



United States Embassy Belize *Press Release*

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Furthering the USG Commitment to Combat HIV/AIDS in the Region THE CARIBBEAN AMBASSADORS' FUND FOR HIV/AIDS

U.S. Ambassador to Belize Russell F. Freeman announced that seven (7) organizations in Belize were the recipients of the Caribbean Ambassadors' Fund for HIV/AIDS. These seven organizations signed Memorandums of Understanding at the U.S. Embassy on August 29th with Ambassador Freeman. These organizations are: Alliance Against AIDS to purchase technical equipment; Belize Family Life Association for public service announcements; Cayo AIDS Committee for bedside care training; Hand in Hand Ministries for its Living with Hope Outreach Center for children; San Pedro AIDS Commission for a comprehensive media outreach program to target the mobile population; HIV Radio Committee for countrywide educational announcements in English and Spanish; and the establishment of the Caye Caulker AIDS Community Action Organization.

The Ambassadors' Fund is a project of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Global AIDS Program Caribbean Regional Office based in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The goal of the Ambassadors' fund for HIV/AIDS is to increase awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean general population and to strengthen support for the Caribbean Regional Strategy to Combat HIV and AIDS. It is designed for U.S. Ambassadors in the Caribbean countries to use to support programs that further the U.S. government's commitment to combat HIV/AIDS in the region. Funding for the project is US\$20,000 per year for each Ambassador.

This project provides funds to the U.S. Ambassadors in the Caribbean nations to support local community initiatives in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the region. This fund allows Ambassador Freeman to increase community awareness and advocate for action at both the local level and within country leadership. The program also provides opportunities to promote discussion and action to combat HIV/AIDS and the surrounding stigma.



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