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# INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

## COMMUNIQUE PASSPORT

www.internationalleadership.org 2009

### Coming Up!

International Youth Conference  
October 17, 2009  
Higher Ground Academy  
St. Paul, MN



W.I.S.E. Academy preformed for community with support of Sweet Honey on the Rock and ILI. The March event highlighted Stopping Sexual and Domestic Violence. 3/09



"Voices of Truth" were among some of the performers at community supported event. 3/09

### Inside this issue:

TCICA gala highlights	1-2
Year In Review	2
Global Business	3
Sister Cities—Eldoret	3
Brazil Program	3
If you are interested in having a ILI presentation for your group...	4
Membership—ask for a member form and become active globally	4

## 2009 Twin Cities International Citizen Awards

John Stout, Kojo Benjamin and Theresa Taylor and PRI (Public Radio International) honored at 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin Cities International Citizen Awards (TCICA) Gala on Monday, April 20, 2009, at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in Minneapolis. The keynote speaker for the event was J. Brian Atwood, Dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota and Robyn Robinson, news anchor with KMSP, was the gala's program emcee.

The annual theme of the Gala was Freedom, Democracy, and Empowerment, and the event celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of South Africa's Freedom Day, and 15<sup>th</sup> year of global and local service of the International Leadership Institute. The evening was black tie and international attire.



**International Citizen Recipient:** John Stout has been very active in international and Twin Cities projects for over thirty years. Many

business, decided to give back to the continent of Africa. They recognized that six diseases account for two out of three deaths among children and young adults and determined that they were going to address this problem. Now Kojo and Theresa are founders of MicroClinic International believing franchising is the most effective way to effectively expand primary health coverage in Africa. MicroClinic International has recently launched clinics in Uganda and Ghana. The founders envision a world where basic healthcare is accessible to every individual in the developing world.

people have benefitted from opportunities sowed by Mr. Stout's generosity. John has enriched the community through his leadership and enhanced business operations by advising executive, board of director, board committees, and individual directors and officers of for-profit and non-profit organization. He is recognized on a local and global scale which includes corporate partnerships and legal practices in Shanghai and other international cities. Locally John has been a strong supporter of both minority and immigrant business communities. Co-founder of Milestones Growth fund and the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA). As an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, he was recently appointed by the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association (ABA) as vice chair of its 2,000-plus member Corporate Governance Committee. He is a frequent speaker on corporate governance subjects, and has served as an expert witness on governance matters in litigation proceedings. He also teaches corporate governance courses at the business and law schools of the University of St. Thomas as an adjunct professor.

**International Immigrant Achievement Recipients:** Kojo Benjamin and Theresa Taylor. Mr. Kojo Taylor is a senior executive with 22 years experience in leading



and growing a broad range of companies, especially franchised organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor believe that unless a company's existence somehow improves the lives of those at the base of the economic ladder in our society, its management should review the purpose for being. In 1989 Kojo Taylor founded a technology services company and built that company into a \$70 Million franchised organization with 300 employees in 15 US cities. The company was later sold to ExecuTrain Corporation, a division of IDG Inc. (Publishers of "Books for Dummies".) Under his leadership, the company he founded was twice recognized on the INC 500 listing as one of the fastest growing private companies in America. Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) distinguished Mr. Taylor as "Entrepreneur of the Year".

The recipients, Theresa and Kojo Benjamin Taylor, having sold their

**International Corporate Recipient:** PRI (Public Radio International) is a Minneapolis-based American public radio organization, with locations in Boston, New York, London and Beijing. PRI's tagline is PRI a major public media content creator and also distributes programs from many sources. In public radio, PRI competes with National Public Radio and American Public Media to provide programming to public radio stations.

Additionally, the company is increasingly focused on fulfilling the unmet needs in global news and

cultural perspectives, created and curated specifically for relevance for Americans. PRI recognizes as its core principles: the central role (cont. page 2)



## Year In Review: Leaders for Positive Change



Eldoret Kenya Sister City delegation visiting Minneapolis at a local North East business.

