The 2014 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Africare Celebrates African-American Leadership at its 2014 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner**

Peace Corps Alumni C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy recognized for their pioneering leadership in international development.

WASHINGTON (April 7, 2014) - Africare, the oldest and largest African-American led non-profit committed to advancing development in Africa, hosted more than 500 global leaders in business, government and philanthropy on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at its annual Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner and fundraiser at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. The event honored Africare’s pioneering Co-Founders C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy with Lifetime Achievement Awards for the tremendous contributions they have each made to Africare over more than four decades.

Africare also paid tribute to its Honorary Chairman, the late Nelson Mandela, through a special video and musical presentation by trumpeter Thaddeus Wilson of the band DC Fusion.

“C. Payne and Dr. Kennedy focused on educating Americans about the challenges Africans face and the tremendous opportunities we have to help,” said Darius Mans, president, Africare. “Their tireless efforts to educate Americans led community, religious and fraternal organizations, as well as government and business entities, to discover Africare and contribute directly to Africa’s regeneration.”

Africare was founded in 1970 in response to the devastation wrought in the Sahel by one of the worst droughts the Niger Delta had ever faced. In 1971, as founding board members, Mr. Lucas and Dr. Kennedy reincorporated Africare in the District of Columbia. Under their visionary leadership, Africare matured from working in one region of Niger with a budget of roughly $39,000, to engaging in hundreds of projects spanning 36 African countries over the past 44 years. Today, Africare’s portfolio is valued at more than $200 million, spanning 17 countries.

“As Africare continues to grow and serve larger numbers of Africans in need, we always remember our inspirational and dedicated founders, their humble beginnings and their vision that takes us to communities that exist where the road ends,” Mans said.

The Africare Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner is held each year in memory of Bishop John T. Walker, the first African-American Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. and Africare’s longtime Board Chair. Bishop Walker, who passed away 25 years ago this year, distinguished himself as an exemplar of peace, justice and interracial harmony. The dinner plays an important role in enabling Africare to both broaden awareness about its work in Africa and to raise critically needed funds to deliver lifesaving services. This year’s dinner was made possible through the generosity of ExxonMobil, Chevron, The African Development Bank and The Coca-Cola Company, as well as many others from the business community.

In 2010, Africare awarded the first Africare Lifetime Achievement Award to the late Nelson Mandela, its honorary chairman, for his perseverance and dedication to ending apartheid and bringing peace to South Africa and the world. Zindzi Mandela, Nelson’s daughter, accepted the award on behalf of her father.

To download photos from the 2014 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner, please visit https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s4xmr5fu6jp791l/jOCUtfo00do.

To view the 2014 Bishop John T. Walker Memorial Dinner Africare founders video, please visit http://youtu.be/P85iumystds.
About Africare
Africare is a leading non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to addressing African development and policy issues by working in partnership with African people to build sustainable, healthy and productive communities. Since 1970, Africare has provided well over $1 billion of assistance and support through more than 2,500 projects in Agriculture & Food Security; Water, Sanitation & Hygiene; Women’s Empowerment; and Health, HIV & AIDS that have impacted millions of beneficiaries in 36 countries in Africa. Visit http://www.africare.org for more information.
Africare is proud to honor Mr. C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy with the 2014 Africare Lifetime Achievement Award for the tremendous contributions they have each made to Africare over more than four decades. Their relentless commitment to advancing development across the continent, by providing life-changing training, tools and services to African men, women and children, has made a tangible and sustainable difference in the lives of millions of Africans. Their legacy continues in the work Africare does every day.

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C. Payne Lucas, Sr., retired president of Africare (1971-2002); former Africa regional director of the Peace Corps; speaker, writer and activist, has brought a unique blend of passion and steadfast commitment to his 40-year career in African Development. Mr. Lucas joined the Peace Corps in 1962 and served successively as assistant country director in Togo, country director in Niger, director of the Africa Region and, finally, Director of the Office of Returned Volunteers. For his work in the Peace Corps, he received the President’s Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service in 1967. Mr. Lucas has been honored by several presidents of the United States as well as by leaders of more than two dozen nations in Africa - from decorations of the National Orders of Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Zambia to the 1984 U.S. Presidential End Hunger Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement “in the effort to achieve a world without hunger.”

Mr. Lucas served in the Air Force for four years. He received his B.A. in History from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and his master’s degree in Government from American University. Mr. Lucas’s dedication to world progress has gone beyond his work with Africare. He is actively involved in a variety of organizations committed to international development and serves on numerous boards of directors.

