

BLUE INFO BLEUE

A Newsletter from Blue Trunk Library Project/ Projet Bibliothèques bleues



Music Instruments raise funds in the USA for Blue Trunk Library

Excerpt from *Westside News, Inc.*

Sara Richardson, a 2004 graduate of Hilton High School in Spencerport, New York, USA has taken up the cause of the Blue Trunks and has begun a collection of

donations to fund the purchase of a trunk for Bancoumana, a small town 70 kilometers from the capital of Mali, Bamako. The material will be housed in a Malaria Research Center. The information in the trunk will be in French as that is one of the official languages of Mali.

"I heard about the project on a trip to the WHO in Switzerland this past summer," Richardson said, adding that the WHO has sent 1,541 Blue Trunk Libraries to 69 countries since the project began.

According to the WHO website, priority for the works chosen for the trunks is given to practical manuals (especially those published by WHO) offering easily accessible solutions to the medical, public health and management problems medical staff may have to face. Differing levels of education among district medical staff have also been taken into account. The same topic may be addressed in different publications from a different point of view: that of the physician, the nurse, the nursing auxiliary or health worker.

The cost of equipping and shipping a trunk is \$2,650. "So far, we have raised more than \$500," Richardson said. "We are raffling off instruments to raise money: a harp, a spaltery (a stringed musical instrument of the harp or the zither family) and a thumb piano."

The drawing for the instruments will be December 17 and Richardson is also accepting donations for the Trunk project. "I have asked friends, family and the nursing departments from local universities for donations and am also asking the community."

"I have been fortunate enough to have access to good health care, but many others (especially those living in the region where this trunk is going) have not been so lucky," she said.

Richardson thanked her family for their support of her taking on this project and to her father for making all of the instruments that are being raffled, to her mother for her "great ideas and organization," her sister for helping solicit donations and to Cathy Smith, health educator at SUNY Cortland, who is

overseeing the project.

Richardson will graduate in August and following her return from Bamako, Mali, West Africa she will undertake a health internship. She is majoring in health sciences with a concentration in international health.

"A health intern in support of BTL"



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Volume 2, Issue 1, 2006

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Trunk libraries, a growing family: Welcoming the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case



The **HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case** is modeled after the Blue Trunk Library project, which was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1996 and is successful in providing health information support to health care services located in remote areas in developing countries. It is a collection of publications on HIV/AIDS related subjects, contained in a durable, lockable metal case.

What is it for?

To provide basic health and medical information related to HIV/AIDS to district health workers and teams, by dispatching HIV/AIDS Knowledge Cases in English or French to remote areas where computer access and access to traditional print information is limited.

Who is it for?

District hospitals, remote health-care centers, appropriate NGO partners, etc. There should be one person in each medical center that is responsible for the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case.

What is in it?

The HIV/AIDS Knowledge Cases contain publications produced by WHO, UNAIDS and other publishers, on HIV/AIDS related subjects. Priority has been given to practical manuals, keeping in mind that English or French may not be the native language of the recipients. The HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case are available in English and French. To view the content, please go to the WHO web site: http://www.who.int/ghl/mobile_libraries/hivcase/contents/en/index.html
To obtain information and order the HIV/AIDS Knowledge Case, please contact WHO Press at "bookorders@who.int".

Did you know?
30 interns working at WHO this autumn raised sufficient funds among themselves to purchase and donate a Red Trunk Library to the Mirebalais Hospital in Haiti.

Le saviez-vous?
30 internes qui ont travaillé à l'OMS cet automne ont financé l'achat d'une bibliothèque VIH/SIDA pour l'offrir à l'hôpital Mirebalais à Haiti.



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