The ILI Youth Leadership Council and program provides opportunities for young people to travel to Africa for cultural immersion programs and community projects in the Twin Cities with Tarek Charter School and Higher Ground Academy. The ILI youth helped complete a four-room school building in Eldoret, Kenya. They also documented the conditions in the Kibera slum in Kenya. The Little Angels Center and El Baraka Academy provide an opportunity for children from impoverished families and orphans to obtain food, shelter, health care and education. Special emphasis has been placed on the education for girls. Four hundred children are currently

enrolled at El Baraka Academy. The ILI has partnerships in Brazil, Ghana, Darfur of Southern Sudan, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, and sends volunteers to build capacity and increase educational opportunities for children. Other opportunities for ILI youth have included a book drive for libraries in Rwanda and Kenya, a youth mural in conjunction with Peace Jam, and the Nobel Laureate Conference with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This year marks the 15th anniversary of ILI, formed in the wake of the Rwandan Genocide. A team of ILI specialists will travel to Rwanda for the fourth year to document

the conditions of genocide survivors including women who were raped during the genocide.

These programs will continue with your membership support. The ILI is a vital organization, reaching out to many international groups around the world and metropolitan area.

**Providing resources is our work for communities in transition.** Renew your membership or making a donation to the International Leadership Institute today.

## 2009 International Youth Conference



Judge LaJune Lange introducing 2008 conference and Diaspora history.

**DO YOU WANT YOUR STUDENTS OR YOUTH TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN? Start with the International Youth Conference ...** Get your youth group ready for the International Leadership Institute's 8th Annual International Youth Conference at Higher Ground Academy, October 17, 2009. Students will learn to Talk Global and start on a path to knowing issues and global growth outside their high school, college, and academy. Join parents, educators and youth and listen to world lead-

ers for the global community. Speakers will provide positive direction for attendees. The free registration includes lunch. Conference sponsorships available—an investment in our youth. Higher Ground Academy, in St. Paul, hosted the October 2008 conference with over 80 students learning about medical careers, journalism, human rights issues and visited with international guests. JOIN US this year and help close the achievement gap!



Teen attendees at the 2008 International Youth Conference. 10/08

## TCICA Gala ! (cont.)



MN Hon. Tanzania Consul K. Berg, Judge Lange, South Africa Ambassador to US W. Nhlape, and Chicago SA Consul N. Magaqa visit at St. Paul community event. 10/08

played by diversity in our nation's past and its importance to our future; the urgent need to understand connections between American life and cultures around the globe; the responsibility of public media to encourage the exchange of ideas and search for common principles fundamental to a civil society; and the power of sound and of the spoken word to engage the mind and nurture the human spirit. PRI, along with NPR and American Public Media, is one of the largest program producers and distributors of public radio programming in the United States.

PRI was founded in 1983 as American Public Radio to provide diverse voices and an alternative to NPR for public radio program distribution. PRI offers over 400 hours of programming each week to stations and listeners. Alisa Miller, President and CEO, (photo) accepted the award for the PRI organization.

2009 Gala sponsors include Twin Cities Business Magazine, South African Consulate General - Chicago, , and Fredrikson and Byron P.A., Wells Fargo, Faegre & Ben-

son LLC, and MN Best Enterprises, Inc, Paschal Nwokocha Law Office, Leonard Street & Deinard; Robin, Miller, Kaplan & Ciresi, and TCICA Host Committee. The Awards recognize the depth and breadth of the Twin Cities' international connections, concerns and commitments - in business and trade, research and human rights, agriculture and technology, the arts and medicine, education and journalism, and in hospitality and humanitarian relief.

## Fire Engine for Sister City Eldoret Kenya



During the summer of 2008 a six person delegation led by Eldoret Mayor Ruto visited the Twin Cities and Kenyan communities. Their visit was coordinated by the City of Minneapolis and ILI. The group attended several high level municipal meetings, per their request, to learn more about city governments and services. Their visit included Minneapolis' 150 anniversary, receptions, and riding in the annual Aquatennial Parade with five other international Sister Cities' visiting Minneapolis.