Joseph C. Kennedy, Ph.D., retired senior vice president and director of international development, has been with Africare since 1971 when the organization was reincorporated in the District of Columbia (having been incorporated originally in Hawaii the year before). Dr. Kennedy was one of the three re-incorporators and one of the five original board members of the D.C.-based organization. In addition, he served on the staff as director of international development and senior vice president until his retirement in 1999. He has been a professor of psychology at Hunter College of the City University of New York and Prairie View A&M College in Texas.

Dr. Kennedy’s writings on Africa and African development have appeared in such publications as “The New York Times Magazine” and “The Washington Post.” He received his bachelor’s of Science and master’s of Administration degrees from The Ohio State University and his doctor in philosophy in Social Psychology from Columbia University in New York. Dr. Kennedy is a life member of the Africare board of directors.
Africare fondly recalls our past with Nelson Mandela and his family.

- In 1993, Africare warmly welcomed Nelson Mandela to Africare House, the organization’s Washington, D.C. headquarters, to meet our staff and our friends at a dinner in his honor.

- In 1994, Africare honored Nelson Mandela with the Bishop John T. Walker Humanitarian Service Award at its annual gala.

- In 1998, Nelson Mandela became Africare’s Honorary Chairman of the Board, a position he held until his death.

- In 2010, Africare awarded the first Africare Lifetime Achievement Award to Nelson Mandela for his perseverance and dedication to ending apartheid and bringing peace to South Africa and the world. Zindzi Mandela, Nelson’s daughter, accepted the award on behalf of her father.

At Africare, we celebrate the fact that although Nelson Mandela endured decades of harsh imprisonment and prejudice, he continued to fight for the universal ideals of equality, freedom and justice. He personified Africare’s mission by giving his voice, heart and time to the eradication of poverty and elimination of preventable disease. Mr. Mandela envisioned a future of peace and prosperity for all Africans, especially its youth, and his lifelong efforts resulted in some of the most important humanitarian accomplishments of our time.

“Madiba” will be missed, but his legacy of social justice and building peace will endure.
C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy - Pioneers in African Development

In the face of one of the worst droughts ever to hit the Sahel in the Niger Delta, Africare emerged to relieve the suffering of millions of people in the region. Leading the fledgling organization were two former Peace Corps leaders C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy. Mr. Lucas approached the Niger crisis convinced that by working with African communities, and urging Americans to support Africare’s efforts, the collaborative approach would save millions of lives in Niger and across Africa, and he was right. Dr. Kennedy, as Africare’s director or international development, applied his technical expertise to shape the way Africare designed and implemented programs that delivered lifesaving and sustainable change. Forty-four years later, the organization that Mr. Lucas and Dr. Kennedy started has provided life-changing and lifesaving programs in 44 African countries and today manages a program portfolio of more than 90 programs valued at more than $200 million.

Need for Diversity in Africa Development

Africa has more than 3,000 unique ethnic groups and Africans speak more than 2,000 languages. Africa is the most diverse continent on the planet. Yet, when it comes to diversity within the ranks of the Africa development community, diversity is notably lacking. According to the Global Journal’s Top 100 NGO list, nearly one-third of the program activity among this elite group is focused on Africa. But, only eight percent of the governing bodies of these NGOs have African ethnicity on their boards. Africare’s Co-Founders, C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy, want to change this representation. They set the standard and the example when they launched Africare, the largest African-American led organization focused on Africa since 1971.

Did Africare’s Co-Founders Make a Difference in Africa?

“Can American’s make a difference in Africa?” A group of Ghanaians posed that question to Africare Co-Founder Dr. Joseph C. Kennedy more than four decades ago. To answer that question, look at the progress Africare has made since C. Payne Lucas and Dr. Kennedy set out on a mission to improve the lives and create opportunities for Africans in 1971. In the face of natural disaster -drought in the Sahel - and social injustice - apartheid in South Africa - Africare began its life-changing work on a budget of less than $40,000. Despite the challenges, the vision of Mr. Lucas and Dr. Kennedy endured. To date, Africare has reached more than 30 million Africans and invested more than $1 billion in more than 44 African countries. The United States and several African governments, along with global companies such as Coca-Cola, ExxonMobil, Chevron, UPS and others, not to mention the generous support of millions of individual Americans have supported Africare’s mission. Can American’s make a difference in Africa? The answer is a resounding yes!
OUR MISSION
Africare works to improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

OUR VISION
Africare is a leading non-governmental organization (NGO) committed to addressing African development and policy issues by working in partnership with African people to build sustainable, healthy and productive communities.

