FECH’s efforts at AIDS education and awareness in Cameroon through the Youth Development Foundation (YDF). The Fund is particularly glad that the awareness raising will be done through the training of youth who will be speaking to youth. This approach, we hope, will go a long way to removing some of the barriers towards learning from those being counseled, and to increasing the confidence, skills and sense of responsibility of the young people who are in training to do the counseling. These are life-lessons for the trainees in matters of health and sickness, or even life and death.”

FECH released the following statement upon approval of YDFs grant proposal: “FECH is grateful to the United Nations for its confidence in our mission and the good work of the Youth Development Foundation-Cameroon. We could not imagine a finer set of collaborators in our efforts to foster a greater culture of health in Cameroon and to help develop a new generation of leaders.”

FECH was established in 2003 to generate awareness and support for health and educational initiatives in developing communities. FECH has partnered with three organizations in Cameroon that conduct work in the realms of HIV/AIDS prevention education, clinical research, and treatment, respectively. As one of FECH’s three project partners, YDF is recognized as a national leader in youth-oriented reproductive health education.

FECH is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation dedicated to the improvement of the human condition in the critical realms of education and health. Through garnering financial and material support for educational initiatives and the most pressing health concerns, FECH aims to serve as an interface between effective social programming and necessary resources.

For additional information about FECH, please visit www.fech.org or contact:

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