For two years the ILI Sister Cities International Committee headed by ILI member, Peter Ole Sabai met to welcome the Minneapolis Sister City Eldoret Kenya delegation last summer. Now with additional hard work with the City of Minneapolis' Fire Department, Eldoret will be receiving a fire engine from Minneapolis. Delivery will be made during Eldoret's 50th anniversary.

The Eldoret group also visited and tour the Minneapolis park system and enjoyed small business development at a local Dairy Queen in North East Minneapolis. The 2009 delegation to Kenya has been organizing their trip and will include City of Minneapolis officials. Contact Peter Ole Sabai or Judge Lange if interested in going to Kenya.



**Delivered and Received:** Art Mural for South Africa! Children and youth of North Minneapolis and the Twin Cities painted a giant mural to show their support of the Motherwell & Walmer Townships Eastcape Training Center. The mural was done as a part of ILI's participation in the PEACE Jam. Peace Jam Photos by Heather Beal.

## Eastcape Training Centre-South Africa

The International Leadership Institute joined with Richard Allen Community Services, Inc., GE Volunteers, US, and Kingdom Oil Christian Foundation, community leaders of Motherwell & Walmer Townships South Africa, Office of the Mayor of the Republic of Port Elizabeth to focus on the under skilled and impoverished population in surrounding villages. Positive developments have already become fruitful for the Port Elizabeth community and this project. Reports have been made to the mayor of Port Elizabeth that the **Eastcape Training Centre** is becoming a model for the region.



Judge LaJune Lange, ILI president, visited the center to congratulate them on their continuing progress in 2008. A youth inspired mural painted at the 2008 PEACE Jam was sent to the training center as a gift from the Twin Cities to the people of Port Elizabeth South Africa.



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LIBRARIES IN  
RWANDA,  
KENYA AND  
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### GLOBAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The ILI and **Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice** cosponsored an **African Trade Conference** at the **Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs** together with the **Pan African Business Alliance** in October 2007. This follows ILI's successful **Southern Africa Development, Trade and Investment** conferences in Minnesota in 1998 and 2000. The 2007 conference brought delegations lead by six African ambassadors to the University of Minnesota. Vice President Robert Jones, Dean Brian Atwood and Dr. Samuel Myers hosted the ambassa-

dors on behalf of the University of Minnesota. In 2007, the Institute led an outbound trade delegation to South Africa to participate in the **International Trade and Investment Conference** in Durban, South Africa.

The ILI's **Global Business Roundtable** has hosted many local international workshops and business meetings for members, civic leaders, business partners and invited guests. Other outbound business trips are planned. Membership forms are available on the ILI website.

### ILI BRAZIL Program



**ILI Technology Resource Center in San Paulo, Brazil:** Shown is Obi Chukwu, ILI Technology Coordinator working with children in the Maua favela (slum) on computer skills. Computers were donated to the ILI. You can help.

# International Leadership Institute

*Leadership...making a difference...one person at a time.*

## Mailing Address:

International Leadership Institute  
5021 Vernon Ave. So, PMB 136  
Minneapolis, MN 55436

## Contacts:

[Info@internationalleadership.org](mailto:Info@internationalleadership.org)  
[Programdir@internationalleadership.org](mailto:Programdir@internationalleadership.org)  
[Obi@internationalleadership.org](mailto:Obi@internationalleadership.org)

## Visit us at: ILI Resource Center

430 Oak Grove, Suite 220 in Minneapolis  
1-612/340-0250 (supported by ILI volunteers)

The Institute is a fully qualified non-profit 501 c3 organization based in Minnesota. Founded in 1994.

Newsletter assembled by ILI member Coventry R. Cowens.

**ILI Programs include** Civic Education Programs for local communities, International Youth Council, Caribbean Interest Group, Horn of Africa Interest Group, Global Health Group, Ralph Bunche Lecture Series, Foreign Policy Round Table, Global Business Round Table, Women's Human Rights Program and **ILI Resource Center**, at 430 Oak Grove, Suite 220 in Minneapolis.