OUR HISTORY
Africare was founded in 1970 as a partnership between Africans and a diverse group of Americans to support local initiatives, implement projects and integrate activities across sectors in countries where the need is greatest.

Since then, Africare has provided well over $1 billion of assistance and support through more than 2,500 projects that have impacted millions of beneficiaries in 36 countries Africa-wide.

Today, under the leadership of Dr. Darius Mans, more than 90 Africare programs reach families and communities in some 17 nations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

OUR PROGRAMS
Africare’s work is founded in our core expertise:

- Community Engagement
- Capacity Building
- Locally-Driven Behavior Change
- Innovative Public-Private Partnerships

With technical specialties in agriculture and health, our projects prioritize crosscutting themes in:

- Economic Development
- Nutrition
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Women’s Empowerment
- Youth Engagement

CURRENT PROJECT PORTFOLIO
In fiscal year 2013, Africare delivered life-changing programs in the following countries:

1. Angola (Health and Malaria Prevention projects)
2. Benin (Malaria projects)
3. Burkina Faso (Agriculture and HIV & AIDS projects)
4. Chad (Agriculture & Food Security and Women’s Empowerment projects)
5. Ghana (Agriculture & Food Security project)
7. Malawi (Livelihood, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, HIV & AIDS, and Agriculture projects)
8. Mali (Agriculture & Food Security projects)
9. Mozambique (Water, Sanitation and HIV & AIDS projects)
10. Niger (Agriculture, Food Security and Water projects)
11. Nigeria (Youth Engagement, Health and Malaria Prevention projects)
12. Senegal (Health and Nutrition projects)
13. South Africa (HIV & AIDS project)
14. Tanzania (Youth Engagement, Health, Nutrition and HIV & AIDS projects)
15. Uganda (Health, Youth Engagement and Technology project)
16. Zambia (Maternal and Child Health and Water and Sanitation projects)
Darius Mans assumed the position of president of Africare on January 4, 2010. Prior to joining Africare, Dr. Mans served as acting chief executive officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Dr. Mans has over 30 years of development experience with a major focus on African countries.

Prior to his role as acting chief executive officer for the MCC, Dr. Mans was the organization’s vice president of implementation, where he oversaw the strategic and operational approaches of the MCC’s entire compact implementation portfolio of over $6.3 billion in 18 countries. Dr. Mans also served as the MCC’s managing director for Africa, where he drove an increase in commitments to Africa by $1.6 billion.

Before joining the MCC, Dr. Mans held various positions at the World Bank including director of the World Bank Institute (WBI) in Washington, D.C., in which he was responsible for WBI’s programs in its 45 countries around the world. Dr. Mans was also the World Bank’s country director in Mozambique, where he designed and implemented a five-year program focused on infrastructure and private sector development. He also led the re-engagement of the World Bank with Angola, providing analytical and advisory services and $125 million in lending to the country following the end of its 27-year civil war.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Mans was an economist with the Board of Governors at the Federal Reserve System, where he worked closely with the United States Treasury and the International Monetary Fund to establish a framework to avoid debt repudiation and restructure private commercial debt in Brazil and Chile. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Dr. Mans was an assistant professor of economics at the University of Maryland and a consultant to KPMG on infrastructure projects in Latin America. He also consulted on macroeconomic policy and strategic planning.

Dr. Mans holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor’s degree in economics and mathematics from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, where he was born.
“How grateful we are for the work Africare is doing! I know I speak on behalf of millions of our people when I say thank you.”

**Desmond M. Tutu, Archbishop Emeritus, Cape Town South Africa**

“Africare has played a major role in helping groups of all sizes, all kinds, not only get interested in Africa, but connect themselves with Africa. I think many of us have benefited. In our work with Africa, we learn a great deal that we would have no other way of gaining in all the world.”

**Dorothy Height, President Emerita, National Council of Negro Women**

“I want to be remembered for a Liberia where the educated children smile again, knowing that they can remain at home and be whatever they want to be. With your continued support and assistance, I know we can get there.”

**Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Liberia**

“No group has addressed Africa’s agricultural problems better than Africare. Africare works because it shows farmers that they can combine their own personal advantage with benefits to their fellow citizens. In Africa, Africans and Americans working through Africare have joined together as partners, in mutual respect, to understand and nurture and use the land.”

**George H. W. Bush, Former President, United States**

“By working closely with Africans at the grassroots, Africare is helping the nations of that continent prepare for a future of self-reliance and opportunity.”

**Hillary Rodham Clinton, Former Secretary of State, United States**

“[We] celebrate the achievements of Africare as an organization that epitomizes the best and most inspiring of civil society action: a movement that started from scratch, fuelled by the conviction that it is possible to change things for the better. Nowhere is that conviction more important than in the process to support development in Africa. Your work over more than a quarter of a century to bring relief and self-reliance to so many has indeed made a real difference to the people of the continent.”

**Kofi A. Annan, 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations**

“Africare has led the way in improving the lives of generations of Africans. It has provided hope in the face of famine, flood, social upheaval, and disease.”

**Melinda Gates, Co-Founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

“The generosity and concern of the American people is based on our traditions of community, compassion, and global vision. Africare embodies these qualities and displays them to the world.”

**Nancy Pelosi, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, United States**

“I regard Africare as one of America’s greatest gifts to Africa. Your work, in every corner of our great continent, has sustained our own commitment to building a strong and free Africa.”

**The Late Nelson R. Mandela, Former President, South Africa, and Honorary Chairman, Africare**
AFRICARE NOTABLE AWARDS AND HONORS

1980 – 1990


1983

Mr. Lucas, becomes a member of the American delegation to Geneva, led by U.S. presidential appointee Shirley Temple Black, which convened a donors’ meeting to discuss the famine in Somalia.

1984

President Ronald Reagan presents Mr. Lucas, with the Presidential End Hunger Award.

1986

The Phelps-Stokes Fund presents Africare with the Aggrey Medal for accomplishments in establishing enduring links of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Africa.

1990

Africare becomes the first recipient of the Land Grant College Distinguished Bicentennial Award.

1991

Mr. Lucas becomes the first African-American recipient of the American Political Science Association’s Hubert H. Humphrey Public Service for Africare leadership.

1995

Mr. Lucas leads a White House mission to Rwanda and Burundi to explore ways to reduce the tension between Hutus and Tutsis.


The U.S. Embassy in Angola twice recognizes local Africare employees with its annual humanitarian award. The recipient in 1996 is Pedro Siloka, the provincial coordinator of Africare programs in Bie Province. Siloka survived the 18-month “Battle of Kuito” and organized emergency feeding centers that saved several hundred lives. The second Kuito employee, Diogo Castigo, is honored for his work in late 1998 and 1999 when fighting resumed.

2000


2001

The Greater Washington Urban League presents Africare with the Ronald H. Brown International Community Service Award.

2001


2002

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference honors Africare for supporting national civil rights and humanitarian endeavors.

2003

The Amistad Achievement Award is awarded to Africare President, Julius E. Coles, by the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University for contributions to the African continent.

2004

Africare is nominated for the United Nations Development Programme’s Equator Prize for Sustainable Community Development work in Uganda.

2005

Africare becomes Ordre de la Chevalier (Order of the Chevalier) honoree as bestowed by the Government of Burkina Faso.

2006

The American Institute of Philanthropy designates Africare as one of its “Top-Rated Charities” with an “A” rating.

2006

Africare Senior Vice President, Jeannine B. Scott, is featured as outstanding alumnae for work in Africa, in cover article of Summer 2006 Vassar Quarterly. She is also selected as member of Center for Global Development’s High Level Working Group on the African Development Bank’s future orientation.
2007 Mr. Coles is selected as the 2007 recipient of Princeton University’s James Madison Medal, given annually to a graduate alum of the university who has achieved distinction in public service and higher education; He is elected as a Fellow to the American Academy of Public Administration; named a member of the President’s Trade Advisory Committee on Africa; named co-chair of the Woodrow Wilson School Advisory Committee.

2007 Ms. Scott receives International Community Service Award from Black United Fund of Texas – with Congressional and local authority recognition; she is also elected as Chairman of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUS).

2008 Africare/Tanzania’s Country Representative, Sekai Chikowero, receives the Archbishop Tutu Leadership Fellowship Award by the African Leadership Institute.

2009 Ms. Scott is awarded the Palme d’Excellence by President Joseph Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

2009 Mr. Coles is awarded with a Humanitarian Award from Africa Environmental Watch (AEW).

2009 Jack Campbell, Africare’s Vice President, Finance and Management, is among 11 SmartCFO honorees selected this year by the Washington SmartCEO organization.

2010 Africare’s ‘Soybean Market Linkages Project’ in Zimbabwe is recognized by Interaction’s Best Practices and Innovation Initiative (BPI) with the Innovation Award for Access to Markets, Nutrition, and Value Chain Development.

2011 Africare’s System of Rice Intensification Project (SRI) Wins InterAction Best Practice Award for its work in Mali.

2013 Africare Wins Innovative Solutions Award to Prevent Infant/Maternal Deaths at the “DevelopmentXChange” Saving Lives at Birth Conference