**Members and Volunteers/** Memberships support all programs for the Institute from the youth conference to hosting receptions for international dignitaries. Fundraisers also support continuing programs. **Membership is your passport to build bridges around the world.** View Membership details on the ILI's web site and how you can support the Institute.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Individual Membership	\$50.00
Business/Church/Corporation/NGO	\$100.00
Associate Member	\$15.00
Global Business Round Table Member	\$300.00

If you would like to make an in-kind donation or have a presentation for your organization, please let us know. Ask about our Wish List for specific projects and programs in Minnesota or Internationally. Email Coventry Cowens, volunteer ILI Program Director at [coventry@visi.com](mailto:coventry@visi.com) or Judge LaJune Lange, (retired) ILI President, at [judge-lange@gmail.com](mailto:judge-lange@gmail.com). Membership forms are available online at the ILI website.

**ILI Foreign Policy Roundtable** is a network of experts providing analysis and leadership on foreign policy matters and programs of the United Nations, World Bank and African Union. We conduct programs that focus on the economic, social historic, and political factors involved in regional conflict. Also, the **Institute** provides advice to governments and civil society about transformation from conflict to peace.

**ILI Greater Horn of Africa Interest Section Group** covers an area that includes Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya. We work on education, economic development, ethnic and religious conflict resolution, and improvement of governance through training, rule of law programs, anti-corruption initiatives and transparency.

We're On the Web!  
[www.internationalleadership.org](http://www.internationalleadership.org)

## ILI Programs...based on relationships and sustainability

**TANZANIA/** The ILI has partnered on several programs with the **Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP)**, at the Gender Resource Centre, which advocates for the promotion of women and children's rights, girls education, HIV/AIDS prevention education programs, health services, voting rights, water well construction in rural areas, work training, and inclusive rule of law legislation advocacy. The University of MN Human Rights Center has supported a portion of the funding for this technical mission program.

**KENYA/** In 1997 the Institute began Horn of Africa technical missions to Kenya to provide resources to qualified sustainable community projects. From in-country youth symposiums, a Minneapolis Sister City connection with **Eldoret Kenya**, to building a school outside Eldoret called Little Angels Academy the ILI has continued to develop relationships in rural communities, Garissa and Nairobi. Since 1997, **Womankind Kenya** has partnered with the ILI working to improve the lives of the girl child and their families through health services, education, supportive orphanages and farms. ILI launched a HIV/AIDS pro-

gram in the Kibera slum and **Ijara District** during the 2004 and 2005 summer visits. The ILI is now supporting a school in the **Kibera Nairobi slums** with the support of **CLAN**, a local legal advocate organization and partner.

**SOUTH AFRICA/** Since 1994 and the South Africa reconciliation trials, the ILI has developed programs and relationships in Port Elizabeth, Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town South Africa. The Institute embraced the emerging nationhood and cultural transitions occurring in southern Africa by bringing the **Biko Family** to the United States for the first time. We continue to work at all levels to increase accessible technology training to township recreational and education centers, especially in the **Port Elizabeth** area.

**ZIMBABWE/** Through collaborations and resource development the ILI has worked with Zimbabwe women to organize the **Zimbabwe Widows and Orphans Trust**. Since 1998 this non-governmental organization has supported yearly, over 5,000 youth and abandoned widows in and around Harare. Twin Cities partner churches have supported this project. Reports from visits with ZWOT ILI representatives

convey the challenges facing the nation.

**BRAZIL/** The ILI has established a youth technology computer center in a favela of Maua, San Paulo with **Rosa Negra**, a non profit. The Technology Resource Center opened in 2005.

**SWAZILAND/**The Jabez Institute has partnered with the ILI to support workshops for disabled people and education for children living in impoverished areas near Mzimpofo Swaziland.

**TECHNICAL MISSIONS/** 2009 technical missions will include Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa and Brazil.



Women and children in the Northeast Province of Kenya getting water from a sponsored well. Photo provided by Womankind Kenya.